

## Lesson

# 2

# Jesus Teaches about Prayer

### BIBLE BASIS

Jesus teaches that we can pray to God and He will answer (Luke 11:1-10).

### BIBLE TRUTH

We can pray to our loving God.

### MEMORY VERSE

"The Father himself loves you." John 16:27

### LESSON AIM

That your students will know that God will answer their prayers.

# 1

### LIFE NEED (5 MINUTES)

- Students will discuss who they talk to and how they talk to others

**Materials:** "People and Places" Teaching Aid 3

# 2

### BIBLE LEARNING (10-15 MINUTES)

- Tell the story of Jesus teaching His disciples about prayer
- Review with an activity and worksheet

**Materials:** Bible, "Jesus Teaches Us to Pray" Teaching Aid 4, *Storytime* for Lesson 2, crayons or pencils

# 3

### BIBLE APPLICATION (10 MINUTES)

- Review the Bible verse with an action poem
- Color a Bible story picture

**Materials:** *Early Elementary Make-It/Take-It* for Lesson 2 and add-on figure of Jesus, markers, crayons, glue or tape

# 4

### LIFE RESPONSE (10 MINUTES)

- Read a story about a family who prayed for help
- Name prayer requests and pray for them

**Materials:** *Storytime* paper for Lesson 2

## Understanding Your Students

This week's lesson will be reinforcement for your students who pray at home, but for some children it may be a new experience. Even some families who attend church regularly do not have prayer time at home, so you may have many in your class who do not understand that we can talk to God anywhere or anytime.

Shy children may be hesitant to pray even if they pray frequently at home. With your kind encouragement, even the very shyest child can learn to make simple requests and can eventually learn to pray aloud.



This symbol means extra preparation or supplies are needed.

# Understanding the Bible

Accounts of Jesus praying appear regularly in Scripture. In all circumstances, Jesus, the very Son of God, sought help from His Father in heaven. On one occasion, a disciple seeing Jesus' example asked, "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1).

Jesus answered this request by giving the disciples a model prayer. Matthew included this prayer in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 6:9-13). Luke's slightly different version of it appears in this week's Scripture passage, Luke 11:1-10.

Obviously, we learn from Luke 11:1 that John the Baptist had taught his group of followers to pray. A number of John's disciples transferred to become Jesus' disciples (see John 1:35, 37, 40), but some of John's disciples continued on as a group long after John had been killed (see Acts 19:1-4).

Christians' model prayer is the Lord's Prayer. Jesus intended this prayer to be an example of the content for our prayers, and our attitude toward God and others as we pray.

Jesus began the Lord's Prayer and all His recorded prayers with "Father." God wants people to come to Him in the same way that a small child approaches

a loving earthly father. As members of God's family, Christians can bring every concern to their heavenly Father.

The verb *hallowed* in Luke 11:2 (KJV) is actually related in its word origin to our word "Halloween" a day that once was called All Hallow's Eve. To "hallow" something means to treat it as holy. This is one of the most violated ideas in our world—where even Christian people are heard to say, "Oh, God" or "Oh, Lord." When we do that, we are not treating the Lord's name as it was meant to be treated—as perfectly holy. One of the Ten Commandments (in Exod. 20:7) indicates that God "will not hold anyone guiltless" if we use God's name in an empty way—a way for which it was never intended.

The first request in the Lord's Prayer asks for the recognition of God's kingdom throughout the world. Other requests show that as Christians we have the privilege of bringing all concerns to our Father. In the broader sense, it covers all material things.

Jesus wants us to be persistent. Jesus gave three instructions for our prayer life. We are to ask, seek, and knock (Luke 11:9). Because of God's love and wisdom, He hears and answers by supplying every need.

## Classroom Tips

Talking to God is a natural way for children to respond to His love. Here are some ways to encourage prayer.

- Allow for spontaneous prayers when you or your students think of something special to talk to God about—thanks that a scraped knee is better, healing for a sick relative, prayer for Daddy or Mommy to get a job.
- Show your loving acceptance of all the students' prayers, even the familiar rote prayers. You might say, "That's a good prayer. Let's add something else to it. Let's thank God for hearing our prayer."
- Children are completely confident that God listens to and understands their prayers. They expect God to answer their prayers. Encourage their confidence and faith in God.
- Children listen when adults pray. They think about what they are hearing and begin to pray in similar ways. As in other aspects of their lives, they copy what you do. Talk with them about some of the things you pray about to your loving God.

## Worship Activities

- Play DisKit music to call the children to worship. Sing a song from the CD.
- Collect offerings. Thank God for giving us money that we can give back to Him.
- Pray with the class. **Dear God, we can talk to You when we are lonely, happy, or sad. You always listen to us and answer our prayers. Thank You for loving us. We love You. In Jesus' name. Amen.**




## Before Class

As you welcome each student, talk about how happy you are to be at church. **I'm so glad to be in God's house again today. I'm glad you are here today! Today we will learn about how we can pray to God.** Have your students find their names on the Summer Attendance Chart from your Creative Teaching Aids packet. They may mark their attendance using small stickers, drawing a happy face, or coloring in a square. Children may give their offerings. Then lead them to the first activity of the day.

## Getting Started

The following activities will prepare the children for the story of Jesus teaching us to pray.

-  **Praying Hands:** Put out paper, pencils, crayons, scissors, and glue. Have the children trace around both hands. They can color their hands, then cut them out. Let the children glue their paper hands together like praying hands. **We can pray to our loving God.**
- **Places to Pray:** Have children make a list of where they pray. Print this question on the board: "Where Do You Pray?" Provide markers as needed. Let the children draw pictures or write about places they pray. Some might want to draw on paper and tape their pictures onto the class list. **We can pray anywhere.**

2

# 1

## Life Need 5 minutes

**Objective:** That your students will begin thinking about who they talk to and how they talk to others.

This activity will prepare students for the lesson about praying to their loving God. Show "People and Places" Teaching Aid. (*Point to the picture of the family.*)

**What do you think this family talked about while they were eating?**

(How much fun they are having, thanking mom for the meal, the games they may have played together, how much they love each other, and so on.)

(*Point to the girl on the swing.*) **Let's pretend there is another girl on the swing next to her. What do you think they would be talking about?** (Who can swing the highest, who wants to jump, telling each other they are glad to be friends.)

(*Point to the girls playing soccer.*) **What might these girls be saying to each other?** ("I got it!" "Pass it!" "Kick it!" "Make a goal!")

(*Point to the children on the grass.*) **What do you think these kids have been talking about?** (Allow children to respond.)

(*Point to the girls praying.*) **What do you think these girls are talking to God about?** (Have students respond.)

**There are many ways we talk to others. We can talk face-to-face. What are some other ways we talk?** (Children may say a phone, a letter, an email, a card, walkie-talkies.)

**Who do you talk to?** (You will hear about a wide variety of people.)

**What do you talk about?** (The children will have many responses.)

**When do you talk to God?** (Mealtimes, bedtime, when I have a problem.).

**What do you talk to God about?** (Acknowledge praises, requests, and concerns the children tell.)

**When we pray, we talk to God. Let's learn how Jesus taught us to pray to our loving God.**



"People and Places"  
Teaching Aid 3



# 2

## Bible Learning 10–15 minutes

**Objective:** That your students will learn what Jesus taught about praying to God.

In advance, punch out the figures from Teaching Aid 4. Attach velcro, found in your Creative Teaching Aids packet, to the back of the figures. Place figures in the order you will use them as indicated in the Bible story. Show students where the Bible story is from in Luke 11:1-10.

### BIBLE STORY

**Jesus often talked with God, His Father.** (Put Jesus, Figure 1, on your flannel board.) **When Jesus prayed, He gave all of His attention to God and showed respect for Him. Jesus knew that God loved Him and always listened to His prayers. He knew God would answer His prayers.** (Remove Figure 1.)



"Jesus Teaches Us to Pray"  
Teaching Aid 4

**One day after Jesus finished praying,** (Add Jesus, Figure 2, and disciples, Figures 3 and 4.) **one of Jesus' disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray."** Jesus taught His disciples how to pray. We can learn to pray the way Jesus taught.

Jesus taught His disciples to call God "Father" because God is like a father to all who love Him. Jesus taught us to say "Father" to remind us that God loves us like a father.

Jesus taught that when we pray, we first should praise God by telling Him how great He is. (Add the #1 heart, Figure 5.) **The heart reminds us to tell God how great He is, and that we love Him. What could you say to tell God that He is great, and you love Him?** (Listen to the responses.) **One way is, "Father, You are so great. I love You."** (Have the children say with you, "Father, You are so great. I love You.")

**Jesus also taught us to thank God for giving us what we need.** (Add Figure 6.) **A basket of food**

**helps us remember this part. Jesus taught us to pray, "Thank You for giving me what I need today."** (Have the children repeat it with you.)

**Jesus knew that we would do some things wrong. Jesus taught us to ask God to forgive us. We do this by praying, "Please forgive me."** (Add the sad face, Figure 7.) **A sad face reminds us to be sorry for the wrong things we do and to pray, "Please forgive me."**

**God wants us to be good. Jesus taught us to ask God to help us say "no" to bad things. God loves us and wants to help us be good. Jesus taught us to pray, "Help me say "no" to bad things."** (Add "NO," Figure 8.) **Remembering the word "no" can remind us to pray, "Help me say "no" to bad things."** (Have the children repeat it.)

**We end our prayers by saying, "In Jesus' name. Amen."** (Add Figure 9.) **This is the word "Amen."** (Have children say "Amen.")

**The prayer Jesus taught, in simple words, is:** (Point to heart, food, NO, and Amen figures.) **"Father, You are so great. I love You. Thank You for giving me what I need today. Please forgive me. Help me say 'no' to bad things. In Jesus' name. Amen."**

God loves us and listens to our prayers. He will answer our prayers. Jesus taught us this prayer so we would know how to pray to our loving God.

### BIBLE STORY REVIEW

Tape Figures 5–9 to walls. As you say the prayer from the Bible story, have the children find the figures and move to each one in the order of the prayer Jesus taught in Luke 11:1-4. You might have the children repeat the part of Jesus' prayer that goes with each figure.



Storytime,  
Lesson 2, page 4

Distribute Storytime for Lesson 2. Let children fill in their prayer chart for Sunday.

# 3 Bible Application 10 minutes

**Objective:** That your students will learn that they can pray to God.

## MEMORY VERSE

Help students find the memory verse on page 4 of *Storytime*. Read the verse together: **"The Father himself loves you"** John 16:27.

■ **What did Jesus say to call God when we pray?**  
(Father.)

**We know God loves us because Jesus taught us to talk to God like a father. Listen for the verse in our rhyme.**

**God made the green grass under your feet,**  
*(Touch ground.)*

**And God made the sky so blue.**  
*(Wave arms overhead.)*

**God will keep you safe every day.**  
*(Point to children.)*

**"The Father himself loves you."**  
*(Hug self.)*

Collect the *Storytime* papers and put them away until the end of class.

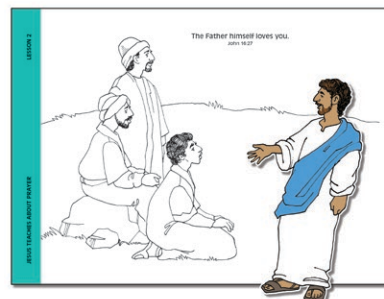
## HANDCRAFT

Before class, remove Lesson 2 and the add-on figure of Jesus (from the middle of the book) from each student's Make-It/Take-It. Have your students color their pictures. Help them tape or glue the Jesus figure to the X on the page.

Show children the prayer on the back.

**You can pray the prayer in this booklet with your family.**

Read the prayer with the children.



**Make-It/Take-It, Lesson 2 front**



**Make-It/Take-It, Lesson 2 back**



# 4 Life Response 10 minutes

**Objective:** That your students will name prayer requests and express thanks to God for answering their prayers.

Read aloud to your students “Thanking God” from pages 2 and 3 of *Storytime* for Lesson 2.

## PRESENT-DAY STORY

This was Maya and David’s first trip to the mountains. They were excited and both looking out the car windows. First they saw the low hills. “Did God make the low hills?” asked David.

Mama said, “Of course, David.” Then they saw the tall hills. “Did God make the tall hills?” asked David.

Daddy said, “Of course, David.” Then they saw the high mountain peaks. “Did God make those high mountain peaks?” asked David.

Maya said, “Of course, David.”

It was sunny and bright outside. Mr. Williams decided to drive up the highest mountain. But when they started down the mountain, the sky turned gray, and it started to rain.

Mama said, “I don’t like driving down this mountain in the rain.”

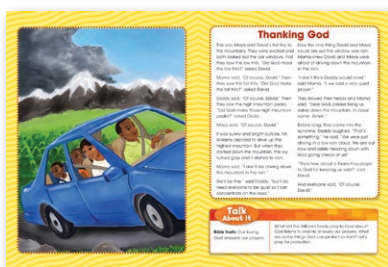
“We’ll be fine,” said Daddy, “but I do need everyone to be quiet so I can concentrate on the road.”

Now the only thing David and Maya could see out the window was rain. Mama knew David and Maya were afraid of driving down the mountain in the rain.

“I don’t think Daddy would mind,” said Mama, “if we said a very quiet prayer.”

They bowed their heads and Mama said, “Dear God, please bring us safely down the mountain. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Before long, they came into the sunshine. Daddy laughed. “That’s something,” he said. “We were just driving in a low rain cloud. We are out now and safely heading down with God going ahead of us!”



*Storytime, Lesson 2, pages 2-3*

“Then how about a thank-You prayer to God for keeping us safe?” said David.

And everyone said, “Of course, David!”

## CLOSING ACTIVITIES

■ **What did the Williams family pray to God about?** (For God’s protection.)

Help students name things they can pray for. Write these down or have children remember them. They will name them later during prayer.

Now have the students join hands as you pray. **God hears our prayers. It’s so nice to know that we can talk to God about anything!**

Pray together with your students.

**Dear God, our Father in heaven. You are so great. We love you. Thank You for giving us what we need today. Please forgive us. Help us to say no to bad things. Here are some things we need to talk to You about.** (Let students name requests they mentioned earlier.)  
**Thank You for answering our prayers. In Jesus’ name. Amen.**

Make sure that each student has his or her Make-It/Take-It handcraft project and *Storytime* for Lesson 2 before leaving class. Point to the prayer chart in *Storytime* when saying goodbye.

Say a personal goodbye to each student. **Use your prayer chart to help you remember to pray to your loving God every day.**



*Storytime, Lesson 2, page 1*