

The Lord's Prayer, Week 1- Matthew 9:6-13

THE POINT

Focus:

God teaches his followers how to talk to him.
God's followers want God's will to be done.

Application:

We pray to God.
We seek God's will and Kingdom in the world.

Last Week: Jesus Calls Disciples

2 Weeks Ago: Baptism

HEART CONNECTION (5-7 MINUTES)

MATERIALS:

- phone (cell, toy/play, or other)
- letter/mail
- newspaper

Content:

Look at each of these things I brought with me today. What do they have in common?

Each of these items is used to give a message. Sometimes, people communicate through talking. Sometimes they communicate through writing.

How do you communicate with God?

Can anyone talk with God?

Talking with God is called prayer. We pray in our church services, but we can also pray at home, at school, in the car, while we're playing. We can pray anytime.

Today and next week, we're going to look at how Jesus taught us to pray. The prayer we will learn is a prayer that people all over the world, ever since Jesus was on earth, have prayed everyday. We get to pray this prayer, too!

STORY CONNECTION (9-11 MINUTES)

MATERIALS:

- beads (for each child: blue, sparkle, purple, green, brown, red, pink, gray, gold)
- String

Optional: Consider separating the colored beads into paper cups with a string for each child. For young children, tie the initial knot on the string so that beads can't fall off. For children disinterested in a bracelet, encourage them to use it as a keychain.

Instructions:

Explain each phrase and help the children string their beads in order. Consider backing up every few beads and saying the verses together. Encourage them to bring their bracelet back next week for part 2 of the lesson.

Consider making a few extra bracelets for children who come Week 2 that do not attend on Week 1.

Have the children sit in a circle for the story This helps include children who might feel shy, and it helps each child feel equally engaged. It reassures children that they are seen and welcome in the community.

Matthew 6:9-13 (traditional writing used rather than NIV. Use the translation your congregation uses.)

When Jesus taught his disciples to pray, he gave them a short prayer to memorize and say to God. The translation of this prayer that we say at our church has some words that might be kind of tricky to understand, but we'll talk about each section together as we learn it. We'll also learn more about it next week and keep practicing it together so that it sticks in our minds and our hearts.

This week, we'll make a craft that reminds us of each part of the prayer and start to memorize it together. Next week, we'll talk about more of what the prayer means.

Our Father, Who art in heaven (blue- representing the heavens),

God the Father is in heaven. God sits on a throne and rules the universe.

hallowed be thy Name (sparkle*).

Hallowed means holy, or set-apart. God is not a human. God is all-powerful, all-knowing, all-love, and all-good. The sparkly bead reminds us that God is holy.

Thy Kingdom come, (purple- the color of kings)

God's Kingdom is different from human kingdoms. He rules with love and power.

Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven (green- green plants on earth).

Christians pray for God's loving Kingdom to show on earth instead of sin or hate.

Give us this day our daily bread, (brown- the color of bread)

We pray to God for food and our daily needs! God is our provider.

and forgive us our trespasses (red- Jesus' blood)

God forgave us our sins in Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

as we forgive those who trespass against us. (pink)

God forgave us with his blood. We forgive others in a little picture of God's forgiveness. Pink has a tiny bit of red mixed into it- a reminder of Christ's forgiveness when we forgive others.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. (gray*)

We pray God will keep us from wanting to disobey and choose evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. (gold)

We recognize that God is in charge, has a good plan, and deserves our worship!

Amen.

*It's tempting to just use black and white for these concepts, but many in the African-American community have asked churches to stop using these terms and colors to represent purity or evil. If you must use black/white because they're the only beads available, try saying "clean" and "dirty" instead of the colors.

WONDER CONNECTION (3-5 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: None.

I wonder what it is like for God's kingdom to show on earth.

I wonder who has prayed this prayer through history.

I wonder how we can glorify God this week.

What do you wonder?

SPIRIT CONNECTION (7-10 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: Coloring supplies: paper, crayons, pencils, hard drawing surfaces (floor, clipboard, or a table).

Take a few minutes to talk quietly with the Lord while you draw, write, or just think inside your heard. Talk with God about the story today. This is a quiet time for you to spend with the Lord, not with your neighbor or anyone else.