

# A PRAYER LESSON

The Lord's  
Prayer  
Luke 11:1–13  
AD 31

## OVERVIEW

### BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus teaches us to pray.

### BIBLE VERSE

Pray for one another. James 5:16

### LEARNER GOAL

I understand that Jesus teaches me to pray and promises that God hears and answers our prayers.

### LAW & GOSPEL

We neglect the gift of prayer, failing to look to God our Father for all things.

**Jesus teaches us to pray, promising that the Father hears and answers all our prayers.**

### SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

With Jesus' disciples, we, too, implore, "Lord, teach us to pray" (v. 1). Jesus teaches His disciples—and all humankind—the prayer used throughout the Church to this day. Jesus follows His instruction with a parable illustrating how our heavenly Father unfailingly hears all our prayers.

## LESSON PREP

**BASIC** Read Luke 11:1–13 and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

**MORE TIME** Read the leader devotion, found in the digital resource center.

**IN DEPTH** Read through the sections on the Lord's Prayer in *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* (2017) for more detail on this essential teaching.

## SUPPLY LIST

### FOR THIS LESSON

- Clay or salt dough
- Pony beads in blue, white, purple, green, brown, red, yellow, and gold
- Pipe cleaners
- Strips of colored paper
- Pretzel twists
- Digital device

### FOR EVERY LESSON

- Bible
- Device with prepped music
- Copies of downloadable activity page
- Copies of Enduring Faith Page
- Supply Box

# LAUNCH

Plan your lesson by reading through the options in each section. Choose the activities that will best fit your learners, and mark those boxes to guide you as you teach the lesson.

## BEGIN

- Follow the Order of Opening Worship, use the Lesson Opening, or do both (part of the planning resources in the digital resource center).
- Sing songs using music found in the digital resource center, or sing your own favorite songs.

## SAY

- I'm glad you are here to learn more about our friend and Savior, Jesus! Today, we'll hear how Jesus taught His friends a special prayer. Let's talk to God now. Ask children for prayer requests. Have children echo words.
- When you need or want something from your parents or caregivers, what is the best way to get it? How do they respond when you ask for things? What happens if you never ask for things?

## PRAY

Dear Jesus, we love You. Please take our sins away. Make us kind and make us strong. Thank You for listening when we pray. Amen.

# LEARN

Show your Bible, and remind the children that all the stories in God's Word are true.

## TELL THE BIBLE NARRATIVE

Choose one of the options on the next page to tell the Bible narrative.

## DO THIS!

Use one or both of the following activities to talk about the Bible narrative after you've read it.

**FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE YOUNGER** As you reread the narrative to students, have them trace around their hands on a large piece of drawing paper. Inside the hands, draw or write a list of things to be thankful for—gifts that their heavenly Father has given them. Then list or draw things they want to pray about.

**FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE OLDER** Have students look up the corresponding passage to this one in **Matthew 6:7–14**. In pairs or a small group, help them compare and contrast the two passages. Talk about why they might be different.

## TALK ABOUT IT

Choose the questions that best fit the learning level of your group.

- What do Jesus' disciples want Him to do?
- What prayer does Jesus teach them?
- Prayer is a conversation with God. When are some times you pray? What are some things that you pray for?
- Does God always answer our prayers? How?

## KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Guide discussion using these key points.

- Remind students that as much as their parents love them and want to give them good things, their heavenly Father loves them beyond measure and wants to give them so much more—the gift of the forgiveness of sins and eternal life with Him.
- God always answers prayers. Sometimes He says yes. Sometimes He says no. Sometimes He says wait. God may not always give us what we want, but He always gives us what we need in Jesus.



## CHRIST CONNECTION

Christ, the very one who taught us to pray, is the One who has provided for all our spiritual needs through the cross.

# BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

STORYTELLING DIRECTIONS: As you read the story, have children fold hands in prayer as indicated.

Jesus often talked to His Father in heaven. When He was a young boy just as old as you, He prayed at home. He thanked God for His food. He prayed when He went to bed and when He woke up. He prayed when He was helping and playing.

When Jesus was a grown-up man, He liked to go to quiet places by Himself and talk to God too. He prayed for His friends. He prayed for sick people. He prayed for people who had problems. He prayed for people everywhere.

One day, Jesus' helpers said, "Let's ask Jesus to teach us how to pray." So they went to Jesus and said, "Lord, teach us to pray."

Jesus taught them to pray the Lord's Prayer. It is called that because Jesus is our Lord and He taught this prayer to His friends. This prayer is for you and me too.

Jesus told His friends, "God, your Father in heaven loves you very much. He is happy when His children talk to Him. He listens to your prayers and wants you to pray for what you need. Most parents like to give their children good things. God, your Father in heaven, does too. So when you pray to God, say (*fold hands in prayer*), 'Our Father in heaven. May Your name be holy.'" God wants us to keep His name special and use it to pray to Him and praise Him.

Next, Jesus told His friends to pray (*fold hands in prayer*), "Your kingdom come." God is ruler over all. We want Him

to rule over our hearts and lives too. We want His kingdom to spread throughout the world so everyone hears that Jesus is the Savior of the world.

Jesus also said to pray (*fold hands in prayer*), "Give us each day our daily bread." This means more than just bread. God wants us to ask Him for everything we need each day, like food and clothes and a home, good health, and our family.

God gives us what we need, and what we need most is forgiveness. So Jesus told His friends (*fold hands in prayer*), "Tell God how sorry you are for the bad things you have done and say, 'Forgive us our sins.' Ask Him to help you turn away from temptation and follow what He wants you to do."

Jesus' helpers were glad that Jesus taught them how to pray. They said, "We're glad that we're God's children and that we can talk to our Father in heaven anytime and anywhere."

You are God's child too. He wants you to pray to Him and ask Him for the things you need too. Sometimes He says yes. Sometimes He says no. Sometimes He says wait. But He always listens and answers in the way that is best. You can thank Him for His love and tell Him how much You love Him too.

# BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Jesus prayed a lot. He prayed when He woke up in the morning, before and after He ate, and when He went to bed. Jesus got up early some mornings to pray—and stayed up really late some nights.

One day after Jesus was finished praying, His disciples asked Him, "Lord, teach us to pray." Jesus taught them a special prayer. Jesus started by saying, "When you pray, say:

"Father, your name is holy.  
Your kingdom come.  
Give us what we need to eat every day.  
Forgive our sins and help us to forgive those who have sinned against us.  
Help us to say no when we are tempted to sin."

Then Jesus talked to His disciples about God the Father and how much our God loves us and wants to give us good things.

Jesus told a story about how if our friends came to our house in the middle of the night and wanted something

to eat because they had no food, we would get up and give them what they wanted.

And that when a child asks his father for a fish to eat, the father does not give the child a snake instead. When the child asks for an egg, the father doesn't give him or her a scorpion!

If earthly fathers, who are born with sin, give their children good things, how much more our heavenly Father, who is perfect and loves us more than we can imagine, will give us all good things.

God wants us to pray to Him and ask for what we need. God will answer our prayers. Jesus told the disciples and He tells us, too, that we are to seek God's will and we will find it. Knock and the door to heaven will be opened. Jesus tells us that God will fill us with the Holy Spirit.

God loves us so very much and wants to hear our prayers. He gave us the prayer we call the Lord's Prayer to help us know how to come to Him in prayer.

# LIVE

Choose from the following activities and crafts to help connect Bible learning to life.

## Praying Hands

Give children a lump of clay or salt dough (find recipes online). Help them flatten it and make their hand-prints, keeping their fingers together to look like praying hands. Air-dry or bake it in an oven. Talk about how we often fold our hands to pray. Say, **We can pray anywhere and anytime. God promises to hear our prayers!**



## Prayer Bracelet

Give children a blue, white, purple, green, brown, red, yellow, and gold (or silver) pony bead to thread on a pipe cleaner, and twist ends to make a bracelet. Say, **These beads remind us of things we pray for in the Lord's Prayer.** Blue: **Our Father in heaven.** White: **God is holy.** Purple: **Jesus is our King.** Green: **God's will on earth.** Brown: **God gives us daily bread.** Red: **Jesus died for our sins.** Yellow: **God protects us from evil.** Gold: **God is great, forever and ever!**



## Pretzel Prayer Snack

Serve pretzel twists. Show children how a pretzel can look like a hug or arms crossed in prayer. Tell them that whenever they eat a pretzel, they can remember to pray! Say a snack prayer together.



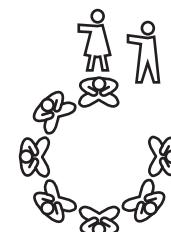
## Sign-Language Prayer

Look up a video of an American Sign Language version of the Lord's Prayer online. Help students learn this prayer in sign language. Explain that some people who can't pray out loud with their voices use sign language speak to God with their hands.



## Sleep, Sleep, Wake

Children sit in a circle with their heads on their hands, pretending to be asleep. One child walks around the circle, tapping the heads and saying, "Sleep," each time. When ready, she taps a child and says, "Wake." That child runs around the circle after the first one, trying to catch her before she takes his spot. Repeat with the new player. Say, **God is with us when we are awake or asleep. He always listens to our prayers and answers them.**



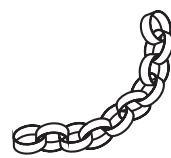
## Bible Verse Prayer Chain

Read the verse from **James 5:16.** Say, **God tells us in His Word:**

**Pray** *Fold hands.*

**for one another.** *Point to children.*

Talk about people we can pray for. Write prayer suggestions on strips of colored paper. Link together into a prayer chain to use at the closing.



## Prayer Journal

Help students create a prayer journal with white sheets of paper folded in half. For a cover, use a piece of construction paper folded over the outside. Staple together. Children can decorate the cover and write "My Prayer Journal." Use a paper punch to make a hole in the fold and tie with yarn to use as a bookmark.



# LEAVE

## SAY

How wonderful that Jesus Himself teaches us to pray and assures us that God keeps His promise to answer our prayers.

## PRAY

Dear heavenly Father, You are the good and gracious giver of all good things. Thank You for the gift of prayer. Thank You for giving us the Holy Spirit to help us believe. Thank You for always answering our prayers. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.