

LESSON 15

The Lord's Prayer

MATTHEW 6:5-15



— BIBLE TRUTH —

WE LIVE FOR THE PRAISE OF GOD, NOT THE PRAISE OF MAN

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: children’s board game with instructions, e.g., “Candy Land”

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 93)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: snack food and beverage

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES: coloring page for NT Lesson 15—one for each child; markers or crayons

Memorize the Lord’s Prayer

Daily Bread

SUPPLIES: a loaf of bread

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today’s lesson the children will learn how Jesus taught us to pray.

Bring to class a children’s board game with instructions, such as “Candy Land.”

Show the game to the class and ask if anyone knows what it is. Ask if anyone has ever played the game before. Have your helper prepared to step in if no one in your class has played the game you’ve selected.

Ask the children who have played the game (or your helper) how they learned how to play? (They are likely to say their mom or dad taught them.) Then see if they can relate some of the instructions.

Tell the class that when you buy a game, it comes with a set of instructions that tell you how to play the game. Then read some of the instructions to the children and teach them how to play the game.

Tell the class that in your Bible lesson for today you are going to learn how Jesus gave all of us some instructions. But Jesus didn’t give us instructions to teach us how to play; Jesus gave us instructions to teach us something else. (Hint: it rhymes with play.) Can anybody guess a word that sounds like play that Jesus taught us how to do? (You can have a helper here fold their hands together in a prayer posture as a clue if the class needs help.)

Once they answer “pray,” affirm their answer is correct and tell them that in our Bible story today we are going to learn how Jesus taught us how to pray.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 93, “The Lord’s Prayer,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

Where Is the Gospel? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

When Jesus prayed for God's kingdom to come and God's will to be done, he was praying for his own sacrificial death to be accomplished because that was how the Father planned to save sinful man. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed for the cup of suffering to pass, but only if it was the will of his Father. Jesus came as a servant, lived a sinless life, and then gave up his life so that we could be delivered from temptation and evil. Apart from the work of Christ, the Lord's Prayer would be meaningless.

Forgiveness would not be possible if it were not for Jesus' death on the cross. God can forgive us only because Jesus took the penalty we deserved for our sin. Hebrews 9:22 tells us that without the shedding of blood, there can be no forgiveness. The Lord's Prayer would be meaningless if Jesus had not died on the cross to make forgiveness possible.

Forgiveness marks our lives as Christians. The Lord's Prayer assumes those who seek God's forgiveness have already forgiven those who have sinned against them. Jesus concludes the Lord's Prayer by explaining that forgiving others is a requirement to receiving forgiveness. This does not mean that we can earn God's forgiveness by forgiving others; rather, this is one of many indicators of true conversion. If we understand our sinfulness and the tremendous suffering Jesus endured to make a way for our forgiveness, we will gladly forgive others.

Our sin against God is worse than any crime committed against us. If, however, we do not understand the priceless gift of God's forgiveness, we won't have a basis to forgive the debt of others against us. There is always a cost to forgiveness. Jesus endured the Father's wrath for our sin. He bore the cost of our sin in a justifying, redeeming way. Of course, we cannot do that. For us, the cost of forgiveness has to do with choosing not to seek, demand, or subtly exact some kind of payment for the sin committed against us. The cost of forgiveness for us is in releasing the debt we are owed by others. Genuine forgiveness costs us the "right" to seek repayment for sin, or somehow to try to "get even." Such forgiveness is only possible as we understand how great a debt of sin we have been forgiven in the gospel. It is simply unthinkable for ones who have been forgiven so great a debt of sin against a holy God to exact payment from others for their sins.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **What is a hypocrite?**
(A hypocrite wants the attention of other people and doesn't care about God. They want to look good before people, not honor God.)

- **Why did Jesus say they should not pray as the Gentiles?**
(The Gentiles prayed but their prayers were not based on truth. They wanted to have long, fancy prayers to draw attention to themselves.)

- **What is the prayer Jesus told the disciples to pray?**
(The Lord's Prayer. See if any of the children in your class can recite it.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **Why is it important to forgive others?**
(God forgives us so we should follow his example.)

- **What does it mean to forgive?**
(When someone hurts us and we forgive her, we are saying that we will not hurt her back or remember her hurt angrily in our hearts.)

- **Who needs to be forgiven?**
(Everyone needs to be forgiven because we all have sinned against God. If we believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, we can be forgiven.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 15—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **What is in the picture?**
(two loaves of bread and the cross of Jesus)
- **Why is there a cross with the bread?**
(It is because Jesus died on the cross that God gives us what we need and takes care of us. Jesus is called the bread of life.)
- **How does Jesus say we should pray about bread?**
(Jesus tells us to ask God for bread every day.)
- **What does daily bread represent?**
(Daily bread represents everything we need every day. The most important thing we need is to know Jesus more and more. We need earthly bread, but we also need heavenly bread. We need Jesus, the bread of life.)

Memorize the Lord’s Prayer

Review the Lord’s Prayer. Teach the children what each section of the Lord’s Prayer is all about. Since it is a specific pattern of prayer we have been given, all Christians should have this passage memorized. Take time to help teach the Lord’s Prayer to the children and set as a goal to memorize at least the first line.

- Hallowed be your name—God is holy and his name should be honored.
- Your kingdom come—God is a king and his kingdom has been affected by the fall of man. God is coming to restore his kingdom. When we pray for the coming of his kingdom we are asking God to destroy sin and regain what was lost by the fall.

- Your will be done—we should want what God wants. When we pray that God’s will be done, we are placing ourselves in agreement with God and giving up what we want that does not agree with what he wants.
- Give us this day our daily bread—we need food to eat each day. By asking God for our food we are recognizing that everything we have, including what we eat and drink, are gifts of his grace. This keeps us from falling into the prideful thought that we ourselves—and not God—provided the things we have.
- Forgive us our debts or sins—we need God’s forgiveness for our sins.
- Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil—we are weak and without God’s grace cannot stand up to temptation. Praying for his help shows our dependence on God.

Daily Bread

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a loaf of bread

Take time in class to review the Lord’s Prayer. Since it is a specific pattern of prayer we have been given, all Christians should have this passage memorized.

Lead the children in a time of prayer. First give worship and praise to God in prayer. Then, ask for prayer requests and have children pray their requests out loud. Finally, end with the Lord’s Prayer.

Show the children the loaf of bread and ask the following questions:

- What is this?
(a loaf of bread)
- If I took this home, how long would I be able to keep it?
(Accept any answer.)
- After about a week, what happens to bread that you don’t eat?
(It gets moldy and stale and dries out.)

- How long do you think this bread would last if I fed it to my family?
(maybe one day)

- Why do you think God tells us to pray for daily bread?
(Bread doesn't last very long and we need God to help us every day and give us food to eat every day.)

- Who does the Bible say is our bread from heaven?
(Jesus is our bread from heaven. Even more than we need to eat food every day, we need to trust in Jesus every day.)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today's lesson.

LESSON 15 - THE LORD'S PRAYER

