

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: MATTHEW 6:5-15



The STORY

Read about Jesus teaching His disciples to pray in Matthew 6:5-15.

Please note: *The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

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

- Why did Jesus tell the disciples not to pray like the hypocrites? (The hypocrites were more interested in people seeing them. They wanted to look good before the 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 asked the disciples to pray? (The Lord's Prayer)
See if any of the children in your class can recite the Lord's Prayer.

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: two loaves of bread with a cross in the background. Engage the children by asking:

- 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.)

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SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

- 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 him we are saying that we will not hurt him back or remember his hurt as anger 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.)

WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

When Jesus prayed that God's kingdom would come and His will be done, He was praying for His own death to be accomplished. Jesus prayed at the garden prior to His crucifixion for the cup of suffering to pass, but only according to 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 because the penalty for our sin has been taken by Jesus. 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 were not to die on the cross to make forgiveness possible.

It is through Jesus' sacrifice that we are adopted and we can call God our Father. It is because of Jesus that God's mercy comes to us in the form of daily bread rather than judgment. And because of Jesus' sacrifice we can be delivered from evil.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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 worker.