

## 3/29 Sunday School Lesson

“A Prayer Lesson” is the title of this week’s Bible lesson. With Jesus’ disciples, we, too, implore, “Lord, teach us to pray” (Luke 11:1). 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. In this lesson, we learn that God has called us to be His children, promising to hear our prayers as our loving heavenly Father. We are to pray to our heavenly Father at His invitation and command. We pray that His will be done in our life and for the sake of our neighbors.

**Opening Prayer:** Dear Lord Jesus, what a joy it is to come to you in prayer. Thank you for bringing us together today in your Word. Teach us to pray, and bless our time together. In your name we pray. Amen.

**ASK:** 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?

**READ:** As a family read together from a Bible or below the narrative from Luke 11:1-13

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 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 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 would not give the child a snake instead, or instead an egg, 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 to come to Him in prayer.**

## **DO SOMETHING**

**For Younger Kids:** Have kids trace around their hands on a piece of paper. Inside the hands, draw or write a list of things to be thankful for, gifts that God, their heavenly Father has given them, and things they want to pray about.

**For Older Kids:** Have kids look up the corresponding passage to the narrative text in Matthew 6:7-14. Compare and contrast the two passages. Talk about why they might be different.

### **KEY DISCUSSION POINTS:**

- In this narrative, Jesus gives a model for how we are to approach God in prayer, just as a child comes to his or her earthly father.
- God always answers prayers. Sometimes he says yes, and sometimes he says no, and sometimes he says wait.
- God may not always give us what we want, but he always gives us what we need in Jesus.
- Our prayers are powerful because of who we pray to-our Triune God-not because we are so great at praying.

**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 where He gave His life to offer us the free gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation.

### **Questions to think about and discuss as a family:**

1. What are some different ways you can communicate with friends and family? How can you communicate with God? How does He communicate with you?
2. What are some times when you pray? What are some things that you pray for?
3. Do you have any special prayers that you say? What are your favorites?

**MEMORY WORK:** Pray for one another James 5:16

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Dear Heavenly Father, You are the 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.

### **Activities to together as a family during the week:**

1. Challenge one another to recite the Lord's Prayer from memory.
2. Learn a new mealtime prayer together this week.
3. Take turns hiding a Bible, a treasure God has given to us. The person who finds the Bible should pick it up, read a favorite passage, and say, "God's Word is a treasure."
4. Pray the Lord's Prayer together as a family.