



Resource Centre

From our Churches

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Learning How to Pray: A Children's Story Series on the Lord's Prayer

Week 1: Our Father

The Lord's Prayer is a special prayer that Jesus taught the disciples. The Lord's Prayer is a prayer that teaches us how to say our own prayers. This fall, we're going to talk about every part of the Lord's Prayer together... and at the end of each children's story – the whole congregation will say the prayer together.

But YOU get to do something special every week. Every week we are going to pretend to be Jesus' friends – his disciples...we'll take a picture of what you, the disciples are doing, and then next week we'll show the picture on the screen.

OK, here goes. One day all Jesus' friends were worried.

Ask everyone to look really worried. Take a photo of them looking worried.

They were worried because they had been watching Jesus talking to God and they knew that what he was doing was really important, but they didn't know how to do it themselves.

So they asked Jesus to teach them to pray.

Jesus said the first thing to remember was that they were together as one family with God. Jesus called God, Father. And that's a good name for us to use too – because God loves us, cares for us, provides for us, and nurtures us like a good parent should, and is here RIGHT NOW for us.

But is God only Father for _____ (*insert child's name*)? Or only for _____ (*insert another child's name*) No. God is **our** Father. We are **all** in God's family.

So let's take a picture of everybody sitting together on the steps.

Take the picture

Alright, everyone, let's pray the Lord's Prayer together.

Week 2: In Heaven

What do we know about heaven?
It sure means a lot.

We have faith that if we love Jesus and we die, we will go to heaven.

What's in heaven? (God)
Do we know anything else?
Not really.

Have you ever gone out at night in the winter and looked at the stars?
They just seem to go on and on and on and on. In the Bible, in the Old Testament, when they use the word, "heaven", they mean the stars, the sky, and everything that is too big to understand. And in that place, that was too big to understand, lived God.

Sounds a bit confusing doesn't it?

Last week we learned that God is right here with us – and with God we are like one family. But today we hear that God is so big – bigger than outer space. All we can really do is be in awe.

Do you know what awe means?

It means WOW! Awesome!

What does wow look like? Can you make a face like "wow?" OK, let's take a picture of our wow faces! God is so big! Wow! God is just so amazing!

Ask everyone make a "wow face" and take their picture.

Alright, everyone, let's pray the Lord's Prayer together.

Week 3: Hallowed be Thy Name

Hey, everybody. Let's talk about names.

My name is _____. And your names are...

So how would you feel if I called _____ (*insert child's name*) by _____ (*insert another child's name*)? It would be silly at first, wouldn't it? We'd all laugh a lot – and you'd correct my mistakes and then you'd expect that I'd know who you are. Right?

Well, what if I kept calling you by _____ (*insert name*)? After a while I think you'd get pretty mad right? You'd probably think that I wasn't really working hard enough at getting to know you.

Ok...let's change this a bit.

How would you feel if I said _____ (*insert name*) is a wonderful person? Let's make a face to show what that would look like.

Take a picture

Or _____ (*insert name*) or _____ (*insert name*) is a wonderful person. It would make you feel pretty happy, right? How would you feel if I said _____ (*insert name*) is a terrible person? That wouldn't make you feel all that great, would it? You'd probably figure that I wasn't a very nice person.

Today we're talking about how God's name is holy (Holy isn't God's name). Holy means special, or something to be honoured. When we honour God's name, it's more than just calling God by the right name – it means that we honour everything about God. Just like when I say that _____ (*insert name*) is terrific, I am honouring everything about _____ (*insert name*).

Alright, everyone, let's pray the Lord's Prayer together.

Week 4: Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will be Done on Earth as in Heaven

Good morning. We've been looking at the Lord's Prayer this month.

Do you remember what we talked about the first Sunday? We talked about OUR Father.
Show picture

The next week we talked about heaven – and about how awesome God is. *Show Picture*

Last week we talked about names – do you remember that? How we use names to talk about each other – and how God's name is special. *Show Picture*

Well, wouldn't you know it, Jesus doesn't stop there.

In the very next sentence of the prayer, Jesus prayed, Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

What?

What does THAT mean?

What does it mean for God's will to be done here on earth – like it is in heaven?

I wonder what that would look like.

What would it look like to do God's will?

How do you think that God would like us to live? What does God want us to do?

Brainstorm ideas: share, being kind, hugging, helping up those who trip and fall, making friends

Have the children act out some of these things and take a picture

Alright, everyone, let's pray the Lord's Prayer together.

Week 5: Give Us Today the Food We Need

Good morning everyone.

This fall we're talking about the Lord's Prayer. In our first week we talked about how God includes us as part of the family, then we talked about how awesome God is, then we talked about God's name, and then we talked about what God wants from us. Today, we'll talk about how Jesus said we can ask God for the things we need, like our food or friends who love us.

How perfect that today we're also celebrating a very special day. Do you know what today is? Today we are celebrating Thanksgiving. What does THAT mean? Today is a special day for giving thanks; for saying thank-you to God.

When do we say thank-you? (*After we're given something – food, a hug, help with homework...*) Today we are saying thank you to God for all those things, AND, for the harvest...We thank God for safety for the farmers, for the grain and canola, for the garden produce – like corn and tomatoes, for the flowers, the trees, the grass and hay that our cattle, bison and elk need. We thank God for our pets – dogs and cats, fish, hamsters and turtles. Today we thank God for everything that God created.

But today we also thank God for what we know inside our hearts.

We thank God for people who love us – grandmas and grandpas, moms and dads, uncles and aunts, brothers and sisters. We thank God for friends, and our ability to love. We thank God for making us special. Some of us can dance – we thank God for our ability to dance. Some of us can sing really well, some of us can cook, some of us can make funny jokes, some of us can draw, some of us can whistle. We thank God for giving us what we need to live.

So, how about we say thank you to God together. I'm going to say, "Thank you God for..." and then you're going to shout something that you're thankful for...it can be food, friends, or whatever. OK, let's practice. Thank you God for.... Great. Let's do it again – only louder, and let's have everyone say it at the same time.

Take a picture, or have someone video the kids.

Thank you everyone. Let's all say the Lord's Prayer together.

Week 6: Forgive Us Our Debts

Good morning everyone.

This fall we're talking about the Lord's Prayer. In our first week we talked about how God includes us as part of the family, then we talked about how awesome God is, then we talked about God's name, and then we talked about what God wants from us. Last week we celebrated Thanksgiving. Do you remember what happened? _____ (*insert last week's leader's name*) said, "Today I'm thankful for..." and you shouted out what you were thankful for – Let's see what happened: *Show Picture or play video*

Wow!

Today we're talking about Forgiveness – but specifically we're talking about God forgiving us our sins.

What's sin? That's a big little word! Sometimes even we adults don't know how to talk about it! Well, let me give you an example of what sin can do to us.

Materials: 1 Piece of good bread, 1 Piece of mouldy bread, toppings for bread, a few paper napkins.

I am so hungry. I think I'll make a nice tasty sandwich, that sounds good doesn't it?
Take the good piece of bread and set it on a napkin

Okay here's the first piece of bread. It's a great start to a tasty sandwich!
Take out the mouldy piece of bread - show and make a big deal about how the bread looks really pretty and smells funky - and wouldn't that make a fun addition to your sandwich... bring it close to your mouth...almost take a bite. See if the kids will stop you, if not, don't eat it! Then remember some facts about mouldy bread.

Oh, gross! This piece of bread has mould growing all over it! I'm not going to eat that!" That just ruined a perfectly good sandwich - yuck.

Have the kids make a face to show how they feel about mouldy bread.

Sin is a bit like this mouldy bread. When we sin - when we hurt other people, ourselves, or the earth on purpose, then we are also hurting God...a little bit of us gets rotten - like this bread. When we stop and think about it, it doesn't really feel good inside our hearts.

Have the kids make the mouldy bread face again and take a picture.

God loves us very much. There's no denying that! God wants to forgive us. We just have to ask.

Alright, everyone, let's pray the Lord's Prayer together.

Week 7: As We Forgive Those Who Trespass Against Us

Well – let's look at our pictures:

Take a look at all the pictures you have taken thus far, briefly remind the kids of what was discussed each week.

OK, the next thing Jesus said was that we should forgive others.

What does THAT mean?

Well I have a story for you from the Berenstain Bears that's all about forgiving others.

Read the following book, or another book on forgiveness – and have someone take a picture.

Berenstain, Jan and Mike Berenstain. *The Berenstain Bears and the Forgiving Tree*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zonderkidz, 2010.

Let's pray the Lord's Prayer together.

Week 8: Temptation

Good morning. We've been talking about the Lord's prayer for the last two months. Let's look at our pictures as we say it together:

Say the prayer together along with the pictures until you reach the phrase for today

... And lead us not into temptation ...

TEMPTATION!

I have a cookie!

Who wants the cookie?

Look, we all do. We're all tempted by the cookie. _____ (*insert name*) is going to take a picture of us reaching for that cookie.

Have the individual take a picture of the group reaching for the cookie.

Now, a cookie isn't a bad thing, necessarily, but sometimes we want to eat that cookie so badly that we'll push over our sibling just to get it...or we'll gobble it all up, and since there are three cookies there – we'll eat those too...and pretty soon we're not hungry for supper anymore. In fact, pretty soon we'll have a tummy ache.

It's not the wanting things – the temptation - that's the bad part – it's what we do with it. If we stop using our brain – our thinking – or our heart – our loving, in favour of getting that cookie – then we've given in to temptation. And somebody usually gets hurt. That's sin.

When Jesus prayed, "Lead us not into temptation" he was teaching his disciples to pray for strength – so that God would help them use their brains and their hearts when faced with tough choices. That's what God wants for us too.

Let's pray the Lord's Prayer together.

Week 9: Deliver Us from Evil

Good morning. We've been talking about the Lord's prayer.

Let's look at the pictures as we say it together:

Say the prayer together along with the pictures until you reach the phrase for today

And today's phrase is: deliver us from evil.

Let's look at that first word – "deliver."

What does THAT mean? You may have heard it in a sentence like:

The mail carrier delivers the mail.

To deliver means to bring something from one place to the next.

OK. Let's talk about something a little different. What do you do when you're scared? I'll tell you what I do, I find someone who loves me – and I get a hug. Maybe you find your mom or dad – or grandma and grandpa and they wrap you up and hold you tightly. We feel safe when we're held.

When we pray "deliver us from evil" we are praying for God to wrap us up and hold us and keep us safe. It's like God wraps us up in a blanket – and cuddles us tightly.

I brought this blanket – let's wrap up _____ (*insert name*) and _____ (*insert name*) will take a picture.

Let's pray the Lord's Prayer together.

Week 10: For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory

Good morning. We've been looking at the Lord's Prayer this fall.

Do you remember what we talked about the first Sunday?
We talked about OUR Father. *Show picture*

The next week we talked about Heaven – and about how awesome God is. *Show Picture*

Then we talked about names – do you remember that? How we use names to talk about each other – and how God's name is special? *Show Picture*

And then we talked about what God wants from us. *Show Picture*

And the week after that - do you remember what happened? I said, "Today I'm thankful for..." and you shouted out what you were thankful for! *Show Picture or play video*

And then we talked about our sins – and what sin is *Show Picture*

Then we talked about forgiveness *Show Picture*

And then we talked about temptation – being tempted by cookies! *Show Picture*

And finally last week we talked about God delivering us from evil. *Show Picture*

OK, now, imagine me as a queen wearing a crown – let's make a crown with our hands
Take a picture of the kids making crowns with their hands.

Today we remember to whom we belong. This week we remember that everything we have, and love, and see around us belongs to God. Our sentence today isn't "Mine is the kingdom and the power and the glory." Although, sometimes we think it's all about us. Nope, today it's "Thine (God's) is the kingdom, the power and the glory." God is the monarch! God is the boss.

Throughout time, kings have been seen as bossy, sitting around telling their people what they can and cannot do, wanting to have all the power for themselves. But I don't think that that's the kind of King that God is, in fact, I know that Jesus – God's son, was absolutely not that kind of king.

Jesus is not bossy. Jesus is not interested in *sitting* around. Jesus is more interested in *going* around, in visiting people, healing people, forgiving people. Jesus came to empower each of us to be preachers—to empower us to share God's love, to help each other.

Jesus does NOT wear a crown. No, Jesus works with us; Jesus works through us; Jesus puts crayons in our hands and frees us to create with him, frees us to make the world a more beautiful place. And so today remember that it is God's kingdom – and we are called to be a creative, important part of it.

Let's pray the Lord's Prayer together.

Week 11: Forever and Ever Amen

Do you remember what we talked about the first Sunday?
We talked about OUR Father. *Show picture*

The next week we talked about Heaven – and about how awesome God is. *Show Picture*

Then we talked about names – do you remember that? How we use names to talk about each other – and how God’s name is special? *Show Picture*

And then we talked about what God wants from us. *Show Picture*

And the week after that - do you remember what happened? I said, “Today I’m thankful for…” and you shouted out what you were thankful for! *Show Picture or play video*

And then we talked about our sins – and what sin is *Show Picture*

Then we talked about forgiveness *Show Picture*

And then we talked about temptation – being tempted by cookies! *Show Picture*

And finally last week we talked about God delivering us from evil – and we were all wrapped up in a blanket. *Show Picture*

Last week we talked about how Jesus’ kingdom and power and glory is different than what the world thinks. *Show Picture*

This Sunday we’re going to finish the prayer with the last 4 words.
“Forever and Ever Amen.” Can you say that with me?
How many years is forever? (lots)

Hmmm...I have two baggies here. Guess how many beads are in each baggie? *Show children two clear baggies. One with 75 loose beads, the other with 75 beads made into a necklace.*

These beads stand for years. An average healthy person in North America can normally live to be at least 75 years old. Many people can live quite a bit longer than this, but we will use 75 years as an average life span.

During our time here on Earth we can choose to use the years we have to follow God and lead lives that are pleasing to God or we can choose to lead lives that do not please God. We could choose to make a necklace, *Pull the necklace out of the bag* – or just leave the beads stuffed in the bag.

Our life here on earth lasts only a short time – maybe 75 years, but, when we die, we will be with God for eternity.

Eternity is forever and ever amen. It never ever ends.

We can be wise and use the years that we have here on earth to live a life that is pleasing to God and store for ourselves treasure in heaven that will last forever.

Let's pray the Lord's prayer.