

LESSON 1

THE LORD'S PRAYER

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Teaches Us How to Pray

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6

GOD'S BIG STORY: As part of His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches His followers how to pray by giving them a model to follow—what we often call “The Lord’s Prayer.”

Activity: Whisper

Activity: Copycat Prayer

Worship

God's Big Story

Prayer and Blessing

Activity: Jesus Says

Wonder@Home™

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

Activity: Whisper

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church. Encourage the kids to whisper something to you—this can be anything!

Welcome! You can come tell me something in my ear. Invite each kid to tell you something. **Now I will tell you something too! Are you ready to listen?** Whisper in each child's ear: **Prayer is talking to God. Were you listening to what I said? Did you know that prayer is talking to God?** Allow the kids to respond. Let the kids take turns saying "Prayer is talking to God" quietly and loudly.

Did you know we can talk with God any time? Jesus teaches us to pray, which means talking to God and listening to Him! We'll learn more about that in our story today!

Activity: Copycat Prayer

SUPPLIES: tape (prep only), scissors (prep only)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Prayer Matching Cards (2 sets)

Ahead of time, print two sets of the Prayer Matching Cards and cut apart the cards. Tape one set of the cards on the walls around the room and give each kid one of the cards from the other set. If you have more kids than cards, you can pair them up or put them in small groups.

We learned that Jesus teaches us how to pray. We are going to look around the room for the things Jesus teaches us to pray about and match them up with the pictures we have here. Look around the room and try to find the picture that matches yours. When you find it, go stand next to it.



Once kids have all found the matches, tell them what each picture reminds us about prayer.

- Music notes—Music reminds us of worship, which means praising God for how great He is.
- Food—This reminds us we can ask God for things we need.
- Cross—This reminds us of Jesus dying on the cross for our sins, and it also reminds us we can ask for forgiveness for bad choices we make.
- Smiley face—This reminds us we can pray for others who need help.
- Mirror—This reminds us we can pray for ourselves and anything we need God's help with.

We'll learn more about the way we can pray in our story today.

Our Wonder Truth today is JESUS TEACHES US HOW TO PRAY.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

GOD—Point up.

TEACHES US—Point to self.

TO PRAY—Fold hands like praying.

Worship

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from the [Power of Prayer Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Today, we're learning how Jesus teaches us to pray. We'll learn in God's big story how God wants us to talk to Him. But first, let's sing and dance together!

Play songs from the [Power of Prayer Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [God's Big Story Video](#)

Show the kids the God's Big Story Video or read the story from the Bible or use the script provided.

God's big story today is one of Jesus' great teachings in the Bible about prayer. Let's find out from the Bible what Jesus was teaching!

You can help as we learn how Jesus teaches us to pray. First, Jesus tells us to praise God! Hold up your pointer finger. Encourage the kids to hold up one pointer finger. **This means we can tell God how awesome He is!**

Next, Jesus tells us to ask God for what we need. Hold up two fingers. **We can ask Him to help us with things that we need, such as food, shelter, water, and clothes. Then, Jesus says we should ask for forgiveness.** Hold up three fingers. **This means when we do something wrong, we can tell God we are sorry and ask for His forgiveness.**

Next, we can ask God to help others. Hold up four fingers. **We are almost done! We can ask God to help people who are sad, hurt, need help, or don't know Jesus yet. Last we can pray for ourselves.** Hold up all five fingers. **We can ask God to help us love others, be brave, be kind, and do the right thing! God always hears us when we pray!**

Prayer and Blessing

We're learning about prayer today. Prayer is talking to God, and we can do it any time! Let's talk to God and thank Him for always listening to us.

Thank You, God, for listening to us when we pray. Help us remember to always talk to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold out their hands in front of them with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: **May God provide for your needs each day. May you forgive others and be forgiven. May He always remind you how Jesus teaches us to pray. May you remember that God wants to talk to you because He loves you!**

Activity: Jesus Says

Let's play another game to help us remember what Jesus teaches us about prayer.

Play a game that is similar to "Simon Says," but with a twist. Call out things Jesus did or didn't tell us to do according to our story today. If Jesus *didn't* say it, have kids give a thumbs down or sit down. If He *did* say it, have kids give a thumbs up or jump up.

Use the following phrases:

- Jesus said ... pray super-loud and in front of everyone. (thumbs down)
- Jesus said ... pray for God to help our friends. (thumbs up)
- Jesus said ... ask for forgiveness when we make a wrong choice. (thumbs up)
- Jesus said ... God doesn't hear our prayers. (thumbs down)
- Jesus said ... praise God. (thumbs up)
- Jesus said ... ask God for things we need, such as a home, clothes, and food. (thumbs up)
- Jesus said ... we can pray for someone who needs help. (thumbs up)

Wow, that was a lot of fun! Jesus teaches some important things in God's big story today, and you did a great job remembering the things Jesus said and the things Jesus *didn't* say!