

Jesus Teaches Us to Pray

Lesson 30a — The Lord's Prayer

Lesson 30b — Attitude in Prayer

Lesson 30c — Jesus Told Us to ASK

Lesson 30d — Jesus Prayed for Me

OVERVIEW

Prayer occupied a place of great importance in the life of Jesus Christ. In this area, as in all others concerning our relationship with God, He left us a perfect example. In time of decision and crisis, Christ gave Himself to prayer. He prayed when He was baptized, when He chose His twelve Apostles, when He was engaged in service, when He was burdened, and when He faced betrayal and execution. But He also prayed in times of joy. His example raised in His followers a desire for the same power and blessing.

Our first lesson in this four-part series deals with Christ's example of prayer given to His disciples, the well-known and loved "Lord's Prayer." As your young students learn the meaning of each phrase, they should see how this prayer covers all of our needs.

The second lesson concerns the attitude we should maintain when we pray: that of humility before God. This lesson is based on the parable of the Pharisee and the publican. This would also be a good time to address being quiet and respectful during prayer time at church and Sunday school.

Lesson three dwells on the Biblical formula for receiving from God, as it explores the directive to ask, to seek, and to knock. The students will learn the importance of praying in the name of Jesus.

The concluding lesson brings out the beautiful thought that Christ prayed for all those who would believe on Him, and that includes us. Try to help your Primary child to recognize what a special privilege it is to know that we can be included in that number.

GAMES FOR REVIEW

Write each word of the Lord's Prayer on a separate slip of paper. Make two sets. Put each set in a box. Choose two teams. Let each team take slips from their own box and try to put the words in the right order on a bulletin board.

Choose two teams. Have a teacher behind a divider to attach the questions. Prepare four fishing poles, each one representing a week's lesson question. (Have color-coded bait, etc., so the teacher knows for which week the question is being chosen or what level of question to give so younger ones can participate.) Have one person from team number one choose a pole and swing it over the divider to reel in a question. If the child can answer the question his team gets a point. If he can't, the question goes back into the pool. Regardless of whether the answer is right or wrong, it is the next team's turn.

Make a *question* paper chain. Start by writing the questions on slips of paper, then put together as a paper chain (question in inside). Ask a volunteer to choose

and detach a question from either end. If he knows the answer, he may have two small prizes and then it is someone else's turn. If he doesn't know, you may ask who would like to answer for one prize. Then ask for another volunteer for a new question. (Instead of individual prizes you might want to divide the group into teams. At the end of the game the team holding the most "links" is the winner.)

CONTEST IDEAS

On a large piece of posterboard write the title LORD in large capital letters. Under the title have two ribbons hanging down. A pink one for girls and a blue one for boys. Have a month's contest, boys against girls, in learning the Lord's Prayer. When a child can completely say it, write his name in calligraphy on a small piece of posterboard and attach it to the ribbon. At the end of the month, give a certificate to each child who said the Lord's Prayer and a small prize to the winning team.

Make a prayer ladder with Heaven at the top for each child or team (see Patterns). Each Sunday add a rung

to the ladder for every new child who was brought, answers to prayers, Bible verses learned, bringing Bibles, etc.

Help the children build a prayer library on a cassette tape. Use several 3" x 5" cards and write a different mini prayer or a Bible verse that is a prayer or is about prayer on each card. Mix these together in a sack. Each week that a child is in Sunday school he may choose a card and read the message onto a cassette recorder. If he brings his Bible he may read a second card. A card may also be chosen if he brings a friend to Sunday school. If he knows the memory verse he can record it onto the cassette. At the end of the unit, copy the completed cassette tape onto as many empty cassettes as you need (5 students — 5 cassettes, etc.). The more the children have done the more their voices will be heard on the cassette along with their friends.

BULLETIN BOARDS

Title your bulletin board **GOD ANSWERS PRAYER ANY TIME** (see Patterns). Make a clock for the center of your board. Put pictures around the clock that represent times when prayers are answered. Frame each picture with a different color of construction paper.

Make a prayer bulletin board for your students to complete. Use the title **A.S.K.** (see Patterns). Write the subtitle "Jesus Taught Us to Pray" under the main title. Fold colored sheets of construction paper in half and, using your students' names, title the front of each card, **Mary is praying for . . .**, **Ryan is praying for . . .**, etc. Let each child write inside his card something for which he is praying.

Make the **JESUS PRAYED FOR ME!** bulletin board (see Patterns). In the center of your board hang a large, round map of the world. Draw several arrows pointing toward the world. Then, next to each arrow, write the words "and you!"

UNIT SONGS

"Always Take Time to Pray"
"I Asked the Lord"

NOTES

"God Hears My Prayer" — Songs of God and Me, Lillenas

"Morning Prayer" — Songs of God and Me, Lillenas

"Kum Ba Yah" — Kids Sing Praise, Brentwood Publishing

"Whisper a Prayer"

UNIT PROJECTS

Each Sunday have the students and teachers put written prayer requests into a shoe box (or any container with a large opening). Shake the box, then have each student and teacher pick a prayer request and read it aloud. Briefly discuss the requests and spend a few moments praying for each request.

Every week give your students the Prayer Power Project for that week: **Week One** — Prayer Walkathon; **Week Two** — Code Prayer; **Week Three** — Grab Bag Prayer; **Week Four** — Plant a Prayer (see Patterns). Encourage them to complete each assignment, and bring back their symbol telling you some details of what they did or how it went. Write their names on the symbols and post them on a board entitled "WE'RE PRAYING!" as each assignment is completed.

CHART IDEAS

Make a set of praying hands cut from construction paper. Draw lines on which the children may write their prayer requests.

Give each student a daily-prayer doorknob hanger (see Patterns). On one side let them write their own morning prayer and on the other side write an evening prayer.

For each child cover a small box with brightly colored paper. On each side of the box let them paste pictures of people and things for which they are praying. Tell them to turn the box over each day so a different side is up. Then concentrate on praying for the person or thing that is on top for that day.

SUPPORT MATERIAL

Hello God — Warner Press

Time to Pray — by Carol Ferntheil, Standard Publishing