

The Lord's Prayer

FOR THE TEACHER:

This lesson is designed to help kids grow in their understanding of what prayer is and how it works in relationship with God. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have always talked to each other and now Jesus is including us in their conversation. Prayer, therefore, is Jesus sharing with us the conversation he has with the Father in the Holy Spirit. This is why we begin our prayers "Father in heaven . . ." and end them "In Jesus' name." Prayer is us talking to Father, through the Son, in the Spirit.

Questions marked with an asterisk (*) are part of the Trinitarian Catechism.

FIRST ACTIVITY: Blanket fun. For this activity you will need a large blanket - enough to cover the kids with. Tell the kids to sit down together on the floor. Review who the Trinity is as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Tell the kids that when we pray, we pray to the Father, through the Son, in the Holy Spirit. Explain how the Spirit is sometimes referred to as someone who covers us. Throw the blanket over all the kids so they are underneath it. Next, move the kids to a table for the scripture reading.

Activity Lesson: We are able to pray because the Holy Spirit fills and surrounds our lives.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Ask for a helper to pass out a bible to each child. Have them all turn to Matthew 6:9-12. For older kids, have them take turns reading.

⁹ *"This, then, is how you should pray:*

*"Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,*

¹⁰ *your kingdom come,
your will be done,*

on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ *Give us today our daily bread.*

¹² *And forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us..*

¹³ *And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.'*

for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

PRIMARY LESSON: Prayer is talking to our Father through Jesus' name in the power of the Holy Spirit.

SECOND ACTIVITY: Practice praying. Before class get several different types of small inexpensive toys and/or candy. Tell the kids we are going to act out the roles of the Father, Son and Spirit in prayer. You will need at least 4 people (use adults if you don't have enough kids) to play the roles of the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, and the person praying. Have the person praying sit at a table. Have the Spirit stand behind her. Have the Father and Son stand across from the person praying. The Holy Spirit can then drape the "Spirit" blanket over the person. Have the person praying close her eyes and then set 3 pieces of candy or toys on the table (this is so the person praying doesn't see what is available on the table.) The Spirit then describes the 3 different toys and/or candy that are on the table. The person praying then asks for the one she wants by saying, "Dear Father in Heaven, May I please have _____. In Jesus Name, Amen." Then tells the Father what the child wants. The Father says, "yes", gives the item to Jesus and Jesus then gives it to the child. Do the activity again with different toys/candy until each child has had a chance to practice the prayer.

Activity Lesson: Prayer involves us and all three persons of God. We pray to the Father, through Jesus, in the Spirit.

Note: Kids may ask "why don't we get everything we pray for?" Explain that like any good Father our Father in heaven gives us what is best for us and sometimes what we want isn't best. For example, we ask for ice cream for dinner but our parents know it is better for us to eat healthy food.

PRAYER: For older kids, have one of them pray this prayer (or come up with their own). For younger kids, have them repeat after you as you read the prayer.

Father in heaven, thank you helping us to learn how to talk to you in prayer. Thank you Jesus for lifting our prayers up to the Father and sending the Father's Holy Spirit to help us know how to pray. In Jesus' name, Amen.