



WEEK TWO – MAY 2024 – KINDER/FIRST

Bible Story: *You Say (The Lord’s Prayer) | Matthew 6:9-13*

Bottom Line: *Practice praying to God*

Memory Verse: *“Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living + the life to come.” – 1 Timothy 4:8*

Virtue: *Commitment – Making a plan and putting it into practice*

Basic Truth: *I need to make the wise choice*

Series Overview: This month, we’ll help kids discover that one of the best plans they can make is to commit to an ongoing relationship with Jesus. We hope they commit to practicing their faith by reading God’s Word, praying to God honestly and consistently, talking about God with others, and living for God in how they show love throughout the everyday.

Bottom Line: Practice praying to God. Even if kids have grown up in a home where practicing faith is a priority, they might still think prayer is something they do before they eat dinner or get tucked into bed for the night. Of course, prayer is so much more than that. And, as kids learn about Jesus’ model prayer, we want them to understand that they can pray anytime, anywhere, and about anything—because God is always listening and wants to hear from us. We hope kids will understand more about prayer and find that talking to God can be an important part of growing in their faith.

9:05 - 9:20 | 11:05 – 11:20 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY

Opening Small Group Activity

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Ping Pong Balls

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name and greet all of the kids as they enter with a smile.
- Instruct the kids to find a partner.
- Direct the partners to stand facing each other.
- Give two tennis or ping-pong balls to one partner from each pair.
- Instruct the kid holding the tennis or ping-pong balls to hold each ball out in front of them as though they are ready to drop them.
- Direct the other partner to face the one holding the ping-pong balls, and place their hands **palms down** below their partner's hands.
- When everyone is in place, say: "Drop!"
- When you say drop, instruct the partner holding the ping-pong balls to drop them while the other partner tries to flip their hands around in time to catch them before they hit the floor.
- Instruct the partners to switch roles and repeat.
- Direct the kids to find new partners and repeat as time allows.
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What You Say:

"That was some great practice! Anybody who is training to get better at something has to practice and work hard. They make a commitment to what they're training for, and they make a plan to improve through practicing! Depending on what they're practicing for, they may need to improve their reaction time, their ability to sing a certain note, or working as a team. *[Transition]* **Let's go hear about something else God wants us to practice every day!**"

9:20 - 9:50 | 11:20 – 11:50 | LARGE GROUP

Large Group Overview: In **Matthew 6:9-13** we find Jesus talking about prayer during His Sermon on the Mount. Jesus shared a model for prayer that helps us understand more about how we can talk to God. We can pray with gratitude and honesty, pray for our needs, and ask for forgiveness. It's comforting to know that we can pray while remembering that God knows us and wants to hear from us.

9:50 – 10:10 | 11:50 – 12:10 | SMALL GROUP

Phone a Friend

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others + build on their understanding

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- Instruct the group to join you in a seated circle.
- Say: “We’re going to play a game where we whisper phrases from the Lord’s Prayer that Jesus taught His disciples and see if we can get them correctly around the circle!”
- One phrase at a time, whisper a phrase from the Lord’s Prayer (below) to the kid sitting on your right.
- Instruct that kid to whisper the phrase to the kid beside them and so on until the phrase travels around the circle.
 - Direct kids to wait quietly as the phrases are whispered so everyone can hear and share.
- Invite the last kid to share the phrase they heard with the group.
- Correct each phrase as needed.

- Allow kids to change spots in the circle after each phrase so different kids get to start/end each round.
 - Our Father in heaven, may your name be honored.
 - May your kingdom come.
 - May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven.
 - Give us today our daily bread.
 - And forgive us our sins, just as we also have forgiven those who sin against us.
 - Keep us from sinning when we are tempted.
 - Save us from the evil one.

What You Say:

*“That was a fun game! Sometimes it can get silly, but we saw today that it can remind us how we can talk to God! Saying the words from Jesus’ prayer and hearing our friends say them were a great way to **[Bottom Line] practice praying to God.***

“When we pray, we can tell God what we’re thinking, feeling, or even what we need. Jesus’ example of prayer can help us keep that conversation with God going anytime, anywhere, and that will help our faith grow!”

[Make It Personal] (Tell about a time when your conversation with God helped you make a decision or know what to do in a difficult situation.)

Tiny Bible Training Guide

[Live For God | Application Activity]

Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: Prepared “Tiny Bible Training Guide” Activity Page, and crayons or colored pencils

What You Do:

- Give each kid a prepared “Tiny Bible Training Guide” Activity Page booklet.
- Review the parts of the Lord’s Prayer by reading through it and looking at each picture.
- Set out the crayons.
- Invite kids to color each page of their mini-book.
 - Direct them to color the kid on the first page and last page inside the mini-book to look like them.
- While kids are coloring, discuss what the different parts of the Lord’s Prayer mean by asking them what each phrase means.
- Use the following talking points with each page (the NIrV is below), as needed:
 - *“Our Father in heaven, may your name be honored.”* God is in heaven, and we want to show and talk about our love for God.
 - *“May your kingdom come.”* God promises to make everything right in our world, just like it is in heaven where God lives.
 - *“May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is in heaven.”* We can be a part of making the world better and showing others what God is like.
 - *“Give us today our daily bread.”* We can ask God for anything we need—like food, or even friends or patience.
 - *NOTE: Please be sensitive to those dealing with various insecurities and steer the conversation towards being able to go to God about anything, versus the things we tangibly have or don’t have.*
 - *“And forgive us our sins, just as we also have forgiven those who sin against us.”* When we mess up, we can ask God for forgiveness.
 - *“Keep us from sinning when we are tempted.”* Sin is anything that breaks our relationship with God and God wants to help us avoid it.
 - *“Save us from the evil one.”* We can ask God to help us make wise choices and protect us.
- When kids finish coloring, say: “This Training Guide is so small, you can put it in your pocket and have it with you all the time!”
- Ask kids to write their names on the back of their mini-book.

- Set the mini-books aside for the Prayer and Dismiss activity.

What You Say:

*“We can [**Bottom Line**] practice praying to God wherever we are and at any time! These little Training Guides can help you remember that God is always with you and that God is always ready to hear you! If you feel stuck, sad, worried, thankful, or whatever it may be—use Jesus’ example prayer to help you talk to God. When we [**Bottom Line**] practice praying to God, it becomes something we start to remember to do. Talking to God is one of the ways we can grow in our faith!”*

Pray + Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding + application

What You Need: Mini-books from the Tiny Bible Training Guide Activity, and paper

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Give each kid their mini-book from the Tiny Bible Training Guide Activity.
- Say: “We’re all going to take some time to [**Bottom Line**] practice praying to God.”
- Place the four pieces of paper in four different places around your small group space.
- Divide your group into four groups.
- Instruct each of the groups to move to one of the pieces of paper.
- Say: “We are going to pray at this first spot and then move around to another place to pray. You can use your mini-books to pray like the Lord’s Prayer, or you can pray your own prayer—silently or spoken quietly. Remember, you’re having a personal conversation with God, and this time is not for anyone else to hear or see.”
- Direct the kids to start to pray.

- When you say “switch,” instruct the groups to head to a different piece of paper and repeat.
- When you say “finish up,” direct the kids to finish up their prayers and return to the group.
- Close your group time in prayer.

What You Say:

“God, thank You for being such an amazing God that hears us anywhere we are and anytime we pray! Thank You for wanting to help us when we are happy, when we are sad, and anything in between. Help us remember that we can always talk to You! We love You and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, remind kids to take their Tiny Bible Training Guide with them to help them remember what they can say to God anytime, anywhere! Encourage them to share their mini-book with a friend or adult!