



WEEK TWO – MAY 2024 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *The Lord's Prayer | Matthew 6:9-13*

Key Question: *How do you pray 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.

Key Question: How do you pray to God? Kids in your ministry will have varied experiences with prayer. Many might just be starting to discover that they can pray more than before meals and at bedtime. Others might never have prayed out loud on their own. Whatever their experience with prayer, we hope all kids can learn that they can talk to God through prayer whenever they feel like praying, with whatever words come to mind. God is always there to listen and cares about what we have to say.

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

Opening Small Group Activity

Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: “Tomato Tomato Activity Page”

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Invite kids to gather in the center of your group space.
- Explain that you will hold up an image of something that has two common ways the word is pronounced. You will say each pronunciation, assigning each one to a specific side of your group space. Kids should move to the side that represents what they think is the right pronunciation of the word.
- Hold up a picture from the “Tomato Tomato” Activity Page and use the phonetic spelling to read each pronunciation then direct kids to move to make their choice.
- Play until you have gone through all the images.

What You Say:

“Wasn’t it interesting to see everyone’s pronunciation choices? Many of you probably felt like the pronunciation you chose was the right one. [Transition] “Did you know that just like there are different ways to say these words, there are also different ways that we can talk to God? There is no one right way to say these words, and there is not just one way to pray to God! Today, we will get some ideas on how to pray in our own unique way!”

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

Bible Story Extension

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: “Lord’s Prayer” Activity Page; Writing Utensils

What You Do:

- Invite kids to sit in a circle.
- Lead a discussion to recap today’s Bible Story:
 - What do we call the event that was happening in the story today? (*Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount*)
 - What did Jesus say about who is part of God’s Kingdom? (*The spiritually needy and humble; Those who ask for help; People who are sad; People who make peace and show mercy*)
 - What specific thing did Jesus give instructions for? (*How to pray.*)
- Put kids in pairs. Hand each pair a “Lord’s Prayer” Activity Page and a pen or pencil.
- Explain that kids should work together with their partner to translate portions of the Lord’s Prayer into their own words, making it more relevant and understandable to them.
- When everyone has had a chance to finish their page, bring the group back together.

- Read through each section of the prayer, allowing kids to take turns sharing what they wrote.
- Remind kids that this prayer is not necessarily the exact words to say when we pray to God. Instead, it's a guideline that helps us think about the kinds of things we can pray about.

Discussion Questions

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask:
 - Is there a right way to pray?
 - How do you pray to God?
 - When can you pray?
 - Is it difficult to make time for prayer? Why or why not?
 - Why does prayer take practice?

Make It Personal With Prayer

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: “Prayer Plan” Activity Page; Writing Utensils

What You Do:

- Put kids in pairs and encourage them to spread out in your group space with their partner.
- Hand each kid a copy of the “Prayer Plan” Activity Page and a pen or pencil.
 - Explain that they will be spending time creating their own prayer plans, which can help guide them to pray in the days ahead.

- They can work together with their partner to think of ideas for their plan, but each kid should create their own unique plan.
- After kids have finished their prayer plans, give them time to share a prayer request with their partner, if they would like to. Encourage them to take a moment to pray for each other.
 - Kids can fill in their partner’s prayer request on their “Prayer Plan” Activity Page.
- Once everyone has prayed, bring the group back together.
- Explain that just like we have discussed how there is no right or wrong way to pray, it’s also important to remember that prayer can happen by ourselves, as well as with others. It’s great to have time in our lives where both of those can happen.
- Help kids understand their plans should simply be a reminder to help them pray. They can pray anytime! Not only during designated times on their plans.
- Remind kids how with any commitment, it requires making a plan and putting it into practice. Prayer is no different! It is a skill that takes planning and practice. And we will also benefit from it as a way to grow in our faith.
- Encourage kids to use their prayer plans in the week ahead.

As adults arrive to pick up, make sure to hand out Week 2 of the Devos to the kids + say that if they bring it back next week completed/signed by parents, they will get a prize!