

Can I Learn Too?

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Prayer

Scripture: Luke 11:1

Memory Verse: Lord, teach us to pray. - Luke 11:1

The Children's Sermon

Hey kids! Today, we're going to talk about something really special: how to talk to God. Yes, I mean prayer! You might wonder, "How do I talk to someone I can't see?" Well, it's like talking to a friend who's always there, listening. And guess what? Jesus taught us exactly how to do it. He gave us a guide, like a treasure map, to show us the way. So, let's dive in and learn together. Our lesson today is "Teach us to pray."

First off, let's remember something important. When we talk to God, we're talking to the King of everything! The whole universe! So, we start by showing Him respect. It's like saying "hello" in the most polite way. Jesus showed us to start our prayers with praise. We can say something like, "Dear God, You are amazing and so good to us." This is our way of saying "thank you" for all the wonderful things He does.

Jesus also taught us to say, "Hallowed be thy name." That's a fancy way of saying, "God, Your name is super special and holy." It's like giving God a big, respectful high-five because He's just that awesome.

Now, let's add some new ideas to our prayer adventure. After we say hello and give God a high-five with our words, we can talk to Him about His big plans for the world. We can

say, "God, please let Your good plans happen everywhere, just like they do in heaven." It's like asking for the whole world to be a happy, peaceful place where everyone is kind and loving.

Next, we can talk to God about what we need. It's okay to ask for things like food, help with homework, or even for courage when we're feeling scared. Jesus told us to ask for our "daily bread," which means asking for what we need every day. God loves to take care of us, and He wants us to trust Him with our needs.

After asking for what we need, it's super important to talk about forgiveness. Forgiveness is when we stop being mad at someone for hurting us and decide to be kind instead. Jesus teaches us to ask God to forgive us for the times we mess up, just like we forgive others. It's like cleaning up our hearts so we can be happy and free.

Now, here's a cool part. We can ask God to keep us safe from making bad choices. It's like asking for a superhero shield that protects us from doing things that would make us or others sad. Jesus knew we'd sometimes find it hard to choose what's right, so He told us to ask for help.

Let's not forget to say "thank you" at the end of our prayers. It's important to be grateful and tell God how much we appreciate all He does for us. We can thank Him for our family, friends, pets, and so many other things. Being thankful makes our hearts feel good and reminds us of how much we're loved.

Now, you might be thinking, "But what if I don't know what to say?" That's totally okay! Remember, God knows your heart. Even when words are hard to find, He understands what you're feeling. Just talking to Him, even without words, is a beautiful prayer.

So, kids, let's remember our lesson today: "Teach us to pray." Jesus gave us a simple map to follow, but it's okay to add your own words and feelings. God loves hearing from you, no matter what. You can talk to Him anytime, anywhere, about anything. He's the best friend you'll ever have, always ready to listen and help.

Before we finish, let's practice what we learned. Close your eyes, and we'll say a little prayer together. "Dear God, thank You for being so awesome. Please help everyone to be happy and safe, and help us to always do what's right. Thank you for our food, our families, and our friends. Please forgive us when we make mistakes, and help us to forgive others too. Thank you for loving us so much. Amen."

Great job, everyone! Remember, praying is something we can keep learning about every day. God is always ready to listen, so don't be shy. Talk to Him like the amazing friend He is. Keep practicing, and you'll see how special and powerful prayer can be in your life. Thanks for being such wonderful listeners today. Keep shining bright and talking to God!

Bible Memory Verse

Lord, teach us to pray. - Luke 11:1

You Will Need:

- Colored paper
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers with different prayer themes (e.g., thankfulness, help, love, friends)

Get Ready:

-Cut the colored paper into large, easy-to-hold shapes. Think hearts, stars, or even simple rectangles.

-Write 'Lord, teach us to pray.' - Luke 11:1 on each shape with a marker.

Do This:

1. Give each child a pre-prepared shape and a set of markers or crayons. Explain that today's lesson is about learning to pray, just like the disciples asked Jesus.

2. Ask the children to decorate their shapes with the markers or crayons and to stick stickers related to different prayer themes on their shapes. While they work, talk to them about what each theme means and how they can talk to God about anything.

3. Once everyone is done, gather the children in a circle and invite them to share their prayer shapes. Encourage them to say a simple prayer related to one of the themes on their shape. Finish by praying together, asking God to teach us all how to pray, just like Jesus taught his disciples.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Colorful construction paper
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- A large poster board
- Printed verse: Luke 11:1

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into large, easy-to-hold shapes, such as stars, hearts, or clouds. You can also use the Bible Memory Verse projects for this.

- Write "Lord, teach us to pray" on the poster board and decorate it with simple designs or borders.

Do this:

1. ****Read Luke 11:1 Together****: Start by reading the verse, "One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.'" Explain that prayer is talking to God, and we can learn how to pray better by asking Jesus, just like the disciples did.
2. ****Make Prayer Shapes****: Give each child a piece of the pre-cut construction paper and markers or crayons. Ask them to think of something they want to pray for or thank God for. They can draw a picture or write words related to their prayer on the paper shape.
3. ****Create a Prayer Wall****: Once everyone has finished their prayer shapes, help them use glue sticks to attach their shapes to the large poster board around the printed verse. Explain that this is our Prayer Wall, a special place where we can see what we're all praying for, reminding us that God listens to all our prayers, just like Jesus taught us to pray.

Snack Activity: Prayer Pretzels

You'll Need:

- 1 package of ready-to-bake pretzel dough
- 1 egg (for egg wash)
- Coarse salt
- Parchment paper
- Baking sheet

Get Ready: Preheat your oven to the temperature specified on the pretzel dough package. Line the baking sheet with parchment paper.

Do this:

1. Talk about Luke 11:1, where one of Jesus' disciples asks Him, 'Lord, teach us to pray.' Explain that just like we learn to make snacks, we can also learn to pray by asking and practicing.
2. Shape the pretzel dough into pretzels. As you do, discuss how the pretzel's traditional looped shape can remind us of hands folded in prayer. This can be a fun time to encourage the kids to think about what they might want to pray about.
3. Place the shaped pretzels on the prepared baking sheet. Brush them with beaten egg (this is your egg wash) and sprinkle with coarse salt. Bake according to the package instructions. While the pretzels bake and cool, you can lead the children in a simple prayer, practicing what they've learned. Encourage them to thank God for their food, friends, and family, and to ask for help or guidance in anything they need.

Game Activity: Prayer Path Hopscotch

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- A small stone or beanbag for each child
- A list of simple prayer topics (e.g., family, friends, animals, nature, etc.)

Get Ready: Use the sidewalk chalk to draw a hopscotch grid on the pavement. Instead of numbers in each square, write different prayer topics in each one.

Do this:

1. Each child takes a turn tossing their stone or beanbag onto the hopscotch grid. They should try to aim for a specific square.
2. The child then hops through the grid on one foot, skipping the square with their stone or beanbag in it. When they reach the end, they turn around and hop back.
3. Upon retrieving their stone or beanbag, the child says a short prayer about the topic written in the square where their stone or beanbag landed. For example, if the stone lands on 'family,' they might say, 'Thank you, God, for my family.'
4. The game continues with each child taking turns, tossing their stone, hopping through the grid, and saying a prayer based on where their stone lands.

Craft Activity: Prayer Hands Bookmark

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Glue stick
- Yarn or ribbon
- Hole punch

Get Ready: Cut the construction paper into rectangles about 2 inches wide and 6 inches long. These will be the bookmarks.

Do this:

1. Have each child trace their hand on a piece of construction paper. Encourage them to spread their fingers slightly apart.
2. Cut out the handprints. These represent our hands in prayer, just like in Luke 11:1, where Jesus teaches us to pray.

3. Decorate one side of the bookmark with markers or crayons. They can write their name, draw designs, or write a short prayer.
4. Glue the handprint on the other side of the bookmark, so the fingers stick out like a tab.
5. Punch a hole at the top of the bookmark and thread a piece of yarn or ribbon through it to finish it off.
6. Encourage the children to place their Prayer Hands Bookmark in their Bible or any book they are reading as a reminder to pray every day, just like Jesus taught us.

Prayer Activity: Prayer Pebbles

You'll Need:

- Small pebbles or stones (one for each child plus a few extras)
- Permanent markers
- A small basket or container

Get Ready: Gather enough pebbles or stones so each child can have one. Place them in a basket or container. Ensure you have enough permanent markers for the children to share.

Do this:

1. Start by reading Luke 11:1 to the children, explaining that just like the disciples, they too can learn to pray and talk to God anytime, anywhere.
2. Give each child a pebble or stone and a permanent marker. Ask them to think of one thing they want to pray for or thank God for.
3. Have them write a word or draw a simple picture on the pebble that represents their prayer request or thanksgiving.

4. Once everyone is done, invite the children to share their prayer pebble with the group, if they feel comfortable. As each child shares, place the pebbles in the basket.
5. Lead the children in a short prayer, lifting up all the requests and thanksgivings represented by the pebbles in the basket. Conclude by teaching them a simple prayer they can say every day, inspired by how Jesus taught His disciples to pray in Luke 11:1.