

SECTION 4.2 | Prayer



Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 1: Conversation Openers

What You'll Need: Nothing

STEP 1: Have kids think of words or phrases to start a conversation with others. Encourage them to use their imagination and think of fun ways to say hello. Examples include: Hey! Greetings! What's up?

STEP 2: Ask the following questions:

- When might we start a conversation with someone?
- Why is it sometimes hard to talk with someone?
- Why is conversation with others important?
- What are the benefits of having a conversation with someone?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- If we want to get to know someone, we have to communicate with them.
- Our relationship with others grows deeper when we listen to them and share with them what we are thinking and feeling.
- God wants us to communicate our thoughts and feelings, wants and needs to Him. Talking to God is called prayer.

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of prayer.

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Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 2: Common Phrases

What You'll Need: Nothing

STEP 1: Give the following scenarios and ask what phrases kids their age might say or ask in each situation. Encourage them to respond vocally with expression.

You can't find your soccer uniform.

Your brother borrowed something without asking and now you can't find it.

You want to play your new game, but you need your parent's permission first.

STEP 2: Ask the following questions after kids have responded:

- Why do you have different conversations instead of the same conversation all the time?
- What is the purpose of conversations?
- Why is communication with others necessary?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- We get to know others better when we communicate with them.
- Our thoughts and feelings change depending on our situations, and it is important to share them with the ones we care about.
- God wants us to communicate our thoughts and feelings with Him. We communicate with Him through prayer.

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of prayer.

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Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 1: Examples of Prayer

What You'll Need: Bibles, Examples of Prayer Handout, tape

PREP: Print out the handout pages and assemble them according to directions. Keep the verse pages to hand out, and tape the pocket pages to a wall.

STEP 1: Explain that this week's lesson is on prayer.

Share the following key concepts on prayer with your kids:

- We communicate with God through prayer. We can talk to God anywhere and anytime (1 Thessalonians 5:17, Philippians 4:6).
- There are no set rules to how we pray. We don't have to pray only at meals or bedtime. We don't have to get on our knees. We don't even have to close our eyes (although that does help us focus on what we or others are saying to God).

STEP 2: Choose five volunteers (or five pairs if you have a larger group). Explain that they will each be given a verse to look up and read.

STEP 3: After the three minutes, have the kids take their verse reference and place it in the pocket the verse is an example of, and congratulate the ones who get it right.

The verses and their correct matches:

Philippians 1:9 (Pray for love to abound.)

Colossians 4:12 (Pray to stand firm in the will of God.)

Hebrews 13:18 (Pray to have a clear conscience and to act honorably.)

Colossians 4:3 (Pray that God would allow them to share the gospel.)

James 5:16 (Pray for one another so that they may be healed.)

STEP 4: Share these key concepts:

- The Bible contains many examples of how we can pray and what we can pray for. We can praise God when we pray (Psalm 135:3). We can thank God when we pray (Philippians 4:6). We can ask God to help us stay away from temptation (Luke 22:39-40).
- We can also pray for others. We can pray for our leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-4). We can pray for the salvation of others (Romans 10:1). We can thank God for the faith of others (Colossians 1:3-4). We can pray for their health and safety (3 John 2).
- When we pray, we can have confidence that if we ask God to answer our prayers according to His plan for us, He will give us what we need.

Notes:



Examples of Prayer Handout

Philippians 1:9

Colossians 4:12

Hebrews 13:18

Colossians 4:3

James 5:16

Pray for love to abound.

(Fold on the dashed line and secure sides with tape to create the pocket.)

Pray to stand firm in the will of God.

(Fold on the dashed line and secure sides with tape to create the pocket.)

Pray to have a clear conscience and to act honorably.

(Fold on the dashed line and secure sides with tape to create the pocket.)

Pray that God would allow them to share the gospel.

(Fold on the dashed line and secure sides with tape to create the pocket.)

Pray for one another so that they may be healed.

(Fold on the dashed line and secure sides with tape to create the pocket.)

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Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 2: How Do I Pray?

What You'll Need: Bibles

STEP 1: Share these key concepts:

- We communicate with God through prayer. We can talk to God anywhere and anytime (1 Thessalonians 5:17, Philippians 4:6).
- There are no set rules to how we pray. We don't have to pray only at meals or bedtime. We don't have to get on our knees. We don't even have to close our eyes (although that does help us focus on what we or others are saying to God). When we pray, we can have confidence that if we ask God to answer our prayers according to His plan for us, He will give us what we need.

STEP 2: Explain that God wants us to talk with Him in our own words, but sometimes it's hard for us to know how to pray. Hold up your hand. Tell them that that we will use the hand signals to help us know how to pray. Demonstrate the following the hand signals and share the key concept under each signal.

- **THANK AND PRAISE** (show a thumbs up) — We can thank God for His blessings that He gives to us every day (Psalm 103:2). We can also praise God for Who He is (Psalm 150:1-6).
- **OTHERS** (use index finger to point to others) — We can pray for others. We can pray for our leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-4). We can pray for the salvation of others (Romans 10:1). We can thank God for their faith (Colossians 1:3-4). We can pray for our leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-2). We can pray for their health and safety (3 John 2).
- **SELF** (use fingers pointing to yourself) — We can ask God to help us stay away from temptation (Luke 22:39-40) and we can humbly ask for the things that we need or want.

STEP 3: Give the kids a chance to try out using their hand signals to remember how to pray. Remind kids that if we have accepted Jesus as our Savior,

we can have confidence that if we ask God to answer our prayers according to His plan for us, He will give us what we need (1 John 5:14).

STEP 4: Share the concepts from the Main Lesson Teaching Outline in the Large Group Guide, and follow up with the Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements.

Notes: