Preschool–Grade 6

The Lord's Prayer

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: I can talk to God. God hears me.
Bible passage: Matthew 6:5–13. Read Matthew 6:5–15 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name." *Matthew 6:9 (KJV)*. The old word **art** means are, and **hallowed** means holy.
You need: a Bible, 6 to 10 paper "bread" shapes cut from light brown paper, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Matthew 6. Hide the paper bread shapes around the room.

1. Opening game: Find the Bread (5 minutes)

Kids hunt for the paper bread and bring it to you. Count the pieces together. Ask: *Who gives us our food every day?* Say: "God does! Today we will hear how Jesus taught us to talk to God. We can even ask Him for our bread."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Matthew 6. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Jesus went up on a mountain. He sat down (Matthew 5:1). *(Climb with your hands, then sit down.)*

His helpers came, and Jesus taught them (5:1–2). *(Cup your hand to your ear.)*

Jesus taught them how to pray. To pray means to talk to God (6:9). *(Fold your hands.)*

Jesus said, "Go in your room. Shut the door. Talk to God there" (6:6). *(Pretend to shut a door.)*

Say it with me: "God hears me!"

God knows what you need, even before you ask (6:8). *(Point up.)*

Jesus said, "Pray like this" (6:9).

We say God is great. His name is holy (6:9). *(Lift your hands up.)*

We ask God for our bread every day (6:11). *(Rub your tummy.)*

We ask God to forgive us. We forgive other people too (6:12). *(Put your hand on your heart.)*

We ask God to keep us safe from bad things (6:13). *(Hug yourself.)*

Say it with me: "I can talk to God!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Who taught us how to pray? *(Jesus, Matthew 6:9)*
2. Where can you go to talk to God? *(In your room, with the door shut, 6:6. You can pray anywhere!)*
3. What can we ask God for every day? *(Our bread, our food, 6:11)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Jesus taught us to say, 'Our Father which art in heaven.' That means God is in heaven. 'Hallowed be thy name.' That means God's name is holy." Teach the motions: point up for "Our Father which art in heaven," then fold your hands for "Hallowed be thy name." Say the verse together with the motions. Ask: *Where is God? (In heaven.) Can He hear us? (Yes!)* Say it together once more, then say "Matthew 6:9."

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus taught us to ask God to forgive us (Matthew 6:12). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

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6. Activity: Thank-You Bread (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a paper bread shape or a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw something they can thank God for: their food, their family, their home. While they color, ask: "Who can you talk to anytime? Who hears you?" Then let each child who wants to say one short thank-you to God, like "Thank You, God, for my food." No one has to talk.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for hearing me.
Thank You for my food every day.
Help me be kind and forgive. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep it short and happy, and fold hands together so they learn that prayer is talking to God. If they get wiggly, do the door and bread motions again. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can pray with them this week.

About "Our Father": there is one God (Deuteronomy 6:4), and "Father" tells us God made us and cares for us (Malachi 2:10). Some children have no father at home. Tell them gently that God loves them and is "a father of the fatherless" (Psalm 68:5).

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