Preschool–Grade 6

The Lord's Prayer

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: Jesus taught us how to pray. I can talk to God about everything.
Bible passage: Matthew 6:5–15. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name." *Matthew 6:9 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible, 6 paper strips, a marker, tape, 6 paper plates, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the 6 paper strips (see part 4). Draw one simple picture on each paper plate: a cloud, a crown, a loaf of bread, a heart, a shield and a shining light. Tape the plates in six places around the room. Put a bookmark in your Bible at Matthew 6:6.

1. Opening game: What Do I Need? (5 minutes)

Act out needing something, without talking, and let the kids guess: rub your tummy (I'm hungry), hug yourself and shiver (I'm cold), yawn and stretch (I'm sleepy), look all around (I'm lost). Let a few kids take a turn acting. Then ask: *Did you know what I needed before I said a word?* Say: "Jesus said that God knows what we need even before we ask Him (Matthew 6:8). Today Jesus will teach us how to talk to God."

2. Bible story: Jesus Teaches Us to Pray (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Matthew 6, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

One day Jesus saw big crowds of people. He went up on a mountain and sat down. His disciples, His helpers, came to Him, and Jesus taught them (Matthew 5:1–2). He taught them many things. One thing He taught them was how to **pray**. To pray means to talk to God.

Jesus said not to pray just so people will see you. Some people liked to stand up and pray on the street corners so everyone would look at them and think they were great. Jesus called them **hypocrites**. That means people who pretend. Jesus said people looking at them was the only reward they would get (6:5).

Read Matthew 6:6 from your Bible. Say: "That means: go into your room, shut the door and talk to God. God sees you there, and He hears you." A **closet** here means a room inside the house.

Jesus also said, "Don't just say lots of words over and over, like people who don't know God." They thought God would hear them because they talked so much. But God already knows what you need, before you ask Him (6:7–8).

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The story continues: Then Jesus said, "After this manner therefore pray ye" (6:9). That means, "Pray like this." **Read Matthew 6:9–13 from your Bible.** Then go through it one part at a time:

- **"Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name."** God made us and loves us like a good father. **Art** means are. **Hallowed** means holy: we honor God's name as the greatest name of all (6:9).
- **"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." Thy** means your. We ask God to rule, and we ask for what God wants to happen here, just like it happens in heaven (6:10).
- **"Give us this day our daily bread."** We ask God for what we need every day, like food (6:11).
- **"And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." Debts** here means the wrong things we have done. We ask God to forgive us, and we forgive people who did wrong to us (6:12).
- **"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." Temptation** means being pulled toward doing wrong. **Deliver** means save. We ask God to help us stay away from wrong and to keep us safe from evil (6:13).
- **"For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen." Thine** means yours. Everything belongs to God, forever. **Amen** means "so be it" (6:13).

Right after the prayer, Jesus talked about forgiving again: if we forgive people when they do wrong to us, our Father in heaven will forgive us too (6:14–15).

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. Where did Jesus go to teach? *(Up on a mountain, Matthew 5:1)*
2. Where did Jesus say to go to pray? *(Into your room, and shut the door, 6:6)*
3. Does God know what we need before we ask? *(Yes, 6:8)*
4. What did Jesus say to ask God for every day? *(Our daily bread, 6:11)*
5. Who do we forgive? *(People who did wrong to us, 6:12, 6:14)*

4. Memory verse: Verse in Order (5 minutes)

Write the verse on the 6 strips: *After this manner / therefore pray ye: / Our Father which art in heaven, / Hallowed / be thy name. / Matthew 6:9.* Explain the old words: **after this manner** means like this, **therefore** means so, **ye** means you, **art** means are, **hallowed** means holy, and **thy** means your. Mix up the strips and let the kids tape them up in the right order. Read the verse together and ask what each strip means. Then turn one strip around and read it again. Keep turning strips around until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Jesus taught us to ask God, 'Forgive us our debts.' God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how God takes our sins away: 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (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.

This week: find a quiet place, shut the door, and talk to God every day. Tell Him thank You, tell Him what you need, and ask Him to help you forgive.

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6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **Lord's Prayer word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/lords-prayer-word-search), the Lord's Prayer crossword, maze, worksheet, coloring page or craft (vbshq.com/bible-stories/lords-prayer), or **Prayer Stops:** walk the class, or small groups with a helper, to each paper plate. At each plate, one or two kids pray one short sentence in their own words. No one has to pray out loud; they can pray quietly in their heart.

- **Cloud:** tell God something great about Him.
- **Crown:** ask God to help people everywhere follow Him.
- **Bread:** thank God for food and ask Him for something you need.
- **Heart:** tell God you are sorry for a wrong thing, and choose to forgive someone.
- **Shield:** ask God to help you do right and keep you safe.
- **Shining light:** thank God that everything belongs to Him.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that we can talk to You anytime, and that You know what we need before we ask. Help us forgive others, help us do right, and keep us from evil. Everything belongs to You. In Jesus' name, amen."

About "Our Father": there is one God (Deuteronomy 6:4). "Father" tells us God made us and cares for us: "Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us?" (Malachi 2:10, KJV). Some children have no father at home. Tell them gently that God is "a father of the fatherless" (Psalm 68:5).

About saying the prayer together: Jesus gave it as a pattern, "after this manner" (6:9). Saying it together is good when we mean every word. It is never a magic saying, and God doesn't hear us because of how many words we say (6:7–8).

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