

Jesus Teaches His Friends to Pray

OBJECTIVE: *To learn about intercession and praying for God's kingdom to come.*



WORSHIP

Sing praise and worship songs as well as songs about prayer that are familiar and meaningful to your group. Here are some suggestions.

- "Day by Day"
- "Father, I Adore You"
- "For Health and Strength"
- "Holy, Holy, Holy"
- "I Will Call Upon the Lord"
- "Kum Ba Yah"
- "Standin' in the Need of Prayer"
- "Whisper a Prayer"

STORY

The Lord's Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13

Jesus teaches his disciples how to pray.

- Worship God.
- Pray for our needs.
- Pray for others.

Since the story is the memory verse, read the passage and discuss the meaning of the words *hallowed*, *debts*, and *temptation* (or other unfamiliar words from the version of the Bible you are using). Then help everyone learn the memory verse.

MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 6:9-13

To help everyone learn the verse, put hand motions to the Scripture.

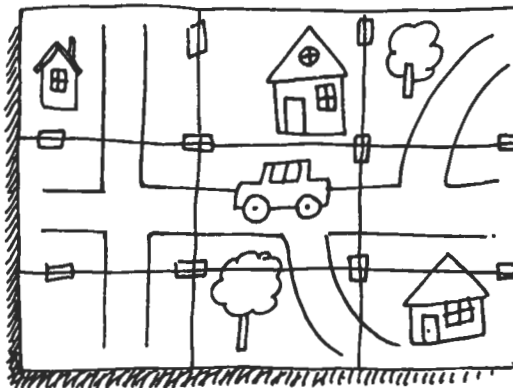
- Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, (arms extended upward)
- your kingdom come, your will be done (cross arms over chest)
- on earth as it is in heaven. (arms out, palms up)
- Give us today our daily bread. (right hand rubs tummy)
- Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. (hands folded in prayer)
- And lead us not into temptation, (right arm out, palm out as if to stop something)
- but deliver us from the evil one." (left arm out, palm out as if to stop something)

ACTIVITIES

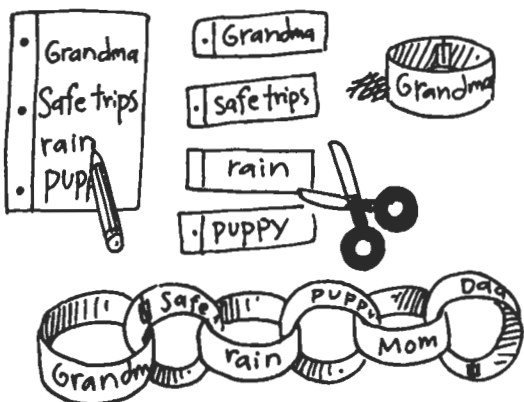
Choose one or more of the following activities to support the story or theme and to provide a springboard for discussion.

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP. Tape plain white paper together to make a large sheet of paper. Help each person draw the streets of his neighborhood on the paper. Draw houses, or set up blocks as houses. Children can move toy cars onto the streets.

Option: make the map on old sheets using fabric markers. You can fold it to use again. Discuss praying for God's kingdom to come to your neighborhood and city.



LANDSCAPES. Ask everyone to make mountains, trees, and other parts of a landscape with play dough (3 parts flour, 1 part salt, 1 part water). Ask: "What do you think other lands look like? How can we pray for those people?" Pretend to fly, drive, sail to other lands and "sightsee." Discuss praying for God's kingdom to come on earth. Pray for nations.



PRAYER CHAIN. Give each person a piece of notebook paper. Ask each one to mark every fourth line with a dot. On those lines, each person writes the name of someone or something to pray for. He may color the paper. Cut at every fifth line to make strips. Tape one strip into a loop. Loop the next strip through the first and tape it. Continue this way, forming a chain. Now hold hands (a human chain) and pray for some of the needs on the paper chains.

HOME BASE. Play softball or kickball. Emphasize home base. Discuss your city as your home base and the importance of praying for God's kingdom to come to your city.

FOCUS THE LIGHT. Let everyone take turns holding a magnifying glass in the path of a light (sun is best, but a lamp or flashlight will do). Adjust the distance so a thin beam of bright light is focused on one spot. Talk about how prayer is like the magnifying glass, focusing God's light onto a certain situation or person. Talk about the words *intercessor* and *intercession*.

QUESTIONS

1. Why do we need to pray? Why do we need to pray for other people?
2. Did you ever feel a strong need to pray for someone? Tell about it.
3. What is a kingdom? What is God's kingdom? Why do we pray for God's kingdom to come to earth?

KIDS' COUNCIL

BRING IT HOME

- Are there times when you need to pray but don't know how to say what you're feeling? Read Romans 8:26.
- Why should we pray for our city? How should we pray for our city?
- Where will you be in our city this week? You can pray for the places you pass by every day and for the people who go to those places.
- Name one place you will pass by this week. What will your prayer for this place be?

SHARE AND PRAY

- Ask the children to share their concerns and pray for each other.
- Pray the Lord's Prayer together.

ADULT STUDY QUESTIONS

- Read Colossians 4:12. What does it mean when it says that Epaphras was wrestling in prayer? Have you ever felt as if you were wrestling in prayer? Why was it like wrestling?
- What did Jesus mean when he said, "hallowed be your name"? Read and discuss Exodus 3:13-15.
- What does it mean for God's kingdom to come to earth?
- Will you be satisfied if God forgives you in the same way that you forgive those who sin against you?

SNACK AND FELLOWSHIP

Daily Bread. Make cinnamon-berry muffins. Mix 2 cups of flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar, and 1 tablespoon of baking powder in a bowl. Mix 1 egg, 1 cup of milk, and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of melted butter or margarine in another bowl. Stir the butter and egg mixture into the flour mixture. Stir in $\frac{3}{4}$ cup fresh or frozen blueberries. Pour this batter into greased muffin tins. Mix 2 tablespoons of sugar and $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon cinnamon with 1 tablespoon of melted butter or margarine. Sprinkle this mixture on top of the batter. Bake at 400 degrees for 18 minutes. It makes one dozen muffins. Pray, thanking God for our daily bread.