

GRADES 4-5 TEACHER GUIDE

MY SPIRITUAL LIFE:

How Do I Pray?

Grad 105 Week 3

October 24, 2021

LEGACY UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM FOR 4TH AND 5TH GRADERS HAS BEEN MODIFIED FROM THE FOLLOWING SOURCES: FLTYE, DISCIPLELAND, CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DEALS, ANSWERS IN GENESIS, AND CROWN FINANCIAL. SOME LESSONS HAVE BEEN CREATED AND WRITTEN BY LEGACY CHILDREN'S MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS.

Bible Passage: Matthew 6:5-15

Take Away: God cares about the desires of our hearts. He wants us to pray to Him about everything in our lives and praying daily will help us grow closer to Him. ACTS is a helpful tool to help us pray.

Lesson Key Verse: *"Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations." Psalm 100*

October Family Memory Verse: *"How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Psalm 119: 103-105*

<h2>THINK</h2>

Materials: Weird of the Day video; "Would You Rather? /My Top 5" handout; Bible; dry erase board/marker

Weird of the Day

Play "Weird of the Day" video three minutes before the designated start time for the session. Allow kids a minute or two to talk about the Weird of the Day. <https://lcc.org/kidscurriculum/>

Would You Rather

Ask: How do you get to know someone? (Answers may include spending time together, doing activities together, talking to each other)

Say: Today I want you to get to know one another a little better by playing a "Would You Rather?" game. Distribute handouts.

Instruct the students to work in pairs. Allow pairs time to complete each round, but preteens must work with new partners for each round. When you say "Swap," students must find new partners.

Encourage kids to talk with one another about their likes and dislikes and to explain their answers. (For example: "I would rather eat carrots because I don't like green vegetables.")

My Top 5

Direct the students' attention to "My Top 5" at the bottom of the "Would You Rather" handout.

Challenge kids to complete the list of the top 5 things they talk about with their best friends. (Answers may include school, boys/girls, sports, God, and family stuff.)

Invite a volunteer to read Proverbs 18:24 aloud. **Ask:**

- ✓ To whom does this verse refer? (God)
- ✓ Do you talk with God about the things on your "Top 5 List"?

Remark: God is a friend who sticks closer than a brother, and He wants to hear from you about everything in your life.

Define It

Encourage students to define prayer. Help them understand that prayer is basically a conversation between a person and God. Prayer is not about a formal conversation with "churchy" words. It is time spent talking to God and listening for God to respond.

Make a class "Top 5 List" of things they can and should pray about and write them on the board.

Remind students they can pray about these things because God cares about everything in their lives. There is nothing too small or too big for God.

Instruct a volunteer to read Matthew 6:5-8 aloud. Discuss the differences in a prayer that is said aloud to impress other people and a prayer that is genuine and sincere.

Help students understand that their closet or bedroom is not the only place they can pray. These verses just indicate that prayer should never be done for appearances or to look good in front of others.

READ

Materials: Psalm 100 verse poster; Bibles; "Shout" music video; "Identify It" and "Exemplify It" worksheets; writing utensils

Memory Passage: Psalm 100

Display the verse poster on a focal wall.

Play "Shout" music video and ask kids if they think singing a psalm counts as prayer.

<https://lcc.org/kidscurriculum/>

Foster their understanding that praise is a type of prayer. It is very important to a person's relationship with God to praise and honor Him daily.

Invite kids to state how Psalm 100 can be reworded into a psalm of praise that is completely personal. For example, "I will make a joyful noise to the LORD! I will serve Him with gladness! I will come into His presence with singing!"

Ask students to name praise songs sung at church that are like prayers. Depending on the songs they list, you may remark how many of these songs are Scripture put to song.

Study the Bible: Matthew 6:9-15

Encourage students to read Matthew 6:9-15.

Distribute the "Identify It" handouts.

Help students understand that just as conversations with people have different facets or components, prayer also has many different components. Prayer includes asking for forgiveness, asking for help with needs, asking for help from temptation, and praising and yielding to the Father. Prayer includes telling God how you feel and what you are experiencing. In other words, prayer is a normal, everyday-worded conversation with God.

Challenge kids to match the verses to the correct types of prayer. (Answers: Matthew 6:9 – praise; Matthew 6:10, 13 – yielding and submission; Matthew 6:11 – intercession or prayer for needs; Matthew 6:12 – forgiveness; Matthew 6:13 – help from temptation)

Exemplify It

Form three groups of kids (one for each Scripture passage). Direct their attention to the "Exemplify It" portion of the handouts.

Assign each group one of the passages listed. Instruct them to read the passage and answer the questions that follow. After a few minutes, allow someone from each group to give a short report about their group's assignment.

Use the following questions to guide a discussion of the three prayers:

- ✓ What are the key elements of each prayer?
 - 1 Samuel 1:10-15: Hannah recognized God's power/praised Him, realizing that He is the Lord of Hosts. She makes a request of God, but it is not simply for her benefit. She wants to give the son to God all the days of his life.
 - Luke 1:46-55: Praise for who God is and what He has done in Mary's life and has done and does lives of others. She also recalls God's character.
 - John 17:1-26: Glory of God, reminders of God's truths, telling God about work done in His name/for Him, requests made for others, and interwoven throughout are pieces of God's character (unity, love, etc.).

- ✓ How did the people respond to God?
 - Hannah: She spoke from her heart/spirit. She was deeply distressed, but she sought God in her misery. She also requested a son in a way that would bring glory to God.
 - Mary: With praise!
 - Jesus: Truth, requests for those who believe in Him. The requests are in line with God's character and what God wants for His people.
- ✓ What specific requests were made known to God?
 - Hannah: for a son (this is very specific, as she did not simply ask for a baby)
 - Mary: She didn't ask for anything. She just praises God!
 - Jesus: Asked God to glorify him (Jesus) with the glory he had with God before the world was made (wow!). He asks that God "keeps" his followers in his name, that they would be one, or unified, so that the world may know God sent Jesus and loved the world as He loved Jesus. He asks not that God would take them out of the world, but that He would keep them/us from the evil one. He asks that God sanctifies them/us in truth.
- ✓ What specific praises were given to God?
 - Hannah: She called God the Lord of Hosts, which shows that she knows God's power and reveres Him, the God who leads the heavenly angel armies
 - Mary: Her spirit rejoiced in God, her Savior. She calls Him mighty. She calls His name holy. She praises Him for great things done for her. She recalls God's strength and how he fills the hungry with good things. She recalls how God helped Israel out of His mercy.
 - Jesus: Notes how eternal life is knowing God and Jesus. He gives God credit, acknowledging His power. He recognizes God's word as truth. He calls God "righteous Father" and speaks of His love.

UNCOVER

Materials: Bibles; writing utensils; poster board with "ACTS" written vertically; bookmarks with the "ACTS" acronym spelled out for students

ACTS

Say, "Hannah, Mary, and Jesus each prayed different prayers, but there were common pieces to all them. We're going to learn a method of praying that helps us to remember several different aspects our prayers should have!"

Display ACTS poster. Ask students if they have ever heard of the acronym "ACTS." Tell students "ACTS" is an acronym that helps us remember four key components of prayer."

Discuss the following components of "ACTS" prayer, writing the full word on the display as you go.

- ✓ Adoration – Praising God for who He is, His character
 - Ask students for words that describe God and His character. Examples may include: Creator, King, Savior, Holy, Pure, Faithful, Trustworthy, Good, Kind, Patient, Just, Merciful, Compassionate, All-seeing, All-knowing, Always present, Eternal, Forgiving, Grace, Prince of Peace, Counselor, Mighty, Names of God
 - Ask a student volunteer to pray an all-adoration prayer before moving on.
- ✓ Confession – Confessing specific sin and asking forgiveness; 1 John 1:19 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - Ask students what sins they struggle with on a day-to-day basis. Examples may include: Disobeying parents/authorities, coveting (wanting what others have), pride, hate, not

- controlling our tongue or actions, selfishness, cheating or lying, priorities (not putting God first).
- Ask a student to pray a confession-filled prayer asking for awareness of and forgiveness for specific sins.
- ✓ Thanksgiving – Giving thanks for what God has done and is doing in our lives and in the lives of others/world
 - Ask students what things we can give thanks for: His Son, Holy Spirit, salvation, answered prayer, discipline, trials, Scripture, wisdom, direction, comfort, patience, joy, peace, understanding, forgiveness, provision, family/friends, protection, creation, music, laughter.
 - Ask a student to pray a prayer of thanksgiving for the things mentioned by the class.
- ✓ Supplication – Asking God for things we want God to do for others or for ourselves
 - Ask for volunteers to read Mark 14:36, Matthew 6:11, and Romans 10:1. Ask students, what they learned in these verses about how we should ask God for things. (Know that all things are possible for God, but even if something is painful, He may not take it away. We should pray for God’s will to be done, not ours. We can ask God for things we need on a daily basis. We should desire and pray for the salvation of others.
 - After reading these verses, ask for examples of supplication: salvation of friends/family/people in other countries, healing of sick friends/family, daily needs, spiritual growth, peace, comfort, patience, joy, peace, wisdom, God’s will to be done, protection, Christians around the world (especially in places hostile to Christianity), understanding of His Word, boldness with witnessing.
 - Ask a student to pray a supplication-filled prayer.

Did you notice that most of our prayers were NOT focused on asking for what we want Him to do for us or even for other people? Prayer is a conversation focused on God and His will and purposes! Making requests of Him is only a part of what prayer is meant to be.

EMBARK

So, How Do I Pray?

Say, God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. Did you know that before Jesus died on the cross, a big, heavy curtain used to hang in the temple of God? It was 60 feet high and 30 feet wide! The curtain separated something called the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. Only priests could go past the curtain into the Most Holy Place ... and they were only allowed there once a year! When Jesus died on the cross, God tore that big curtain in two, symbolizing that since Jesus took the penalty for our sin, there is no more separation between God and His people. We can approach God and talk to Him as much as we want!

Dismiss kids with these final thoughts:

- ✓ God cares about the desires of your hearts.
- ✓ God wants you to pray to Him about everything in your lives.
- ✓ Praying daily will help you grow closer to God.
- ✓ ACTS is a helpful tool to help us pray like people in the Bible prayed.

Pass out “ACTS” bookmarks and challenge students to pray prayers filled with Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication each day this week.

Pray, Thank You, Father, for being a God who is approachable. Thank You for Jesus' sacrifice, and that because of it, we have direct access to You. Thank You for being a God who cares about circumstances in every believer's life. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

LEGACY KIDS MEMORY VERSE WORK

October Family Memory Verse: *"How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."* Psalm 119: 103-105

MISSIONS MOMENT

Please visit the Missions Map either in your classroom or at your campus. While there, please pray for the **Hauser** Family (**Brian, Tabitha, Sam, Will, Ella, Joseph,** and **Anna**), who are missionaries to the people in Burkina Faso, West Africa.

Please pray...

- For the safety and protection of the Hauser Family as Burkina Faso continues to have unrest. Nearly one million people are currently displaced due to jihadism.
- For Sam, Will, and Ella who are in a boarding school in Kenya.
- For wisdom and opportunities for the Hauser's missionary team to share the Good News of Jesus with Burkinabe.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." Matthew 28:19

“Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.” Psalm 100