

Year 3, NT PreK Lesson 4: God's People Pray

Lesson Highlights:

- ✓ **Scripture References:** Matthew 6:5-13
- ✓ **Teaching Point:** God's people show their dependence and trust in Him through prayer.
- ✓ **Unit Memory Verse:** *Matthew 6:9-13* – Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
- ✓ **ABC Verse:** *Philippians 4:4* – Rejoice in the Lord always.

Lesson

Overview

One of the major hallmarks of Christ's kingdom is dependence on the King. But it's a hard lesson for us to learn. The world, Satan and our flesh all resist this sort of daily dependence on God for everything from daily bread to resisting sin. As Jesus calls us to pray, He reminds His disciples that their number one...and number two...requests center on God...His glory, His kingdom coming to earth as it is in heaven. After that, we come to Him for all we need knowing that God our Father hears us and cares about everything we need for life and godliness. Pray as Jesus taught you and then bring our kids before Him so that they might be a generation marked by prayerful dependence on their king.

Story

Last week, we learned that the kind of people we need to be are ones who look like God's Son, Jesus. We need to be those people who trust God for everything...and who give to others more than we keep for ourselves. We need to give and give and give... because we have a Father who gives and gives and gives. We have a Father who loves us and wants us just because He does...not because of what we can do, but to show off what kind of God He is. And that's a really important thing to remember...this kingdom isn't about us coming to Him because of what we can give to Him...or because we're so smart...or because we're so special...or because we have so many great things to say. God's kingdom is about getting everything from our Father because He is all we need and we know we can trust Him to take care of us. We can go to God about everything...and know that God will give us what He knows is best for us.

Well, today Jesus is going to tell His disciples and us one way we can do that. It's called prayer. Do any of you know what prayer is? (see what they say) Prayer is just talking to God. Jesus tells us that we can say anything we want to God...ask Him for anything...but that there are some things that He wants us to ask Him for. That's what we're going to learn about today. This prayer we're going to talk about is sometimes called the Lord's

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Prayer. Have any of you heard of that? (see what they say) It's called that because our Lord Jesus taught us to pray it. I'm going to say it for you one time all the way through... and then we'll talk about what it means. *Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.*

Okay...what does all of that really mean? Well, to start the very first part tells us something really great. Jesus said that we could say, "our Father". You know what that means? That means we now get to think of God as our Father. And just like our dad it means that God cares about everything about us. He cares about what makes us happy and what makes us sad. He cares about what we're doing and what we dream of doing. He also wants us to know that we can come to Him any time we want. He'll never be too busy for us...just like a good dad. But because He's such a good God, there's one thing that we should want more than anything else. You know what that is? More of God in more of the earth. We should want more people to know about Him. More people praising Him. More of His love spread all over the world. And that's what Jesus said we should pray for first. More of God on earth just like it is in heaven so that people know all about our great God.

So, we can call God our Father...and next we want more of God for everyone on earth just like it is in heaven...and after that? Well, then we can think about us. And what should we ask God for? Everything we need! Jesus said we should ask for our "daily bread". What that means is that we ask God our Father to give us everything we need to live. After that, Jesus said to ask for the other thing we really need from God...forgiveness. Have you done anything wrong lately? Have you been selfish and not wanted to share your things? Have you disobeyed your mom and dad? Yeah...I've done a lot of things wrong, too. Jesus said that we should ask God to forgive us...just as we forgive others. That's sometimes really hard. But Jesus wants us to give forgiveness to others who hurt us just because God forgives us.

The last thing Jesus told us to pray about is help...help for when we want to things wrong. Help for when we want to be selfish...for when we want to say "No!" to our moms and dads. Help for when we want to take things from others. There are a lot of times we want to do bad things, aren't there? We need a LOT of help with that. Jesus says that we can ask our Father and He will help us. So, let's see...we can call God our Father...we want more of Him on earth just like it is in heaven...we need Him to give us everything we need...we need His forgiveness just like we forgive others...and we need His help to stop wanting to do bad things. And you know what? God will say yes! God wants to help us. He wants to give us what we need. We can go to Him to talk to Him about anything...things we're happy about...things we're sad about...things we need... people we're worried about...people we're happy about...anything at all. If you belong to Him then He wants to hear from you. Let's bow our heads and close our eyes so that we're not focused on watching other people, and let's pray together in just the way Jesus taught us to pray to Him. *(pray a prayer that models this for them, but uses words they would understand and might say to Him themselves)*

Prayer Time

Before you pray, allow the kids time to share with you things that are happening in their lives. Be sure you write these down with their names for you to pray for as the week goes along. Ask individuals about how things went with the things they mentioned the previous week. As the leader, begin by opening and thanking God for this lesson:

- Thank Jesus for giving us the right to call God Father and showing us how to pray.
- Ask Him to make us people who show their trust and dependence on God by how and when they pray.

Pray for any specific requests named either by praying yourself or by opening it up to those who said they would pray.

Suggested Follow-up Activities

Teachers are free to choose the activities that they feel are best for their group. The idea is that as the children work and play, remind them of the truths they just learned.

Scripture Memory: Figure out your reward system for memorizing the Scriptures provided in this section. Give the children several opportunities to tell it to you either when they first arrive or at the end of class. **If using the ABC verses, a color page is provided as a take home page.**

Craft: The Lord's Prayer Puppets – Remind the kids that today we learned about the kind of prayer Jesus taught us to pray to show our trust in Him for everything we need.

Cut out the figures prior to class. Have the kids color them and then glue them to large craft sticks. Next, give them two smaller craft sticks and have them glue them to the back of the scroll. Once it's dry they can use the sticks to roll up their scroll. You could also let them simply roll up the scroll and tie it with a piece of yarn. They could then punch a small hole in Jesus' hand and then attach the other end of the piece of yarn to that hand.

Materials: craft pages; crayons or markers; scissors; yarn and hole punches if desired; large and small craft sticks; glue

Craft: The Lord's Prayer Coloring Book – Remind the kids that today we learned about the kind of prayer Jesus taught us to pray to show our trust in Him for everything we need.

Give each of the kids a copy of the craft pages and have them cut them in half and put them in order. Let them staple them together or you can provide hole punches and yarn and allow them to weave them together. They can then take some time to color the pages while you talk about what each one means.

Younger Children: Cut the pages apart prior to class and staple them together.

Materials: craft pages; scissors; crayons or markers; staplers or hole punches with yarn

Craft: The Lord's Prayer Mini-Book – Remind the kids that today we learned about the kind of prayer Jesus taught us to pray to show our trust in Him for everything we need.

Give each child a craft page and have them color it as they'd like. They need to then cut it out along the solid outside line. They'll then fold it in half along the middle line so that there are four pictures along both sides. You'll show them how to accordion fold it from there beginning where the title page is shown on the outside and then the four pages of requests to follow. Have one made prior to class to demonstrate.

Materials: craft pages; crayons or markers; scissors