

Alley SG—May 15th-17th, 2021

Today's Bible Story: Livin' on a Prayer (Model Prayer) • *Luke 11:1-4*

Today's Bottom Line: Practice praying to God.

Today's Key Question: How do you pray to God?

Monthly Memory Verse: *For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.. 1 Timothy 4:8, NIV*

1. Just for Fun

What You Need: beads (1 Large Bag per Group), wide craft sticks (1 per kid), leader's phone timer

What You Do:

- Give each kid a wide craft stick and at least 10 beads with more available nearby if needed.
- Challenge kids to stack their beads one on top of another as fast as they can within 60-seconds then see who has the tallest bead tower.
- Allow kids to repeat the challenge a couple of times to see if they can improve their stacking skills.
- Repeat the game but this time challenge kids to stack their beads on top of a craft stick while holding the craft stick with one hand and stacking with the other.
- If time allows, invite kids to come up with variations of the 60-second Challenges.

2. Opening Activity

What You Need: Index cards, pens, markers, "Copy That!" Cards (4 sets per group)

What You Do:

- Invite kids to choose a partner then sit back-to-back.
- Give one partner an index card and marker.
- Give the other partner the picture of the **trophy** from the "Copy That" cards without their partners seeing it.
- Explain that the kid with the "Copy That" card must give directions for his partner to draw the same image as is on the card, but they cannot say what it is. They can only describe the lines and shapes. Give an example direction, if needed.
- When finished, have kids see how closely the pictures match.
- Switch roles and follow the same instructions using the picture of the **shirt** with the runner's number on it.
- If time allows, let kids come up with other images for their partner to draw.

What You Say:

"Great job doing your best to follow the directions of your friend. **[Transition] Today, we're going to discovered something that God wants us to copy or imitate. The Model Prayer!**"

3. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bible, paper, pens

What You Do:

- Read the list of words below at a rate of one word every second.
 - father
 - squirrel
 - bread
 - prayer
 - macaroni
 - forgive
 - kingdom
 - follow
 - cupcakes
 - heaven
 - power
 - Lord
 - temptation
 - pickles
 - commitment
- When finished, give kids one minute to write down as many of the words as they can remember.
- Recite the list again and ask kids to put a check next to each word that corresponds with yours.
- Read Luke 11:1-4, asking kids to circle words on their list as they hear them read from the Lord's Prayer.
- Challenge kids by way of discussion to think of prayer beyond simply asking God for something.
 - If you think of prayer as a conversation with God, what are some things you might talk to Him about?
 - What do you see in Luke 11:1-4 that is similar to those conversations? What do you see that's different?
 - Why do you think Jesus gave the disciples (and us) this prayer?
- Point out that Jesus gave us this prayer as an example to follow. It includes key areas that should be part of our conversations with God every day. Prayer brings our mind and heart's focus back on God. It helps us process what He's doing and understand what He might be doing in our lives.
 - Based on Jesus' prayer example, what would you say are important things God wants us to talk to Him about?
 - Why do you think that including each of these things is important?
- Encourage kids to share if their view of prayer has changed after today's Large Group session and conversation. How will they put into practice some of the things they learned?

4. Discussion Questions

Ask:

- If God knows everything already, why do we need to pray?
- Which part of the Lord's Prayer do you most often pray? (*Praising God for who He is, telling God you want His plans to be true, asking Him for what you need, asking Him for forgiveness*) Which parts do you sometimes forget to pray about?
- Is there a right or wrong way to pray?
- What can you do if you don't feel like praying or if you don't know what to say to God?

5. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Bible, die (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Use this activity to lead kids in discovering three important types of prayer.
 - Prayers of praise that focus on God
 - Prayers of love that focus on our relationship with others
 - Prayers of request that focus on needs
- Invite one of the kids to look up Psalm 50:15 and read it aloud.
- Take turns rolling the die.
 - If it lands on an even number, a kid shares something from the verse that focuses in on praise prayer.
 - If it lands on an odd number, ask them to point out something the verse tells us about prayers for ourselves or others.
- As time allows, look up additional verses then roll the die again.
 - Psalm 91:1-2
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
 - Philippians 4:6
 - Luke 6:27-28
- Ask:
 - Why do you think God wants us to praise Him in our prayers? What could it change in our hearts if we make a habit of telling God why He's awesome?
 - When we pray for others, how does it also affect us?
 - What did you learn about prayer today that you want to try this week?

6. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: "Prayer Card" (1 per student), pens

What You Do:

- Take a moment to remind kids that prayer is much more than merely asking God for things.
- It's praising Him, asking His forgiveness when we've messed up, and looking to Him for help SO THAT we will live the way He wants us to SO THAT we live out His plan for us SO THAT others see His greatness and love.
- Give each kid a pen and "Prayer Card."
- Ask them to finish the sentences with their responses.
- When finished, exchange cards.
- Encourage kids to pray aloud for each other, using what they wrote on their prayer card, even though it may feel awkward and uncomfortable.

- Remind them that God loves to join with them through His Spirit and every time they do this, it'll get easier and easier.
- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You for the amazing privilege of being able to talk to You anytime, anywhere, about anything. When we can't think of what to say, You are able to hear our thoughts and know what is on our hearts. Thank You for giving us an example for how to pray. Help us to continually talk to You as we go through our days this week. In Jesus' name, amen.”

REMIND STUDENTS TO GRAB A GOD TIME JOURNAL- IF THEY RETURN IT COMPLETED NEXT WEEKEND, THEY GET ALLEY CASH.