
The Lord's Prayer Introduction

Bible Memory Verse

But truly God has listened; he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

Psalm 66:19



Thoughts for the Teacher

Do you ever feel intimidated when asked to pray in front of a group of people? Do you ever feel that your words are not as polished or poetic as those around you? Do you secretly wonder if God even hears you at all? You are not alone in your fears.

Jesus speaks specifically about prayer in Matthew 6:5-15. He teaches us that God is not impressed with fancy displays or numerous words. Jesus tells us there will be people who pray for show. There are those that search for the approval of others through their religious displays. They will receive their reward in the validation of men. However, God looks at the heart. He hears a prayer shouted out in passion. He hears silent prayers from a body racked with tears. He hears a prayer of thanks offered up in bursts of laughter.

Jesus teaches us that God is our Father. Like a loving father, He wants to hear from you. He wants to know your fears and struggles, your needs and desires, your words of adoration and thanksgiving. This week remember who God is and just talk to Him. Tell Him whatever is on your mind—good or bad. Have confidence in the words from Psalm 66:19, “God has surely listened; he has attended to the voice of my prayer.”



THE MYSTERY BAG

Mystery bag item: telephone

I'm going to give you clues today to see if you can guess what I have in my bag. **(Pause after each clue to give students time to guess.)**

- I can hold it in my hand.
- It has buttons.
- I can use it to talk to people far away.

(Pull out phone.) Do any of you have something like this in your house? Have you ever used a phone to talk to people? Tell me whom you have talked to. **(Allow time for students to share.)**

Those are all special people to talk to! Do you know who else is very special to talk to? God is Someone very special to talk to. Do we need a phone to talk to God? No! That is what makes talking to God so special! He is so big and wonderful that He can hear us wherever we are. He cares about us so much that He listens to us all the time. We can be at home or in a car or lost in the woods or swimming at the beach or hiding in a closet or shouting from the top of a hill—God will always hear us!

In today's Bible story, people wanted to know how to talk to God. Jesus decided to sit down and teach the people all about how to pray and talk to God. Let's listen carefully to the story to hear what Jesus told them.



Bible Lesson

Taken from Matthew 5:1-2; 6:5-8

Jesus was in town! Many people—men, women, boys, and girls—went out to the countryside to hear what Jesus would say. Jesus always told people the truth about God. Jesus told people how they could know God better. Jesus was the most special teacher of all because He was the Son of God.

Jesus saw the people coming. There were so many people that wanted to listen to Jesus teach. Because there were so many people, Jesus climbed up the side of a small mountain and sat down. Now all the people would be able to see Him and hear the words He wanted to tell them. Jesus loved the people. He loved to teach them how to get to know God better.

Today, Jesus would teach them how to talk to God. This was a lesson very important for all the people to hear. Men needed to know how to talk to God. Women needed to know how to talk to God. Boys and girls needed to know how to talk to God. God seemed so big and powerful. Did He really want people to talk to Him? Would He really listen to the prayers of children? Did He really care about the problems of men and women?

Jesus began to teach the people saying, “God sees and hears you wherever you are. You do not need to go to a special church building to pray. You do not need to stand outside in the street for God to see you. I tell you the truth, you can hide inside a closet in your bedroom, and God will hear you.”

All the people were confused. They looked at each other and asked, “Then why do the most religious people we know pray loudly in church and out on street corners? They seem to know God best and that is the way they pray.”

Jesus told the people, “Those religious people are pretending to know how to talk to God. They are putting on a show. They want everyone around them to think they are special and God loves them the best.”

Jesus smiled at the men, women, boys, and girls that were sitting around Him. “God is your Father. He loves you very much. He even knows what you need before you ever ask Him! God wants you to pray to Him because He wants to spend time with you. He likes to hear from the people He loves—so talk to Him! You don’t need to use fancy words. You don’t even need to say a lot. Just talk to God like you would talk to your mom or dad or friend. God will listen to you. God will hear you no matter where you are.”

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All the people were amazed. God loved them and wanted them to talk to Him! They did not need to say special words or be in a special place. Still, the people were curious. Could Jesus teach them a prayer? Yes, Jesus could and would teach them a model prayer. . . but that part of the story will be for another day!

Hands-on Learning



ACTIVITY – “God hears my prayers” Phone Craft

Materials:

- Silver card stock
- Scissors
- White paper
- Markers
- Glue
- Colorful “o”-shaped cereal

Before Class:

1. Cut out 2½" x 7" rectangles from the silver card stock (one for each student).
2. Using the scissors, round all four corners of the rectangle.
3. Cut 2" x 6½" rectangular “screens” out of white paper to fit inside the silver card stock phone (one for each student).
4. Write “God hears my prayers. Psalm 66:19” on the top half of the white rectangle. Leave space in the bottom portion for students to glue cereal.

During Class:

Help students remember that they can talk to God anytime, anywhere with this phone craft using the Bible memory verse from Psalm 66:19.



1. Have students glue the white paper onto the silver cardstock.
2. Have students glue “o”-shaped cereal onto the bottom half of phone.



ACTIVITY - “The Lord’s Prayer” Prayer Journal

Materials:

- Prayer journals (Assemble your own books using the instructions below or purchase blank books from a teacher supply store.)
- Title for book
- Crayons
- Glue
- Two-hole punch
- Yarn

Before Class:

Make a book for each student.

1. Cut sheets of blank white paper in half (5½" x 8½").
2. Stack 10 sheets of the halved white paper together.
3. Sandwich computer paper between two pieces of construction paper (6" x 9").
4. Making sure all papers line up on left-hand side, secure stack of papers together along the left-hand margin using a two-hole punch and yarn (or brads).
5. Cut out one copy of the title for each child from p. 244.

During Class:

1. Have students color the book title page and glue the title to the cover



of the book.*

2. Have students (as able to do so) write their names on their prayer journals.
3. Collect books from students at the end of each class. Students will add to their prayer journal each week. Books can go home with students after the completion of the Lord's Prayer unit.
4. Have a time of prayer together thanking God for hearing our prayers.

**Teacher may want to decorate a few extra journals in case some students were absent or new ones join the class in the following weeks.*

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Bible Lesson Taken from Matthew 5:1-2; 6:5-8

Jesus talked to the people about prayer. Prayer should not be a show before men. It is a conversation with God.

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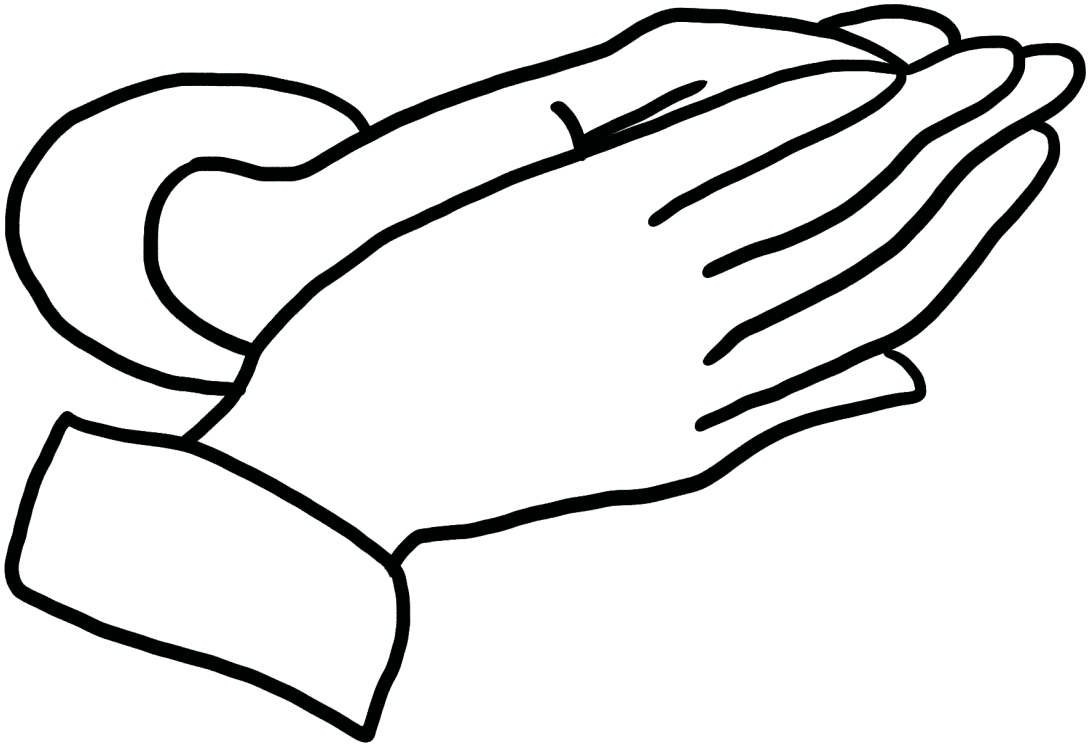
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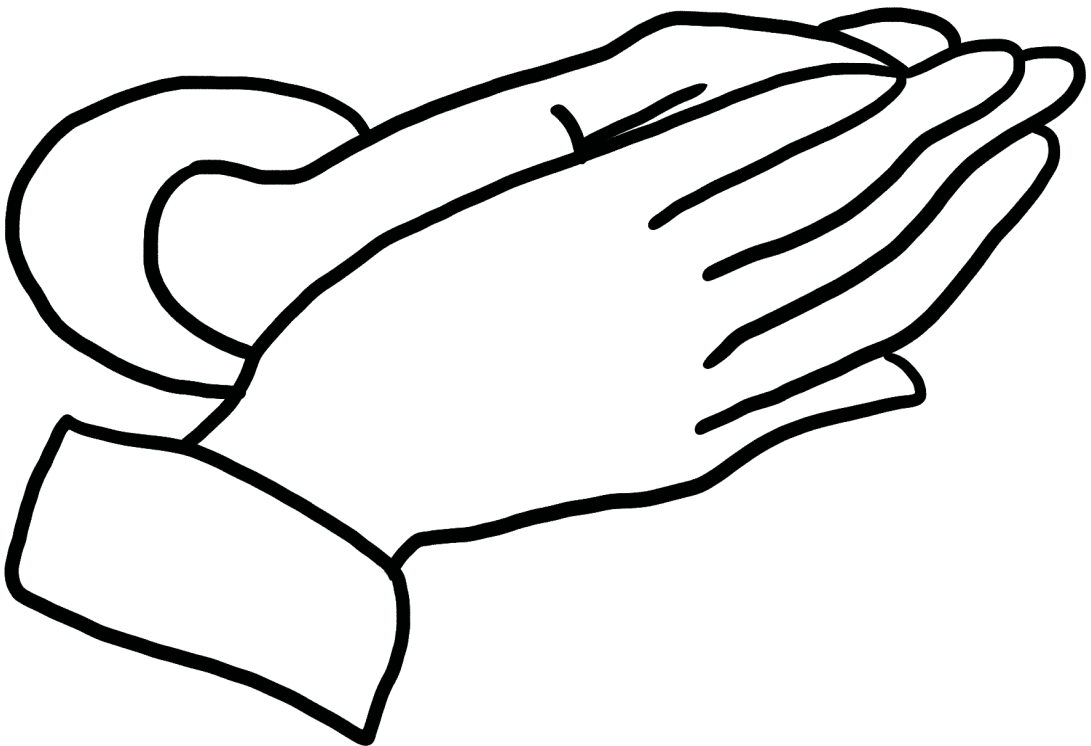
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My Prayer Journal



My Prayer Journal