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THE
LORD'S
PRAYER

THE MEANING AND POWER OF
THE PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT



CHILDREN'S LEADER GUIDE

ADAM HAMILTON

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE MEANING AND POWER
OF THE PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT

Children's Leader Guide

by Anita Peebles

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The Lord's Prayer

The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught
Children's Leader Guide Download

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INTRODUCTION

This downloadable children's leader guide is meant for use with *The Lord's Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught* by Adam Hamilton. This guide includes six lessons, one for each chapter of *The Lord's Prayer*. The lessons in this guide, designed for children in kindergarten through sixth grade, require simple preparation and few materials.

The pattern of these lessons is as follows:

- Lesson Objectives: Goals for the session.
- To Prepare: Preparation for the teacher, including gathering materials and making example crafts.
- Opening Activity/Ice Breaker: Welcome children to the space with care, calling each child by his or her name. The activity will introduce the part of the Lord's Prayer that is the focus for the day.
- Opening Prayer: Pray with the children and transition to the activities for the remainder of the session.
- Choice of Activities: Each lesson has two or three activities suggested, ranging from discussions to games to crafts, all focused on the theme of the day. These activities can each be done in fifteen minutes, so feel free to choose as many or as few as fits the needs of your group.
- Closing Prayer: Gather the children into a circle to close your time together. Since these sessions focus on the Lord's Prayer, that will be your closing prayer each week. Then, as children leave the space, there is a suggested blessing for each week according to the theme.

It is not necessary for you to read all of *The Lord's Prayer* before leading this session, but you are encouraged to do so if you can. In the book, Adam Hamilton shares in-depth wisdom about how the Lord's Prayer came to be, what it would have meant to Jesus and his disciples, and other places in Scripture that help us understand how to live according to the values in the Lord's Prayer. A good summary of the prayer Jesus taught his disciples in Matthew 6:9-13 is this:

Jesus's prayer is preparing us for that realm. It is training our minds and hearts for the day when God's kingdom has fully come, and God's will is completely done, where *my* and *mine* has given way to *Thy* and *Thine*. In that place we'll share the bread we need to exist, no one will be hungry for that which gives and sustains life. Freed from guilt and shame, we'll also have released all grudges and resentment. And no longer led into temptation, we will have been completely delivered from evil, darkness, and pain.

"This is the forever we're preparing for, the one we pray for in the Lord's Prayer." (Adam Hamilton, page 139)

This is the purpose of the Lord's Prayer, and of ministry with children: to prepare for God's kingdom. As you teach, know that you have what it takes to guide the children through learning this beautiful prayer that is an important pillar of worship in the Christian tradition. Approach each lesson with an open mind, open heart, and careful preparation. God will do the rest.

May your fellowship be blessed as you seek to follow how Jesus taught us to pray with the children in your care.

SESSION 1

OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE THY NAME

Lesson Objectives

- Introduce the Lord's Prayer.
- Invite children to think about God's character.
- Engage children in considering how they show God to the world.

To Prepare

- Google "prayer positions" to find images you may wish to use in the opening activity.
- Prepare a table for the painting activity by covering it with a tablecloth or newspaper.
- Gather the supplies below.

Supplies

- Bibles
- Poster with the Lord's Prayer written on it
- Plain watercolor paper or cardstock
- Watercolor paints
- Paintbrushes
- Cups of water
- White crayons

Opening Activity/Ice Breaker

Welcome children into the space and invite them to join you in a circle.

Tell the children you will do several poses and they will have to figure out what the poses have in common. Invite the children to copy your movements.

Choose several prayer poses that are accessible to your body and comfort level. Examples are:

- hands palm to palm;

- hands clasped and head bowed;
- arms above head with open palms;
- kneeling;
- kneeling with your face to the floor and arms forward.

Demonstrate each prayer pose. Have the children copy you for each one.

ASK: What do these poses have in common?

SAY: All of these poses show different ways that people pray. When people pray, they might feel most connected to God when they do one of these poses. There are many different ways to pray, and you can find a pose that is comfortable for your body and also helps you feel close to God.

ASK: What shape is your body in when you are praying?

ASK: Have you ever prayed the Lord's Prayer? What is it? When and where do you pray it? Why do you pray it?

Show the Lord's Prayer poster.

SAY: The Lord's Prayer comes from the Bible. It's the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray in Matthew 6:9-13. Over time, people added to the end of it. It is easy to say this prayer regularly in church and not think much about it. Over the next few sessions, we are going to learn about each part of the prayer and think about how it teaches us to live following the way of Jesus.

Opening Prayer

Invite children to pray with you using one of the prayer poses you showed.

PRAY: Holy God, thank you for giving us Jesus who showed us how to pray. Help us learn about the Lord's Prayer so we can know more about you and how you love us. Amen.

Choice of Activities

Names for God Watercolor

SAY: In the beginning of the Lord's Prayer, we address God as "Father." But that is not the only name people call God, or the only title for God in the Bible. God is also Creator, Sustainer, Friend, and even Mother Hen! Different people call God different names, and that is OK, because we know God and God's love in many different ways.

Give each child a plain piece of paper and a white crayon.

Direct each child to think of three or four names or titles for God and write them on the white paper in white crayon.

Then, direct them to use watercolor paints to paint over the whole paper. The white crayon relief will show up!

We Are Family

SAY: Part of the first line of the Lord's Prayer says God is "Our Father." Notice that it doesn't just say "my Father" or "the pastor's Father" or even "Christians' Father." We say "Our Father" in the prayer because all humans are part of God's big family. No one is more special than someone else. God isn't just here for me. It's not about me alone!

ASK: How would it feel to say "my" instead of "our" in the Lord's Prayer? When else do we say "our"? Who is included in the "our"?

SAY: When we say "our" we remember that we are blessed to have a community. We are not alone. God made us to live together and love each other. We are family.

Hallowing God's Name

ASK: What does the word *hallow* mean? When or where have you heard it, or heard a similar word?

SAY: *Hallow* is an old word for "holy" or "sacred." When the Lord's Prayer says "hallowed be God's name," it means we are praying that God helps us keep God's name holy.

ASK: What does it mean for a name to be holy?

SAY: We all know it's not good to take God's name in vain, or use God's name next to curse words. But part of keeping God's name holy is showing the world who God is. And we can do that through how we behave. People who see us in the world will know how holy God is through how we love and serve others.

ASK: What are some activities you can do to help keep God's name holy? What can your family do? What can our class do together? What can our church do?

Closing Prayer

Invite the children to join you in a circle. Have the Lord's Prayer poster nearby.

Choose a confident reader to lead the group in reading the Lord's Prayer on the poster slowly, pausing after each line so the group can repeat the prayer after the leader.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us, not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Dismiss each child from the session by offering her or him a blessing as they leave.

SAY: NAME, you are a beloved child of God. Go in peace.

SESSION 2

WHOSE WILL BE DONE?

Lesson Objectives

- Engage children in learning about God's will for the world.
- Invite children to reflect on how they follow God's will in their lives.

To Prepare

- Gather the supplies listed below.
- Make an example paper cube with Bible verses marked on it.

Supplies

- Bibles
- Poster with the Lord's Prayer written on it
- Copies of paper cube pattern (like the one seen here: <https://www.craftsuprint.com/projects/paper-craft/origami/how-to-make-a-paper-cube.cfm>)
- Scissors
- Clear tape
- Crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- Device that can show John August Swanson's serigraph *Peaceable Kingdom*: https://www.eyekons.com/john_swanson_serigraphs/john_swanson_peaceable_kingdom_s
- Chime or bell
- Soft calm music, if desired

Opening Activity/Ice Breaker

Welcome children into the space and invite them to join you in a circle.
Lead the children in a game of "Simon Says."

ASK: As we played the game, how did you know what Simon wanted you to do? How did you know what Simon didn't want you to do?

(*Answers:* When Simon said “Simon says,” that’s when we were supposed to follow directions. When Simon didn’t say “Simon says,” that’s when we were not supposed to follow.)

SAY: When we play the game “Simon Says,” we are following the will of the person who plays “Simon.” That means that we are doing what “Simon” wants us to do. Someone’s “will” is their plan or what they want to happen. And we know what to do because we pay attention for clues in what “Simon” is saying. We can learn what God’s will is in a similar way, by paying close attention to what God tells us through the Bible and through our church and through praying.

ASK: When have you felt like you know what God wanted? How did you know? What happened? When were you unsure about what God wanted? What happened?

SAY: We know that we don’t always get our way. Sadly, God’s will doesn’t always happen either. Sometimes things happen in the world that make God sad or frustrated. But we can be part of doing God’s will by being kind, generous, compassionate, and fair to ourselves and everyone around us. The second line of the Lord’s Prayer says, “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” When we pray this, we are asking that God’s will be done right here, so that Earth might be like heaven.

Opening Prayer

Invite children to pray with you.

PRAY: Holy God, we praise you and we love you. Help us learn to do your will in the world, to care for all people and for creation so that your kingdom would come on Earth. Amen.

Choice of Activities

God's Will Dice

Show the children your example of the paper cube with Bible verses marked.

SAY: Sometimes it can be hard to figure out what God’s will is. But if you roll this dice, you will have a reminder of where in the Bible to go to find a clue.

Give each child a copy of the paper cube pattern. Have them choose verses from the following list to look up in their Bibles. Then, if they feel that verse is important, they write the verse number on one square of their cube.

- Jeremiah 29:11
- 1 Timothy 2:3-4

- 1 Thessalonians 4:3 (be aware this refers to sexual immorality)
- Luke 9:23
- James 1:5
- 1 Peter 2:15
- Ephesians 5:15-20 (be aware this has a reference to drunkenness)
- 1 John 1:9
- Micah 6:8
- Hebrews 10:36
- Isaiah 41:10
- Romans 8:28
- James 4:15
- John 6:38-40

Have the children use scissors to cut the outline of their cube. Then, have them fold on the lines and tape or glue the cube together.

ASK: What Bible verse seems the most important to you? Why?

Peaceable Kingdom: A Heaven on Earth

SAY: The second verse of the Lord's Prayer says, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." The second part of this verse describes the first part. When God's kingdom comes, that means that God's will is done on Earth like in heaven.

ASK: What do you imagine a heaven on Earth to be like?

SAY: Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, a prophet named Isaiah had a vision of a "peaceable kingdom." We can read about it in Isaiah 11:6-9.

Have a volunteer or two who are confident readers read the passage aloud from a Bible.

Find John August Swanson's *Peaceable Kingdom* artwork on the internet. Have the kids look at it in silence for a minute.

ASK: What do you see in *Peaceable Kingdom*? What emotions do you feel when you look at this artwork? What would you add to this artwork of the peaceable kingdom?

If you have extra time, give the children paper and crayons or colored pencils and invite them to draw their own picture of the peaceable kingdom.

Listening Practice

ASK: What do you do to be a good listener? How do others listen to you well?

SAY: Sometimes it can be hard to block out the noise in the world and focus on one thing. We need headphones or earmuffs to block out the noise around us. Listening to God can be like that. Sometimes we need to practice being quiet and focusing our heart on God.

Direct the children to position their bodies comfortably. Sound the chime or bell to signal the beginning of quiet. Play quiet music if desired.

Stay quiet for one minute. Then sound the chime or bell to signal the end of quiet.

ASK: What was it like to sit quietly for one minute?

Closing Prayer

Invite children to gather in a circle. Have the Lord's Prayer poster nearby.

Invite all children to read and pray the prayer together.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us, not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Dismiss each child from the session by offering him or her a blessing as they leave.

SAY: NAME, may you follow God's will every day. Go in peace.

SESSION 3

OUR DAILY BREAD

Lesson Objectives

- Invite children to think about the differences between wants and needs.
- Expand children's understanding of the practice of Communion.

To Prepare

- Gather the supplies below.

Supplies

- Bibles
- Poster with the Lord's Prayer written on it
- Plain paper
- Crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- Napkins
- Juice
- Bread
- Be mindful of gluten allergies in your group. Find a gluten-free bread or crackers to share if you are unsure about allergies.
- If you would rather not have bread and juice like a Communion service, you may wish to choose other snacks.
- Small cups

Opening Activity/Ice Breaker

Welcome children into the space and invite them to join you in a circle. Have the Lord's Prayer poster nearby.

Tell the children you will act out a series of activities, and they must guess what you are doing (like charades). Invite the children to call out their guesses.

Act out the order of things you do each day (wake up, take a shower, brush your teeth, make breakfast, and so on), with the children guessing each activity before you move to the next one.

ASK: What is a routine? Do you have any routines that you do?

SAY: I just showed you my daily routine. These are the things that help me get ready for the day ahead. Each morning, I do these activities to prepare myself for what I will do that day. Sometimes we can also have a weekly routine or a monthly routine, too, when we do things regularly to prepare for the week or month ahead of us.

ASK: What is your Sunday routine? Is it different from other days? What is the routine at church?

SAY: One of the activities in our church routine is saying the Lord's Prayer. The third line of the Lord's Prayer is "Give us this day our daily bread." As we pray this, we are asking God to give us what we need only for today. We don't need God to give us everything for the week or month or year or our whole lives, we just need God to give us what is needed for today. Tomorrow, we can pray the Lord's Prayer again, and we can ask again.

Opening Prayer

Invite children to pray with you.

PRAY: Holy God, thank you for giving us what we need to live each day. Help us to be satisfied with what we have today. Remind us of our blessings and help us be blessings to others. Amen.

Choice of Activities

Sharing Our Table

Have the children wash their hands and come to sit in a circle or at a table together.

SAY: In the first session we had about the Lord's Prayer, we noticed that we say, "Our Father." Not "my" but "our." This reminds us that we are all a part of God's family and that God does not belong to any one person or group alone. Today, we read the third phrase of the Lord's Prayer that says, "Give US this day OUR daily bread." Again, it's not about MY need of MY bread for today, but it is about a group of people together.

ASK: When do we share food and eat together as a church?

With the help of two or three children, pass out napkins, cups of juice, and pieces of bread.

SAY: Jesus shows us how to pray for “our daily bread” in the Lord’s Prayer. And Jesus also shows us how to share food together in Matthew 26:17-29, in the story of the last supper he shared with his friends. When we observe Communion as a church, we remember that Jesus told his friends he would always be near to them when they eat together, sharing the bread and the cup. Whenever we eat together, in church or in our homes or even in school, we can remember God’s love in giving us what we need to live well as a community.

Invite a child to say a prayer over the snack. They may wish to use the Lord’s Prayer, so have the Lord’s Prayer poster nearby.

Share the snack together.

Needs and Wants

ASK: What is something you need to live? What is something you want to have?

SAY: A need is something that is necessary for us to live. Needs are food, water, air, shelter, clothing, safety, and love. All people have these same basic needs in common. A want is something that will bring us extra joy on top of our basic needs. An example is when we want to have a lot of toys or books, or we want to go on a special vacation. We don’t need those toys or books or vacation in order to live, but they might bring us extra joy.

Have children turn to a partner and direct them to share a story about a time when they wanted something and didn’t get it, or a time when they needed something and didn’t get it.

ASK: Who do you trust to help you meet your needs? (parents or caregivers, friends, teachers, church, others)

SAY: We can also trust God to help us get our needs met. That’s part of the Lord’s Prayer. When we pray “Give us today our daily bread” we are expressing that we trust God to help us get what we need to live.

Pray Through the Day

SAY: You can pray anywhere and anytime. God is always listening to your prayers.

Give each child a plain sheet of paper. Direct all children to draw one line down the center of the paper. Then, draw four horizontal lines. The paper will be divided into ten total sections.

In the squares on the left side of the paper, have children write or draw parts of their daily routine (wake up, eat a meal, play outside, go to school, and so on).

In the squares on the right side of the paper, have children write or draw a short prayer that they can pray while they are doing that activity.

Example: on the left, a drawing of gym class. On the right, "Help me be confident and honor my body."

As the children are working, invite them to share the activities they chose and the prayers they are writing.

Closing Prayer

Invite children to gather in a circle. Have the Lord's Prayer poster nearby. Read and pray the Lord's Prayer together.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us, not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Dismiss each child from the session by offering her or him a blessing as they leave.

SAY: NAME, may God give you what you need. Go in peace to help others.

SESSION 4

FORGIVE...AS WE FORGIVE

Lesson Objectives

- Explore the practice of forgiveness, both forgiving others and forgiving self.
- Experience God's presence with us always, even when we need to ask forgiveness.

To Prepare

- Gather the supplies listed below.

Supplies

- Bibles
- Poster with the Lord's Prayer written on it
- Empty backpack
- Rocks of different sizes (make sure to have some big ones!)
- Plain paper or cardstock
- Crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- Envelopes

Opening Activity/Ice Breaker

Welcome children into the space and invite them to join you in a circle.

ASK: What is forgiveness? What does it mean to forgive someone?

SAY: In the Lord's Prayer, we ask God to forgive us just as we forgive others. That means that when we do something hurtful to someone or something that makes God sad, we can ask God for forgiveness. And we can ask others for forgiveness too. But we also have to practice forgiving others when they do something hurtful to us. It is hard, but it is important. We don't have to forgive someone right away; forgiveness can take a long time sometimes. But in the meantime, we can pray to God about having the will to forgive others for how they have hurt us.

Tell a (church-appropriate) story about a time when someone did something hurtful to you and you forgave that person.

SAY: In the Gospel stories about Jesus's life, we read about how Jesus forgave people's sins. Jesus forgave people who had hurt others by taking their money and damaging their relationships. Jesus forgave people who didn't believe he was the Son of God. Jesus even forgave the people who hurt him when he was dying on the cross. And in the last supper Jesus shared with his friends, he told them that the cup they shared was poured out for the forgiveness of sins. Jesus talked to God about forgiveness and practiced it in his life. We can forgive too.

Opening Prayer

Invite the children to pray with you.

PRAY: Holy God, thank you for loving us all the time, even when we do something hurtful to ourselves and others. Help us forgive ourselves. Help us forgive others. Amen.

Choice of Activities

Backpack of Rocks

Have children gather in a circle around you. As you say the following words, place rocks (starting with the smallest ones) in the backpack.

SAY: None of us is perfect. I am not perfect, you are not perfect. We all make mistakes. We all do things we are not proud of. We all do things we might wish we didn't. We all sin. Some sins might seem small, like if we don't clean up our room or we tell a small lie to someone we love. But some sins are bigger, like when we get into a fight with our brother or sister or we say mean words or we do something when we know it's wrong. All of these sins can add up over time and feel heavy.

Invite a child to put the backpack on her or his back.

ASK: How does it feel to carry this backpack? How long do you think you could carry it? Can you run or jump with it on your back?

Have the child remove the backpack.

ASK: How does it feel to put the backpack down?

SAY: When we forgive someone for something they did to us, it can be like putting the heavy backpack down. Afterward, we feel so much lighter, we could run or jump.

Invite several other children to take turns putting on the backpack and taking it back off.

ASK: What would help make the backpack lighter?

(Answers: if it didn't have so many rocks, if multiple people lifted it together.)

Invite two people to help the first child lift the backpack.

ASK: How did it feel to have help lifting the backpack?

SAY: The rocks in the backpack are like sins. Each of us sins, so each of us has rocks. But sometimes, when we talk to someone we trust about our sins, it can make the backpack feel lighter. This is part of why we are a church community: we are here to help each other carry our burdens. When we listen to each other and help each other, our sins feel lighter, so we can forgive ourselves and others.

Forgiveness Cards

Invite children to turn to a friend and tell them a story about a time they forgave someone or a story about a time someone forgave them.

Give each child two sheets of cardstock and crayons, markers, or colored pencils. Have them fold the cardstock in half, like a greeting card. You may wish to write the words on a markerboard or large sheet of paper for the children to copy onto their cards.

Have the children decorate both cards and write "I forgive you and I love you" inside the card. Do not address the cards yet.

SAY: It can be hard to ask for forgiveness. It can be hard to forgive someone. It can be even harder to forgive ourselves when we make a mistake.

Have the children put the cards in the envelopes. Direct them to address one card to themselves.

SAY: I wonder what you need to forgive yourself for. I wonder what you need to ask someone forgiveness for. I wonder how it feels to forgive yourself. I wonder how it would feel to get this card as a reminder to forgive yourself.

Direct the children to keep the card addressed to themselves and the unaddressed card. Tell them they can give the card to anyone whenever they need to.

Closing Prayer

Invite children to gather in a circle. Have the Lord's Prayer poster nearby.

Invite all children to read and pray the prayer together.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us, not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Dismiss each child from the session by offering him or her a blessing as they leave.

SAY: NAME, you are beloved and worthy of forgiveness, just as you forgive others. Go in peace.

SESSION 5

LEAD US, NOT INTO TEMPTATION

Lesson Objectives

- Explore temptation, what it is, and how to resist.
- Consider how God leads us through life daily.

To Prepare

- Make sure the space you are using is clear so there are no tripping hazards.
- Make an example of the Two Sides of the Same Coin project.
- Gather the supplies below.

Supplies

- Bibles
- Poster with the Lord's Prayer written on it
- Posterboard
- Markers
- Cardstock or other heavy paper
- Scissors
- Crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- Circular things to trace (cups, bowls, for example)

Opening Activity/Ice Breaker

Welcome children into the space and invite them to join you in a circle.

Have the children stand in a line. Designate one child at the front to be the leader and walk around the space. The others must follow the leader all around the space. After about a minute, have the children return to the circle.

ASK: What was it like to follow the leader?

Do the exercise again, choosing a different leader. This time, tell the children everyone must close their eyes except for the leader. Do not let the children hold hands or touch each other to stay in line. Again, allow the leader to lead for about a minute, then have the children return to the circle.

ASK: What was it like to follow the leader with your eyes closed?

Do the exercise one more time, choosing a different leader. This time, tell the children they will have their eyes shut but they also can hold hands or place a hand on the person's shoulder in front of them to stay together. After about a minute, have the children return to the circle.

ASK: What was it like to follow the leader this time, when you were allowed to hold on to each other?

SAY: Sometimes when we are following God, it might be like we are following the leader but we can't see where the leader is going and we can't feel if we are staying on the correct path with our community. But when we hold on to each other, we can help each other continue following the leader, even when we don't know the path in front of us.

Opening Prayer

Invite the children to pray with you.

PRAY: Holy God, thank you for loving us. Thank you for leading us, even when it feels like we don't know where we are going. Help us not give in to temptations that would distract us from following you. Keep us safe and healthy and show us how to do good in the world. Amen.

Choice of Activities

Ten-Word Story

Gather posterboard and markers.

SAY: Here is a story in ten words: "Martin Luther King, Jr. listened to God's call to justice." Here's another one: "God told Moses to tell Pharaoh, 'Let my people go.'"

Have children get into groups of two or three. Challenge them to tell a story in ten words or less about a time God led them.

Give the groups enough time for each person to share.

Invite children to share their ten-word story. Ask their permission to record their stories on a poster, writing them down after each child has shared.

SAY: Sometimes following God can be complicated, but sometimes we can keep it simple and express ourselves in ten words or less! Challenge someone in your household or a church elder to tell you a story about a time when God led them.

Invite children to record the stories they find and share them next week.

Two Sides of the Same Coin

ASK: What is temptation? Have you ever felt tempted? When and how?

SAY: Temptation is a normal part of life. There are always things we want, things we wish we could change. Maybe we want to be better at sports or have more friends or change something about our appearance. But we also know that God created us in God's image and loves us just as we are—we don't need to be anyone other than who we are. We also know from studying the Lord's Prayer that God gives us what we need to live each day. But even though we know this in our brain and in our heart, we can feel tempted.

ASK: When you feel tempted, what do you do to not give in? What helps you resist the temptation?

Give each child a piece of cardstock, a pencil, and scissors. Have them find a circular object to trace the outline of four circles onto the paper. Then, direct them to cut out the circles.

On one side of a circle, have the children write or draw something that tempts them. On the other side of the circle, have the children write or draw how they can resist the temptation. Repeat for each of the four circles.

Example: Side A: the temptation to fight with a sibling. Side B: asking for alone time to deal with the big feelings.

Invite children to share their circles if they are willing.

SAY: Whenever we feel tempted, we can pray the Lord's Prayer because it talks to God about temptation. When we pray the fifth line of the Lord's Prayer, we say, "Lead us, not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." We can always talk to God and say, "Hey, God, I feel tempted right now, but I pray that you lead me in a different direction so I can make healthy choices."

Closing Prayer

Invite children to gather in a circle. Have the Lord's Prayer poster nearby.

Invite all children to read and pray the prayer together.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us, not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Dismiss each child from the session by offering her or him a blessing as they leave.

SAY: NAME, may you let God lead you in paths of love and goodness. Go in peace.

SESSION 6

FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, POWER, AND GLORY

Lesson Objectives

- Remember previous sessions about the Lord's Prayer.
- Consider how children can use power to effect positive change.
- Explore the "kingdom of God" statements in the Gospels.
- Make a plan to share God's glory with the world.

To Prepare

- Gather the supplies below.

Supplies

- Bibles
- Poster with the Lord's Prayer written on it
- Posterboard (2)
- Plain paper
- Pencils
- Crayons, colored pencils, or markers

Opening Activity/Ice Breaker

Welcome children into the space and invite them to join you in a circle. Have the Lord's Prayer poster nearby.

If anyone has a list of ten-word stories from last session, invite them to share now.

SAY: Over the past few sessions, we have been learning about the Lord's Prayer piece by piece. Today we turn to the last part, "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."

Invite the children to read and pray the Lord's Prayer aloud as a group.

Then, have the children read one word at a time, going around the group until the whole prayer has been said or until each child has gotten a turn.

SAY: How glorious—we all just worked together to say the Lord's Prayer. Each of us said a part of it. Without even one of us, the prayer would not be complete. Each of us is an important part of God's family, and we can show God's glory on earth when we work together.

Opening Prayer

Invite the children to pray with you.

PRAY: Holy God, we praise you for being a great and loving God. Help us to remember the Lord's Prayer each day of our lives. Help us to show your glory to all the world through our thoughts, words, and actions. Amen.

Choice of Activities

Kingdom Statements

Distribute Bibles to the group.

SAY: When Jesus was teaching and preaching, he talked a lot about the kingdom of God or the kingdom of heaven. The disciples tried to understand him but sometimes they were confused. So, Jesus told stories called “parables” to help the disciples understand.

Invite children one by one to find and read aloud the following Scriptures:

- Matthew 13:44
- Matthew 13:24
- Mark 4:30-32
- Matthew 13:33
- Matthew 13:45-46

ASK: What was your favorite of these statements about the kingdom of God? What made the most sense to you?

SAY: These statements about the kingdom of God were based on normal activities in everyday life. They were simple so everyone could relate to them. I wonder what kind of statements you could make to teach others about the kingdom of God.

Give each child a piece of paper and writing utensil. Encourage them to write their own parables, each beginning with “The kingdom of God is like . . .”

After five to ten minutes of working, invite children to share their own kingdom statement with the group.

Kids Are Powerful!

Gather a posterboard and markers.

Divide children into groups of two or three people.

Invite the children to each tell a story about a time when they felt powerful. Give them enough time for each person to speak.

ASK: What is power? Who has power?

SAY: Power is the ability to influence people. Sometimes people use powerful words that get people to listen to them. Sometimes people show their power with their strength or their speed. Sometimes people show power through how kind and generous they are.

ASK: What kind of power do you have?

SAY: Sometimes we don't feel powerful at all. But we are powerful because God loves us. We are powerful because we can work with God to make the world more like heaven on earth, or like the peaceable kingdom.

ASK: What is a problem you want to use your power to help? How will you help solve this problem?

As the children respond to this question, write down the problems on the left side of the poster. Then, write down the solutions on the right side.

SAY: If we need a reminder of our power, we can look at this poster and remember that we have lots of creative ideas for solving big problems. Each of you can be part of the solution. Each of you, with the help of God's powerful love, can help make God's will done on earth as it is in heaven.

Acrostic Glory

Gather a posterboard and markers.

SAY: The Lord's Prayer ends with a proclamation about God's glory remaining for ever and ever. We want to remember God's glory as well as we remember the prayer we've been learning about for a few sessions.

ASK: What do you want to remember about God's glory? What does the word *glory* remind you of?

SAY: Since the time the Bible was written, people have been composing hymns and poems to celebrate God's greatness. One style of poem is an acrostic poem. Today we are going to make our own acrostic poem with the word GLORY to help us remember God's glory.

Write GLORY vertically along the left side of the poster. Invite children to say words that help remind them of God's glory that begin with the letter G. Come to an agreement with the group and write that word beginning with G. Then move on to the other letters.

When there is a word or phrase corresponding to each letter of the word GLORY, invite the group to read the acrostic poem aloud three times. Each time, invite the children to read louder and louder, proclaiming God's glory with joy!

Closing Prayer

Invite children to gather in a circle. Have the Lord's Prayer poster nearby.

Invite all children to read and pray the prayer together.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us, not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Dismiss each child from the session by offering him or her a blessing as they leave.

SAY: NAME, you are a beloved child of God. Go in peace.