

May 2021, Week 3

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

Today's Bottom Line: Practice praying to God.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come.* 1 Timothy 4:8, NIV

Monthly Life App: Commitment—Making a plan and putting it into practice

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 minutes)

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Thank Him that He loved us so much that He made it possible for us to talk with Him and convene with Him anytime and anywhere. Thank God for giving us a roadmap for talking with Him. Ask Him to help kids understand this model prayer and to put it into practice as they pray this week.

1. Early Arriver

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

What You Need: Hand sanitizer

What You Do:

- Greet kids by name as they arrive.
- Instruct kids to use one pump of hand sanitizer.
- Encourage kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Gather kids to stand in a circle.
- Choose a kid.
- Instruct the kid with the fidget spinner to call out a movement to practice (jumping jacks, jogging in place, etc.).
- Direct the rest of the kids to practice the movement you change it.
- Continue for several rounds.

2. Opening Activity

Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: "Tangram Pieces" Activity Page, "Tangram Patterns" Activity Page, scissors

What You Do:

- Give each kid a pair of scissors and a "Tangram Pieces" Activity Page to cut apart.
- Give each kid a "Tangram Patterns" Activity Page and encourage them to use their pieces to create the shape they see.
- If they finish a pattern and time allows, they can select a new pattern to complete.

What You Say:

“Great job, guys! It took some practice moving the pieces around to create the pattern on the page. But you did it! **[Transition] Jesus gave us a pattern to follow when we talk to God. Let’s go find out what Jesus said.**”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)

***1. The Lord’s Prayer in Four Parts**

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: Bibles, paper, pencils

What You Do:

- Hand out a Bible to every two or three kids.
- Encourage the kids to look up Luke 11:1-4.
- Invite a kid to read Luke 11:1-4 to the group.
- Divide kids into four groups and instruct them to sit together in the four corners of your small group area.
- Give each group a piece of paper and a pencil.
- Point out how the prayer Jesus prayed can be broken down into four parts.
- Assign a phrase below to each group. The phrases sum up a part of Jesus’ prayer.
- Direct each group to write their phrase at the top of the piece of paper.
 - Phrase 1: (Based on Luke 11:2) “Tell God He’s awesome.”
 - Phrase 2: (Based on Luke 11:3) “Ask for what you need.”
 - Phrase 3: (Based on Luke 11:4a) “Seek forgiveness.”
 - Phrase 4: (Based on Luke 11:4b) “Ask for help to do the right thing.”
- Instruct the groups to use their own words to create their own prayer based on the phrase they’ve been given.
- To help kids get started, ask:
 - Group 1: How would you tell God He’s awesome? What would you say to let Him know how great He is?
 - Group 2: What are the things you need? How could you write that in a simple prayer to God?
 - Group 3: What words do you say when you ask someone to forgive you? How would you ask God for forgiveness?
 - Group 4: When do you have trouble doing the right thing? When are you most tempted to make an unwise choice? How could you ask God for help with that?
- Give the groups a few minutes to write their prayers.
- Collect the papers.
- Wait until prayer time at the end of group time to share them.

What You Say:

"I love this pattern for prayer that Jesus gave us. Tell God He's awesome. Ask for what you need. Seek forgiveness and help to do the right thing. I would bet that most of our prayers sound more like 'God, please give me,' or 'God, please help me.' That's why we need to **[Bottom Line]** practice praying to God.

"This week, as you talk to God, remember to praise Him for who He is and what He's done. Ask Him for the things you need and trust that He will provide them. Say you're sorry to God and to the people you may have hurt. Then ask God to help you do the right thing—the wise thing—this week. Those are ALL good things to practice when you talk to God!"

[Make it Personal] (Share your favorite part of this pattern of prayer. Which part do you practice most often? Which part is hardest or maybe the one you forget? Why?)

2. Emoji Tag

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: "Emoji Faces" Activity Page, tape

What You Do:

- Give each kid one emoji face.
- Instruct the kids to tape the emoji to the front of their shirt.
- Ask the kids to spread out in your small group area.
- Explain that you will play a version of freeze tag.
 - Randomly select a kid to be the tagger.
 - That kid can only tag kids with the same emoji on their shirt.
 - A kid must freeze once they're tagged.
 - Any kid with a different emoji can tag and unfreeze a kid who is frozen.
- Play for two minutes then call time.
- Instruct all of the kids to freeze.
- Choose a new kid with a different emoji to be the tagger.
- Resume play.
- Continue for two or three more rounds.
- Direct the kids to sit down and remove their emojis.
- Collect the emojis to use for the "Emoji Verse" activity.
- Use the following to guide your conversation:
 - Who do you want to talk to first when you're sad? Or happy? Or scared?
 - How can talking to God help you when you're sad or scared? *(It reminds us that we're not alone, that God is with us, that He loves us, and that He is in control.)*
 - Why is it important to talk to God when we're happy? *(It leads to gratitude; it helps us remember that all good things come from God.)*

What You Say:

"I love that I can talk to God anytime. He is available and ready to listen, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. I love that I can talk to God anywhere. I can talk to Him at the dinner table before I eat. I can talk to Him when I drive to work—with my eyes open, of course. He always hears me, no matter where I am. And I LOVE that I can talk to God about anything, no matter how I feel.

“God wants to hear from me when I’m happy and when I’m sad. He wants to hear from me when I’m scared, lonely, or frustrated. But I’ll admit, it takes practice to remember to talk to God. When things are hard, I tend to talk to God more. I need help. I want Him to fix things. Sometimes I forget to talk to God when things are going great. I forget that all those good things come from Him. Just like you practice to get better at a sport or playing an instrument, to get better at talking to God, you need to practice! So this week, remember this crazy emoji game. Remember that you can talk to God anytime, anywhere, about anything—no matter how you feel. Let’s **[Bottom Line]** practice praying to God.”

4. Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal processing and application

What You Need: Pencil, Paper, and Goldfish

What You Do:

- Gather the kids in a circle. Handout goldfish and paper/pencils.
- Read the monthly memory verse.
- Get the kids to write out a prayer to God.
- Wrap-up group time using the dialogue below.
- Read the prayer the kids wrote out loud. (ask if that is ok)
- Pray the words they wrote over them.

What You Say:

“Jesus gave us a pattern to follow when we pray. We can use this pattern to talk to God anytime, anywhere, no matter how we feel. So this week, I want to challenge you to use this pattern as you **[Bottom Line] practice praying to God.** Let’s pray.”

Close in prayer, reading aloud the prayers the kids wrote.

If time, pick an ‘End of Class’ activity from the activity bin to play with the kids. (ie. Simon Says, etc.)