

Living on a Prayer | May 16th

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.

Small Group Connect (10 Minutes)



1. **Introduce** yourself, and **welcome** new kids by name.
2. Kids **share** what happened during the past week.
3. **Check up** on past week's prayer requests and events.
4. **Feel free to play icebreaker game:**

Early Arriver

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding

What You Need: "If You Could . . ." Activity Page, hand sanitizer, offering container, and pencils or pens

What You Do:

- Welcome each kid by name as they arrive.
- Invite any kid who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Direct each kid to use one pump of hand sanitizer.
- Give each kid an "If You Could . . ." Activity Page and a pencil or pen.
- Read the questions out loud.
- Encourage kids to write or draw their answers in each section of the page.
 - Question #1: If you could travel to any time, when would it be? (*You may need to give an example so the kids understand the concept of the question. For example: I would travel to when Jesus lived so I could meet Him and talk to Him face to face. Or, I would travel to the future so I could see what future technology will be like.*)
 - Question #2: If you could go anywhere in the world, where would it be?
 - Question #3: If you could ask for anything, what would it be?
- Invite the kids to share their answers and drawings with you and the group.

To create meaningful relationships with kids and parents so that they can confidently pursue a life-long relationship with Jesus.

Opening Activity

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

What You Need: “Practice Props” Activity Page, hat, bowl, or bag, assortment of props

What You Do:

- Place the cards from the “Practice Props” Activity page in a hat, bowl, or bag.
- Direct the kids to sit in a spaced-out circle around the props.
- Choose one kid to draw a card out of the hat.
 - Encourage them to show you what their card says so you can help them read it (if needed) and help them think of something to act-out (if needed).
 - The kids can talk, but cannot say any of the actual words on their card.
 - Encourage kids to be silly and goofy as they act-out their “practice” action.
 - Be prepared to help the kids act and figure out how to use it.
 - Feel free to get up and act alongside the kids if they really struggle. Make it fun!
- Instruct the rest of the kids to try to guess what the actors portray.

What You Say:

“That was so much fun! Sometimes, it was easy to guess what your friends were practicing and sometimes it was harder. **[Transition] Let’s head to Large Group to hear about someone who taught us exactly how to practice something very important.**”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



Small Group Activity (20 Minutes)

1. Prayer Hands

[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: “Prayer Hands” Activity Page, “Prayer Hands Images” Activity Page, safety scissors, crayons, and glue sticks

What You Do:

- Place the “Prayer Hands Images” around the room or your small group space, making sure you have enough for each kid to find a full set of images.
- Instruct the kids to find five different pictures and come back to the group’s area when they finish.
- Give each kid a “Prayer Hands” Activity page, a pair of safety scissors, and a glue stick.
- Encourage the kids to cut out the hands on the dotted lines. Make sure they don’t cut off the tabs on the side.
- Set out the crayons.

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- Invite the kids to color their hands however they want.
- Direct the kids to put glue on the tabs and press the tabs together so the hands are on top of each other—like praying hands.
- Instruct the kids to glue the five images on the inside of the hands.
- Review each image as the kids glue it in place.
 - Praise hands: God is a good, good Father to us every day. We should thank Him!
 - Home, family and food: God wants us to ask Him for the things we need each day.
 - I'm Sorry: We can ask God to forgive the things we do wrong.
 - Heart: God can help us forgive other people when they do things to us that aren't kind.
 - Jesus: We can ask God to help us be more like Jesus!
- Remind the kids of the Bible story—how Jesus prayed for all these things in the prayer He taught His disciples. He told us to pray in the same way.
- Encourage the kids to keep these prayer hands with them when they pray so they can remember Jesus' prayer.

What You Say:

"Your prayer hands look awesome! I know these prayer hands will help me remember how to pray. I sure am thankful that Jesus taught us how to pray. He told us to tell God that He's great and thank Him for what He's done for us; ask God for what we need; ask for forgiveness from God and from others; and ask for help to do the right thing. Jesus' prayer will help us **[Bottom Line] practice praying to God.**"



Small Group Discussion (10 Minutes)

1. **Say the Bottom Line and Bible Verse together:**
2. **Today's Bottom Line:** Practice praying to God.
3. **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*

Promising Corners

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: "Promising Corners" Activity Pages, wall tape, and Bibles / Goldfish

What You Do:

- Help kids look up 1 Timothy 4:8 then read it together.
- Reread the third sentence, *It promises help for the life you are now living . . .* (NIV)
- Remind kids that last week you talked about the value of living a Godly life. This week, we're learning that living a Godly life promises to help us.
- Instruct the kids to gather in the middle of the room at a safe distance from one another.
- Tape the four phrases in different areas of your small group space (or around the room, if possible).

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- Ask the kids to choose one of the phrases to stand near or around. (They can choose any phrase they want.)
- Read 1 Timothy 4:8 out loud and choose one of the four phrases to yell or speak loudly as you read it.
- Direct the kids who chose that phrase to sit down in the middle of the room.
- Instruct the remaining kids to choose a new phrase to stand by.
- Repeat the verse and choose a new phrase to shout or read loudly.
- Continue until only one or two kids remain.
- Review the verse together again and have the kids shout the entire verse with you.

What You Say:

“That was so much fun! I love learning God’s Word and hearing it read. Two ways we can live a Godly life are to read God’s Word and **[Bottom Line] practice praying to God**. Prayer is one of those things that seems harder and more complicated than it actually is. The truth is, you can talk to God anytime, anywhere, and about anything. He wants to hear from you ALL the time! The more you practice talking to Him, the more it’ll become a habit and part of every day.”

Handout Goldfish and Gather in a Circle for Prayer Time

Pray Together (5 Minutes)



1. **Ask** kids to share things they’d like to pray about.
2. **Pray** together over the prayer requests.
3. Let’s pray and ask God to help us do that this week.

“I sure am thankful that Jesus taught us how to **[Bottom Line] practice praying to God**. I’m also thankful that God loves us so much that He hears our prayers every time we talk to Him. Let’s pray to Him together.

“God, we are so thankful that You hear our prayers. We are thankful that we can pray to You anytime, anywhere, and about anything. Thank You that Jesus gave us an example of how to pray. Thank You that He taught us that we should PRAISE You, ASK for the things we need each day, ASK for forgiveness, GIVE forgiveness, and ASK for help to live like Jesus. Please continue to teach us to come to You about anything. You love us so much, and we are so thankful for Your Son, Jesus. It’s in Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”

Activity to Close

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

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