

Lesson Plan – Prayer

Text: Luke 11:1-10
Age group: PJs and J5/J6
Group size: 58 PJs; 19 J5s; 15 J6
Time: 30 min

Materials Required

- Large craft sticks
- Markers
- Deep Blue Kid's Bible or other kid's bible
- Newsprint or poster with Lord's Prayer written on it in large text

Session Outline

Gathering activities

- **J5 and J6: Names (5 min)** – Have students gather and sit in a circle. Introduce yourself and devo time and the ministry team, and have them go around in a circle and say their name and something they'd like to pray for today. Then open in prayer incorporating the prayers lifted (generalizing by theme as appropriate).

Exploration activities

- **The Lord's Prayer (7 min)** – Read Luke 11:1-4. Ask students the following questions:
 - What's happening here?
 - What does this scripture sound like, if it sounds familiar? (a correct answer: the Lord's Prayer)
- Inform students that there are a few translations or versions of the Lord's Prayer, but today we'll be talking about the one most often used at Montreat. Display the newsprint/poster with the Lord's Prayer and walk through it line by line with students to tell them more about it.
 - "Our Father..." – addressing God. Why do you think it starts this way? (God first.) **J5/J6:** Why do you think God is called "father" here? (Jesus's father; patriarchal society so that was highest honor to be called; familiar intimate title of a beloved parent)
 - "hallowed be thy name" – What do you think "hallowed" means? (Holy)
 - "thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" – What do you think this means? Point out that these lines are connected together. Inviting God's will to be done implies that we have to let go of our own will a little bit, that we open ourselves to the possibility that we might be wrong, that God might have a slightly different plan for the world than the one we envision. I think that's why the Lord's prayer starts with putting God First,

then with the Really Big Things, and only after that do we come down to our own individual needs and wants. Kingdom values = faith, hope, love

- “Give us this day our daily bread” – What do you think this means? Lord, give us what we need to live—spiritually, physically, practically—in every way.
 - “And forgive our debts as we forgive our debtors” – What do you think this means? Important to say we’re sorry, please forgive us – and remind us to forgive one another.
 - “And lead us not into temptation...” – What do you think this means? Help us. We recognize the mess we have gotten ourselves into, and to admit we’re going to need help getting out—help from God, and help from each other. Please don’t let us get into situations that ask us to be braver and stronger than we are or situations in which we can’t figure out what to do or situations in which we will be hurt (deliver us from evil).
 - “For thine is the kingdom...” – reminder of the beginning that we are praying to God. God you are the biggest most powerful, most wonderful being and always will be.
- **Popsicle Stick Prayer (10 min)** – Have each student take a large craft stick and decorate it with their name and images that describe who they are and what they like to do. When they’re done, they should put all of the sticks in a pile. The leader will mix them up and pass them back out, and everyone will take one home and pray for that person for the rest of the week or longer if they like.

Closing activities

- **Closing prayer (2 min)** – Ask if someone would like to open in prayer, and ask for someone else to close in prayer. The first person will pray, and then we will leave silence for everyone to say their first prayer for their person silently in their heads. When you indicate, the second person should close the group in prayer.

Lesson Plan – Prayer 2

Text: Luke 11:1-10
Age group: PJs and J5/J6
Group size: 58 PJs
Time: 30 min

Materials Required

- Butcher paper
- Markers
- Chalk
- Yarn
- Paper
- Hula hoops
- Lord's Prayer written out on large poster/butcher paper
- Pipe cleaners
- Pieces of paper
- Crayons

Session Outline

Prayer Stations

- Drawn mural: draw something you'd like to pray for, perhaps inspired by someone else's drawing. See if you can make them connect.
- Chalk affirmations
- Written prayers
- Pipe cleaner prayer: Prayers for the world
- Yarn prayer of thanks
- Hula hoops: See if you can recite the Lord's Prayer while hula hooping! See if you can say it all before your hoop falls!

HULA HOOP STATION

See if you can recite the entire Lord's Prayer while hula hooping! Can you say it all before your hula hoop falls? (Once kids have completed this challenge successfully, they can just

hula hoop for fun OR you can challenge them to recite a different prayer or song...
Whatever you like!)

MURAL STATION

Draw something you'd like to pray for. This might be inspired by someone else's drawing that's already there. Maybe you'd like to make the drawings connect by building off of what someone else started!

YARN PRAYER

Gather in a circle. One person will start with the ball of yarn and give thanks to God for something. They will then toss the yarn to someone else in the circle, who will also give thanks to God and pass the yarn along. Keep going until everyone has shared and the yarn web is complete (you should be the last person the yarn gets tossed to). Tell everyone that not only does prayer connect us to God, it connects us to one another because we lift each other up in prayer and give thanks to God for one another. Close by saying, "thank you God for everyone!" and have students toss the yarn up in the air. If you have extra time, you can replay with a name game – have students say someone's name and then toss the yarn to them. See how fast you can go!

CHALK AFFIRMATIONS

Before you begin, ask students to tell you different things they can pray for. When someone says "other people" or something like that, ask how we can pray for other people. After they brainstorm, help them realize that one way to pray for other people is by reminding them that they are a beloved child of God. One way we do this is by affirming! We can also pray for other people by thanking God for them. Using chalk, write affirmations on the Moose driveway for summer staff. They can draw positive pictures or write affirming statements that encourage or thank God.

PIPE CLEANERS

Create something with ONE pipe cleaner that represents a prayer you have for the world. When everyone is done, share what you created. If you have time, lead the group in a prayer that lifts up everything they wanted to pray for/created.

WRITTEN PRAYER

Have students write a prayer on a piece of paper. They can put their name on it or leave it anonymous. They can write a prayer about anything they like. When they are done, have them fold their sheets of paper in half and collect all of their prayers. If there is time, you can pray over all of them thanking God for this time and lifting up their prayers and thanking God for hearing what's on our hearts.