



3rd - 5th

May 11-12, 2013

DATE

Prayer

LESSON TITLE

John

WHERE TO FIND IT

We can praise God, repent, ask God for what we need, and hear from him.

MAIN POINT

schedule

Hang out with kids (10 minutes): Ask kids about their week. Get kids into groups and play games together.

Large Group (30 minutes): Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group. And don't be afraid to redirect kids who aren't!

Small Group (20-30 minutes): Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. *If you all have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.*

tips

When you move from one activity to the next, set kids up for success—tell them what you expect from a good audience in Large Group, and how to participate well in Small Group.

check-in/out

As kids leave, remind them to tell their parents what they learned about prayer this morning.

large group heads up

Today is all about prayer. Kids will walk through the PRAY process (praise, repent, ask, yield) as a large group and hear the story of John and how he heard from God. **To prepare to guide kids through the process in small group, think of a kid-friendly example of praise, repentance, asking, and listening that you can share!**



instructions

Goal: to guide kids through the prayer process again, and engage each of them in praising, repenting, asking, and listening

Why? Regular prayer is an important part of following Jesus and building a relationship with him.

Tip: Participate in today's activity with the kids by writing kid-friendly examples for each type of prayer. It'll be a great model for them!

small group

CONNECT

1. What was the best part of your week? (If you've already connected with your small group before large group, move on to question #2.)
2. Did you learn anything new about prayer today? Or what was the best thing you learned about prayer today?

REVIEW ACTIVITY

3. (Hold up the Scripture verses, 1 by 1) In large group today, we learned what we can talk to God about. Let's review together:
 - a. **READ:** Psalm 150 (that reminds us to **praise** God together)
 - i. **DO:** Give each kid a **post-it note**; let them write something they're thankful for/want to praise God for—stick them on the verse.
 - ii. PRAISE together by reading the post-its aloud
 - b. **READ:** Matthew 4:17 (God wants us to **repent**—say we're sorry and stop doing wrong things—start following Jesus)
 - i. **DO:** Give each kid a **post-it note**; let them write something want to repent (tell God they are sorry) for—stick them on the verse.
 - ii. REPENT together by reading the post-its aloud
 - c. **READ:** Luke 11:5-13 (God wants us to **ask** him for the things we need.)
Anything you want to ask God for?
 - i. **DO:** Give each kid a **post-it**; let them write something they want to ask God for—stick them on the verse.
 - ii. ASK together by reading the post-its aloud
 - d. **ASK:** What else does God want us to do while we pray? (Hint: not just talk to him, but also...**listen** to him!)

e. **READ:** Jeremiah 7:23

- i. **DO:** Spend a minute listening together
 - ii. Ask the kids if they heard anything during large or small group. If they did, write it on a **post-it** and stick it to the picture. (*Since not all kids will feel they heard from God, don't force each to try to write something on a post-it. Assure them that it's okay if they didn't hear from God—but encourage them to keep listening because God does want to speak to each of us.*)
 - iii. Share what God has said!
4. How did John hear from God? (he saw a picture God wanted him to share with others)
 5. Do you guys have any questions about prayer? (assure them that we can talk to God about anything)
 6. Why do you think God wants us to pray? (He wants relationship with us!)

***Pray together, thanking God that he wants us to talk and listen to him and asking him to help us hear his voice this week.**

...Extra time? Choose the activity that best fits your age/group:

1. On the **extra white paper**, have kids draw a picture of their favorite place to talk to God (*but remind them that they can talk to God anywhere!*). They can also write the reference to their favorite verses from today, so they don't forget!
2. Bring a group game to the table and play it together.
3. Play telephone to practice listening.

LARGE group



special notes

You may have noticed that today's large group doesn't have any Bible verses. That's because kids will be using LOTS of Scripture in small group. Check out the small group activity to get a holistic view of the lesson!

presenter tips

We're talking about how Jesus taught us to pray, which includes four things from the acronym "PRAY": praise, repent, ask, yield (listen). Use repetition to really cement it in their heads!

script

Hey everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club! It's great to see you here. Today, let's see if we can guess what we'll be talking about. I'm going to show you *part* of an image. If you know it, stand up. I'll show you a little more...and a little more...until someone guesses. Ready?

(Show 1st image.) What do you think? Any guesses? (Let kids guess, but should still be difficult.) **Show 2nd image.** How about now? (Let kids guess. Then **show 3rd image**) Now, what do you think? What will today be about? (Let kids guess. Then **show 4th image**—should clearly be folded hands. Let kids say: prayer!)

INTRO: PRAYER

(Show 5th image.) Yes, prayer! And sometimes we think we have to use big words or fold our hands or kneel down when we pray. It's great to kneel and fold our hands sometimes, because it helps us focus and bow before God in worship...but we can pray anytime, anywhere. Praying is actually just talking—and listening—to God!

You can talk to God just like you do to your best friend. In fact, he wants us to pray so we can build our relationship with him. But sometimes, it can be hard to talk or listen to God. So today, we're going to talk about FOUR (hold up 4 fingers) ways we can pray.

PRAISE

(Show picture of earth.) First of all, we can **praise** God! That's like worshiping him. We can tell God we love him or thank him for who he is or that he is powerful enough to create the entire world! I like to praise/thank God for... *[Insert personal kid-friendly example that fits your age group—can be some part of God's character, a special pet or friend God put in your life, a favorite food or part of nature, etc.]*



script continued

Let's hear some of the things YOU guys want to praise God for. **Turn and tell a friend about one thing you are thankful for.** It can be anything! (Let kids turn and tell a friend. Then ask a few kids to share. If they share "things" like video games or ipods, that's okay. Point it back to God by reminding them that God gave us minds that can think and create.)

Wow, God is pretty amazing, isn't he?! And he loves it when we talk to him about how great he is or how great the things he made are.

REPENT

So God wants us to PRAISE him. And you know what else God wants us to do? (**Show picture of earth and mad kid.**) He wants us to REPENT. Raise your hand if you're ever gotten in trouble for making a bad choice (make sure to raise your own hand!). ...Yeah, me too! We've all been in trouble before.

But guess what? God actually *wants* us to tell him when we've done something wrong—or even if we *feel* like doing something wrong. Then we can do what's called "repenting," which means we tell God we're sorry—and *turn away* from the wrong choice we've made or want to make. He'll always forgive us and love us, even when we mess up!

ASK

(**Show picture of earth, mad kid, and help sign.**) So we can PRAISE, we can REPENT...and if we need help with something like help getting our homework done—or we need something like food to eat or even extra joy when we're feeling sad...Can we ASK God for things we need? (Let kids say: YES.)

Definitely! What's one thing you want to ask God for? **Turn and tell a friend one thing you want to ask God to give you or help you do.** (Let kids turn and tell a friend. Let a couple share if you have time.)

REVIEW

So we can tell God about how great he is or how great the things he made are...that's called what? (Let kids say: PRAISE)

Yep! And we can tell him when we've messed up or feel like making a bad choice...and ask him to forgive us. When we turn away from bad choices, what's that called? (Let kids say: REPENTING)

And we want him to help us or give us things we need, all we have to do is...what? (Let kids say: ASK.) . Wow, do you think there's anything we CAN'T talk to God about? (Let kids say: no) NO WAY! God LOVES it when we talk to him—about *anything*!

YIELD

But you know what? God doesn't JUST want us to talk to him. (**Show picture of earth, mad kid, help sign, and headphones.**) He wants us to sit quietly and LISTEN to him too. Some people call it "yielding." Does anybody know what it means to "yield"? (Let kids say: "give in.") Yes, it means to "give in" to what God wants.



script continued

Because it doesn't count as listening if we just hear something; the kind of listening God wants us to do means listen AND obey! For instance, if your mom asked you to clean your room and you heard her, but ignored her, would she say you were listening to her? (Let kids say: NO WAY) Of course not! She wasn't trying to see if you could *hear* her—she was asking you to obey!

Since God doesn't usually talk in a booming voice you can hear, it can be hard to really listen. So to learn more about this, we're going to turn to the Bible and look at the story of a guy named John. As you watch John's story, [see if you can figure out how God spoke to John.](#)

Video: God's Story / John

God speaks to all of us in different ways, but what's one way he spoke to John? Does anybody know? (Let kids respond.) Yes, God showed John a picture that he wanted him to share! And did John share it? (Let kids say: yes!) Yes, he heard God—and really listened by obeying!

Guess what? God wants to speak to YOU, too. He might show YOU a picture he wants you to share...or remind you of a verse in the Bible...or you may hear a voice in your mind that you know is God's! We're going to practice listening in a minute. But first, let's see if we can name all four ways to pray: (***show picture of earth, mad kid, help sign, and headphones*** and let kids say: PRAISE, REPENT, ASK, and LISTEN—or yield)

WORSHIP

Great job! Let's stand and praise God together by singing!

Music Video: You can Pray Anytime (can just watch video and sing along if desired)
Song: Before I Go, I Stop (learn hand motions ahead of time)

PRAY

Ask the kids to sit quietly; then ask God to speak to them. Give them a few seconds of quiet to listen. Then thank God that we can talk to him and listen to him.



This page left blank intentionally.

name

This page left blank intentionally.



PREP needs



small group supplies

Per small group: (the 4 pages listed below should each be a different color)

- 1 Pray sheet (PDF in curriculum folder; please on brightly colored paper)
- 1 Repent sheet (PDF in curriculum folder; please on brightly colored paper)
- 1 Ask sheet (PDF in curriculum folder; please on brightly colored paper)
- 1 Yield sheet (PDF in curriculum folder; please on brightly colored paper)
- Enough sticky post-its for each kid to get 4
- Markers
- Extra white paper for drawing

large group supplies

Bible

a/v needs

1. Image: prayer1 (jpeg in curric folder)
2. Image: prayer2 (jpeg in curric folder)
3. Image: prayer3 (jpeg in curric folder)
4. Image: prayer4 (jpeg in curric folder)
5. Image: prayer5 (jpeg in curric folder)
6. Image: earth (jpeg in curriculum folder)
7. Images: earth and kid in trouble (jpeg in curriculum folder)
8. Images: earth, kid in trouble, and help wanted sign (jpeg in curriculum folder)
9. Images: earth, kid in trouble, help wanted sign, and headphones (jpeg in curriculum folder)
10. Video: God's Story / John (please remove the "pray" intro from the Strong Journey)
11. 4 images slide again: earth, kid in trouble, help wanted sign, and headphones
12. Music Video: We Can Pray Anytime (on vimeo if difficult to find on public drive)
13. Song: Before I Go, I Stop (K-5 song slides)

special room set-up

None

connect questions

Tell me some ways we should pray.
How did John hear from God?

parent page

Prayer is just talking and listening to God. But it's an important part of following Jesus and building a relationship with him. We talked about how to pray and learned about a guy named John, who talked to and heard from God regularly. Read about him together in John, in the Bible, or watch a video about John on CrossroadsKidsClub.net.