



Kindergarten-2nd

May 11-12, 2013

DATE

Prayer

LESSON TITLE

John

WHERE TO FIND IT

John talks to God—and listens to 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

Tip: After kids each write praises, repentances, requests, etc. in today's activity, pray them aloud together!

Why? Regular prayer is an important part of following Jesus.

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 **pictures**, 1 by 1) In large group today, we learned what we can talk to God about. Let's review together:
 - a. DISCUSS: What does the tree remind us to do? (**praise** God; thank him for what he made or who he made)
 - 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 tree.
 - b. DISCUSS: What does the kid in timeout remind us of? (God wants us to **repent**—say we're sorry for the things we've done wrong or things we're thinking about doing wrong)
 - i. DO: Give each kid a post-it note; let them write something they want to repent (tell God they are sorry) —stick them on the picture.
 - c. DISCUSS: What does the kid doing homework remind us of? (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 picture.
 - d. DISCUSS: What else does God want us to do while we pray? (Hint: not just talk to him, but also....**listen** to him! Then pull out the ear picture.)

(Continue on the next page)

- i. DO: Spend some time listening. Afterwards, ask the kids if they heard anything. 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.)*
4. How did John hear from God? (he saw a picture that 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. What do you guys like best about talking and listening to God?
7. Why do you think God wants us to talk and listen to him? (He wants a 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? Have kids draw a picture of their favorite place to talk to God (but remind them that they can talk to God anywhere!) Or bring a group game to the table and play it together.

LARGE group



special notes

Today's Bible story is the story of John, but it really centers around prayer. Without asking kids to memorize an acronym, we're going to walk them through "PRAY": praise, repent, ask, and yield.

presenter tips

The script is designed to lead kids through a corporate prayer exercise, but without them knowing it—and without it feeling like 20 minutes of prayer.

script

Hey everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club! It's great to see you here. Who's excited to be at Kids' Club? (Let kids respond; build excitement.) Me, too! And today's an especially exciting day, because we're going to talk about how we can talk—and listen—to Jesus.

Does anybody know what it's called when we talk to—or listen to—God? (Let kids say: praying!) That's right! And today we're going to talk about prayer.

GOD WANTS TO HEAR FROM US

First of all, did you guys know God *wants* us to talk to him? He does! He wants to hear about *anything*! Let's play a little game. I'm going to show you some pictures. If you think God wants you to talk to him about these things, give me a "thumbs up". If you think God doesn't want you to talk to him about it, give me a "thumbs down". Ready?

PRAISE

(Show picture of an oak tree.) What about a cool tree you see in a park or soft grass you sit in? Does God want you to tell him you like it? (Let kids give a "thumbs up.") Yes, he does! God created trees and grass—and everything! And he **LOVES** it when we tell him about how great we think the things he made are, whether that's grass or mud...or people we love!

Does anybody know what it's called to tell God we love him or thank him for good things he made or thank him that he is more powerful than anything? (Let kids say: praise or worship.) Yes, it's called praising or worshiping God! 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?! He created so many great things. And he loves it when we talk to him about how great he is or how great the things he made are, even things like trees or pieces of grass (refer back to the picture). Now let's look at another picture. Give me a "thumbs up" if you think God wants us to talk to him about what's in the picture.

REPENT

(Show picture of kid in time out.) Uh-oh, looks like this kid is in trouble. Raise your hand if you're ever gotten in trouble (make sure to raise your own hand!) Yeah...me, too. We've all been in trouble before. Do you think God wants you to talk to him about it? Thumbs up or down? (Let kids give a "thumbs up.")

He sure does! He 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! Pretty cool, huh?

ASK

Alright, let's do one more. **(Show picture of a kid doing homework.)** What if we need help with something, like our homework? Or maybe we want God to help us find our dog or bring us a new friend when we're lonely. Can we *ask* God for things we need? Thumbs up or down? (Let kids give a "thumbs up.")

Definitely! What's one thing you want to ask God for? **If you want, turn and tell a friend what 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.)

YIELD

So we can talk to God about how great he is or how great the things he made are...we can tell him when we've messed up or feel like making a bad choice...we can even ask him to help us for things or give us things we need. Hmm. 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!*

But you know what? God doesn't **JUST** want us to talk to him. He wants us to sit quietly and **LISTEN** to him too. Sometimes it seems like talking to God is easier than listening to him. So we're going to turn to the Bible and look at the story of a guy named John. John loved to talk to Jesus...but he also knew how to listen to Jesus!



script continued

As you watch John's story, see if you can figure out if he heard from God when he stopped and listened to what God wanted to say to him.

Video: God's Story / John

It's pretty amazing that John kept talking and listening to Jesus, isn't it? And when John listened, did God speak to him? (Let kids say: yes.) He sure did! God speaks to all of us in different ways, but how did he speak to John? Does anybody know? (Let kids respond.) God showed John a picture that he wanted John to share with others!

GOD WANTS TO SPEAK TO US

Guess what? God wants to speak to YOU, too. He doesn't speak usually in a booming voice like I am right now—although he *has* done that in the Bible—but 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! Give me a "thumbs up" if you think you can listen to Jesus again (Let kids give a thumbs up.)

WORSHIP

Let's stand and worship God together by singing. Then we'll pray. As we worship, ask God if he has anything he wants to say to you.

Music Video: We can Pray Anytime (can just watch video and sing along if desired)

Song: Before I Go, I Stop

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.



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name



PREP needs



small group supplies

Coloring pages: Phone

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

large group supplies

Bible

a/v needs

1. Image: tree and grass (jpeg in curriculum folder)
2. Image: kid in timeout (jpeg in curriculum folder)
3. Image: kid doing homework (jpeg in curriculum folder)
4. Video: God's Story / John (please remove the "pray" intro from the Strong Journey)
5. Music Video: We Can Pray Anytime (on vimeo if difficult to find on public drive)
6. Song: Before I Go, I Stop (K-5 song slides)

special room set-up

None

connect questions

Tell me what you learned about praying.

How did John hear from God?

parent page

Prayer is an important part of following Jesus, because talking and listening to God is how we build a relationship with him. Ask your child about it. We also 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.