

We Worship God with Our Prayers – Elementary-Teen

Acts 12:1-17

February 2, 2025

Grow in Faith (Info for teachers)

In 1 Thessalonians 5:17, we are told to “pray continually.” In Philippians 4:6, we are told to “bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers.” In Ephesians 6:18 we are told to “offer prayers and petitions in the Spirit all the time.” The message seems clear; we are to pray! Peter’s friends in the early church took these teachings seriously. Peter was in prison, and what could his fellow Christians do? They knew to pray. Prayer can take many forms, and it is likely Peter’s friends did not know specifically what they should pray. They simply knew they wanted safety for their friend. Then, when Peter arrived at the door, he still had a hard time convincing the others he was indeed there. Even though they were praying for Peter, this was not what they had expected.

Prayer is one of many ways to connect to God, and our prayers can be extended to those around us. We might not always know the right words to say or how God will answer our prayers, but prayer is an important way to honor and praise God. Prayer just might lead to the unexpected.

Come Together

Prepare to Learn

Faith Focus – We Discover God Together

Supplies: White board and pens or a large piece of paper

Ask: What do you know about worship? Where do you worship? How do you worship?

Take a moment to write some of the ideas on the whiteboard (or paper).

Say: God wants us to worship alone as well as with others on Sunday mornings. We praise and worship God because we are grateful for everything God gives us. We should seek to view every moment of the day as a chance to worship. (Repeat some of the ideas the kids mentioned which could include Bible reading, prayer, singing, thanking God for creation). When we worship together, we experience God’s joy.

Prayer: *(Ask the kids for names of people or things they want to pray for. Write them down on the whiteboard and use this as the basis for the opening prayer).*

Dear God,

Today we are praying for..... Amen.

Open the Bible

Say: Peter was one of Jesus’ disciples. After Jesus’ resurrection, Peter preached to people about God’s love and saving grace. Not everyone wanted to hear Peter’s story,

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and he ended up in jail. But that did not stop Peter. He kept praying and sharing God's love.

[Watch the video.](#)

In person can watch the DVD for review questions.

Say: God listened to the prayers of the church. When we pray together, we know that God hears our prayers. Sometimes it might feel like God does not hear us. Especially when things are hard. But we know that God will provide helpers to us and keeps watch over us always.

Ask: What are some ways you have seen people pray, and how?

Faith Response

The following activities will depend on your group. If it is a larger group with several younger kids, it can be split, and activities can be done separately. Read through them and decide what works best for your group.

1. Prayer Jar – Craft

Supplies:

- Jar, regular or large craft sticks, decorating supplies such as paint markers, sharpies, stickers, foam shapes, ribbon, etc. letters to spell "Pray".

Instructions:

Say: In our busy lives, sometimes we forget to pray. We might remember to pray for meals or in bed, but we might miss out on the other opportunities to pray. Having a prayer jar helps us be more intentional in our prayer and helps us be closer to God.

Review the different kinds of prayers there are to get kids thinking about what they want to write on their sticks.

A. Adoration (praising/honoring God)

C. Confession/Petition (asking for forgiveness or for something we need/want)

T. Thanksgiving (thanking God for something He has done for us or others)

S. Supplication (praying for others)

1. Have the kids look at the available craft supplies and decide how they want to decorate their jars.
2. Kids can use the "Pray" labels or write their own message on their jars.
3. Using the craft sticks, have kids write things to pray for. They could pick to write out individual names of family or friends, prompts such as "I am thankful for..." or "I'm sorry for...", etc.
4. Place the sticks into the jar to take home. Encourage them to put it in a place where they will see it often and be reminded to pray.

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- 2. Human Knot – Activity** (note: kids did this in the fall so you can move onto another activity if they participated previously).

Instructions:

Say: Praying together as a group helps us solve problems. Today we are going to work together to solve a problem. A human knot!

- Have kids stand in a circle.
- Have each child reach out and take the hands of two different people. These people cannot be beside him or her.
- Have the children work together to try to untangle the knot they've made without letting go of each other's hands.
- Ask: What was hard about this activity? What was most helpful while you tried to solve the problem? How is this activity like praying together and for one another?
- Say: When we communicate our needs and we talk about our problems, other people can help us. When we pray, God helps us with our problems.

3. The Rainbow Game

Grateful for God's Blessings

- Each person takes turns sharing one item they are grateful for.
- Each person draws a circle on their hand in whatever color they choose.
- When it's a player's turn, he or she holds up their hand, and tells what they are thankful for and responds with their color choice. It might be green (grass, trees), red (apples, rosy cheeks, strawberries), blue (water, sky), yellow (sun, lemons).
- The first player will share one of these examples. The next player will repeat that example and add their own and so on.
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Share Your Faith

Say: We can try new ways to pray. We can share our prayers and our burdens together. Let's try a new way to pray together. With today's prayer, we are going to try something called a waterfall prayer. We will all pray together.

Have the children pray out loud all at the same time. If a child is not sure what to pray, have him or her say, "Lord, hear our prayers" when the group is quiet, finish the prayer by saying Amen",