

Lesson 41

Question

What is the Lord's Prayer?

Memory Verse

Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. . . ." Matt 6:9

Answer

Matt 6:9-13

Main Idea

Jesus gave all believers a model of prayer when He taught His disciples the Lord's Prayer

Lesson Outline

Open in prayer

Introduction: Show the children Q41 Illustrations of Learned Skills (RB). Ask them to identify what each person is doing. (Skiing, skydiving, playing the cello, fencing, driving a car.) Tell the children that these are all things that are fun to learn how to do. How would a person go about learning to do one of these things?

Help them to realize that to learn any of these skills, you would need a teacher.

Explain to the children that many things in life need to be taught. The Christian life is all about teaching and learning; we need to be taught to learn and grow as Christians. Introduce Question 41: "What is the Lord's Prayer?" and explain that it allows us to see Jesus teaching his friends how to pray. They said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray," and Jesus used the prayer that we now know as the Lord's Prayer as a model for them.

Activity: Pass out the prayer notebooks. Ask the children to write a prayer inspired by the model of the Lord's Prayer. It should include words of praise, requests about God's work in the world, requests for your needs, a request for forgiveness, and a request for help. 'They can make their prayers more specific than the Lord's Prayer. For example, they can list out more needs than just bread. They can also ask forgiveness for specific sins. Assure them that this is meant for God's eyes alone.

Lesson: Print a copy of Matthew 6:9-13 for each child in the group. Have lots of markers available.

Tell the children that the Gospels record much about Jesus's life and ministry. Explain to them that chapter 6 is part of a long sermon (called the Sermon on the Mount) from Jesus. Tell the children this lesson will focus on the part of the sermon that addresses the practice of prayer.

Jesus reminds those listening to his sermon that prayer is about a personal relationship with God. Remind the children that our attitude matters! Tell them that what we know about God—that he is a loving, all-powerful Father—should affect the way we approach him in prayer.

Pass out the copies of Matthew 6:9-13.

Explain that Jesus taught his disciples how to pray in Matthew 6:9-13, and this prayer should now be used as a pattern of prayer for each believer. Have the children read the Lord's Prayer and ask them to do the following things on their paper:

- = Circle the part of the prayer where Jesus addresses God.
- = Put a squiggly line under the part where Jesus praises God the Father.

= Underline every request Jesus makes for himself and his disciples.

Ask the children some questions to help them see what Jesus is teaching us about prayer.

1. Based on the way Jesus prays, how should we address God in prayer?

Jesus teaches us to address our prayers to God the Father. Christians have been adopted into God's family and therefore can call him Father. The more we get to know him as Father, the easier it will be to pray!

2. What does Jesus mean when he prays that God's will would be done?

Jesus is asking that many people would become Christians and love God with their whole hearts, and that they would act in accord with his Word.

3. Why does Jesus ask for God's name to be hallowed?

This is a way of praising God and saying he should be respected and worshiped above anyone else.

4. Why does Jesus pray for daily bread?

He encourages us to pray for our essential daily needs. This helps us to remember that every good gift is from God. Without him, we wouldn't even have food!

5. What does this model prayer teach us about forgiveness?

If we are seeking God's forgiveness, we must forgive those who have wronged us.

6. Why does Jesus pray that we will not be led into temptation?

Because of our sinful nature, we are easily led astray by sin. We need God's help to recognize temptation and run from it.

Recite: Finish the teaching time by helping the children commit Question 41 and the answer to memory.