

Open my eyes so I can examine the wonders of your Instruction!
(Psalm 119:18)

The Lord's Prayer – Matthew 6:5-15

Prepare to Wonder

Did you know that the Lord's Prayer is prayed all over the world and in many languages? It is a famous prayer that has been important to many Christians. Through Jesus' words and his example, we learn a way of prayer. These examples were provided by Jesus during the Sermon on the Mount as a way of teaching his disciples. However, the focus of Jesus' teaching is not so much on a method of prayer as much as it is on our motivations for prayer and our relationship with God.

This teaching is not all about a formula of how to pray. Rather, it is about connection to God and to one another. This prayer is also special because it is the only time in the Bible when Jesus offers specific words to pray. When we pray these words, we pray not only for ourselves but also for others and for all of God's kingdom.

We learn here that prayer is important and that prayer is for everyone. God wants us to consider not only our own desires in our prayers, but also the desires and needs of others. Children can learn this well-known prayer as a way to connect to the tradition of our faith. Children also can learn that Jesus wants us to pray to connect to God, to ourselves, and to one another. Help the children do more than memorize Jesus' words so they can be guided by Jesus' example and instructions.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

Do you know the words of the Lord's Prayer? Did you memorize the sacred words as a child? If so, recite the prayer now. Practice saying or reading the prayer three times. Then write your own Lord's Prayer.

There are many versions of the Lord's Prayer, and in this lesson your children will learn about a few. Maybe you can share yours with the children when you are done.

Welcome to Wonder

Supplies: CEB Bible, Annual Music CD or song download, optional: Digital Class Pack

- Gather together near your Wonder Table.

SAY: Today's faith word is *guide*.

- Show the children the "Guide" poster (Digital Class Pack).

SAY: Guiding is showing the way, like the light of Christ.

WONDER: Who do you know who is a guide?

SING together

- Use your Annual Music CD or download the song, "Follow As You Go" (<https://www.cokesbury.com/Celebrate-Wonder-Annual-Music>).
- Play the song, "Follow As You Go." Then sing and celebrate.

Wonder with Me

Supplies: CEB Bible, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, optional: Wonder Cube (Digital Class Pack)

READ the Bible Story

- Read the Bible story, Matthew 6:5-15.
- Roll the Wonder Cube. Take time to answer a few of the questions.

WATCH the Bible Story

- Visit <https://www.cokesbury.com/Celebrate-Wonder-Video> to download and watch today's Bible story, or watch on www.amplifymedia.com.

WONDER together

- How is Jesus a guide?
- What part of the Lord's Prayer do you think is the most important?

CONTINUE to Wonder

- What do you use as a guide for your life?
- The Lord's Prayer is a prayer that has specific words. When you pray on your own, what specific words do you always say to God?
- How do you think the Lord's Prayer will be a guide for you in the future?

PRAY together

- Dear God, please be our guide. Amen.

Experience Wonder—Prayer Wall (Collaborative Art)

Supplies: open wall or bulletin board, colored paper, markers, crayons, tape, stapler, stickers, colorful sticky notes, other art supplies of your choosing

ASK: Have you ever heard of a Prayer Wall?

SAY: A Prayer Wall is a special place where people can post things they want others in their community to help them pray for.

ASK: What do you think our Prayer Wall should look like?

- Allow the children to discuss their thoughts on what their Prayer Wall should look like and come to some agreement. (Help them, if needed.)
- Distribute the art supplies (except the sticky notes), and let the children work together to decorate the Prayer Wall.
- Distribute sticky notes. Let each child write something to pray for, and then place the sticky note on the wall.
- Give the children a few minutes to look over their prayers.
- Invite the children to spend a few moments in silent prayer for things they've read on the wall.

Spiritual Practice—Exploring Guidance Through Study

- Gather the children in a circle.

WONDER: What have you learned about prayer today?

- Work around the circle, asking each child one thing she or he would like to pray for. If a child does not want to share, that is okay.
- After each child shares, invite the group to say, "Lord, hear our prayer."
- After you have worked around the circle, say, "Amen."
- Encourage families to use the Celebration Chart (Digital Class Pack) and to read the *Winter 2020–21 Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book* at home this week.