



LESSON 58

1st and 2nd Grade

Principle: How and what to pray.

Bible Character(s): Jesus

Scripture Reference: Matthew 6:5-15



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, read Matthew 6:5-15. Spend the week journaling your prayers. See if you have seen a pattern in your prayers. Do you spend time in communion with God? Do you spend time honoring Him, or is prayer a time to list your needs and wants? God desires fellowship with us, and prayer is an important part of our relationship with Him. Jesus himself went away to pray to the Father while here on earth. It is important for us to be intentional in our prayer life by setting aside time to be still before God in prayer. Prayer is a powerful tool God has given us, and it is important that we are faithful in prayer.

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

Prayer Requests

Ask the campers if they have any prayer requests. List them on a sheet of paper or on the white board. You will pray for these later in the lesson.

Vanishing Vowels Prayer Worksheet

Supplies:

Worksheet – “Vanishing Vowels” side (1 per camper)

Give each of the campers a worksheet and have them work on the “Vanishing Vowels” side before Big Group.



BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts - fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

***Take your cabin flag to Big Group.**

The Bridge to Small Group

Today we will examine how and what to pray, and we will take time to pray together.

Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn in Big Group? How was the staff member preparing to pray? (Treated it as a wish list.) **What did the staff member learn about how God wants us to pray?** (Pray with respect to God, pray to Him and not those around us, pray for God's will to be done, and pray for our physical and spiritual needs.) **How many of you have found yourself in a similar situation as the Staff Member in the skit?**

In our last lesson, we learned about the Beatitudes. Can anyone remember what beatitude means? (Allow responses.) **Beatitude means having contentment and joy all of the time, even when things are hard or sad. We learned about the character traits that God calls us to have. What do these character traits reveal in us?** (They reveal a heart that is filled with a love for God, and are a result of our relationship with Jesus.)

Today we are going to study prayer. We will examine what Jesus said about prayer and see how He taught us to pray. Prayer is more than just giving God a list of things we want.

What is Prayer?



The purpose is to define prayer.

Supplies:

Poster (1 per bin)

Lay the poster out on the table. Have the campers pick out where and what time they think is the best time to pray.

Tie It Together



There is not a specific place or a specific time to pray. God wants us to pray all the time,

anywhere. Do you enjoy talking to your friends and family? (Allow responses.) Praying is talking to God. This is how we communicate with God. We cannot have a relationship with God without talking to Him. Prayer is a gift and a task. It is amazing that we can actually talk to the Creator of all things. It is also important to talk to God so that He can continue to change us into who He created us to be. God is interested in having a relationship with us and desires to communicate directly with us. We do this through prayer.

Let's begin reading the Bible in Matthew 6 [NLT] to see what Jesus said about prayer when His disciples asked Him how to pray.

Matthew 6:5-6

5 "When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. 6 But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you."

How does the passage begin? (Allow responses.) With the word "when." Jesus does not say "if" you pray, He says "when." Praying is important! We do not pray so that others will think we are good. We pray to talk to God out of obedience to Him.

Do we have to pray in our room? (Allow responses.) When Jesus says, "go into your room" He is saying that we should spend time praying by ourselves. We need to spend time with God without others around.

In verse 6, Jesus says that God "will reward you." In our last lesson about the Beatitudes and character traits God calls us to have, we talked about different rewards that God has promised His followers. Do you remember what some of these rewards were? (Allow responses.)

God Rewards



The purpose is to look at how God rewards us.

Supplies:

Worksheet – "Rewards" side (1 per camper)

Have campers turn to the Rewards Worksheet side of the worksheet. Have them circle the rewards that God gives us.

Tie It Together



Our ideas of rewards can be very different from the rewards that God wants to give us. God's rewards are so much better than anything else we could ever get! When we spend time talking to God in prayer, our relationship with Him will grow. We will experience His blessings more and more. There is no better reward than that!

Let's continue reading the Bible in Matthew 6.

Matthew 6:7-8

7 “When you pray, don’t babble on and on as people of other religions do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. 8 Don’t be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!

We do not have to say a lot, use big words, or repeat ourselves over and over when we pray. What matters is that we want to talk to God and spend time with Him. God already knows what we are thinking, so He does not need us to use big words or pray a really long prayer. He wants to spend time with us as we pray so that we learn to trust Him more.

How do we talk to God, who created all things and is all-powerful? The next few verses give us an example of how we can pray. Listen as I read the Bible.

Matthew 6:9-13

9 Pray like this:

*Our Father in heaven,
may your name be kept holy.
10 May your Kingdom come soon.
May your will be done on earth,
as it is in heaven.
11 Give us today the food we need,
12 and forgive us our sins,
as we have forgiven those who sin against us.
13 And don’t let us yield to temptation,
but rescue us from the evil one.*

This is called the Lord’s Prayer. It is much more than just a list of our wants and needs. There are a number of things that Jesus taught us. There are many different parts of this prayer. Jesus uses this prayer to show us how to pray.

Prayer Bookmark



The purpose is to examine the different parts of prayer.

Supplies:

Prayer bookmark (1 per camper)

Give each camper a bookmark. Use the guide below and talk through each section to help the campers understand how God wants us to pray.

- Prayer

Prayer is all about you and God. Jesus taught us to pray about everything, to never give up praying for things we feel are important, and to always have faith when we pray. God hears our prayers.

- Praise

The first element of prayer is praise. God is holy, loving, and our personal heavenly Father. We need to praise Him for who He is and what He has done for us. Matthew 6:9

- Hope

We need to pray that God's plans are accomplished here on earth and that we can be a part of His plan. Matthew 6:10

- Depend

Jesus wants us to depend on God for our needs everyday. He is our provider. He knows what we need for today. We can pray for the things we need and trust that God will give us what we need. Matthew 6:11

- Forgive

If you believe and trust in Jesus, God has forgiven you of your sins. This is not something you deserve, but we have a gracious, loving God. Because God has forgiven you, you can freely forgive others. God wants us to continually repent of our sin and ask forgiveness. Matthew 6:12

- Obey

We need to pray for God's help to do what is right. We are tempted to choose to do what is wrong; we need to pray that God will give us the strength to do what He wants us to do. Matthew 6:13.

Tie It Together



Each time we pray, our prayers will look different. Sometimes we might be praising God for who He is, other times we might be sad and spend time telling God how we are feeling. You do not have to always include every part of this model in your prayer. We need to spend time praying in all of these ways, but we do not have to cover all five parts each time we pray. You might walk outside one day and see a beautiful sunset. You can praise God for creating something so beautiful. You can ask God to help you on your test right before you take it. Your prayers will look different each time you pray. The most important thing is that we choose to spend time with God in prayer, and pray with a heart that is focused on Him. God knows what is in our heart, and He knows when we are praying from a sincere heart.

Guided Prayer Time / Loving Others Through Prayer



The purpose is for campers to practice some different parts of prayer and spend some time thinking about people they can pray for.

Supplies:

Prayer bookmark (1 per camper)

Take a walk around the building and have campers silently praise God for the things they see. When you return to the classroom, have them share what they praised God for. Then have the campers find a corner or spot on the floor and choose another element to silently pray for (hope, depend, forgive, obey). After a few minutes, have the campers turn to the back of their bookmarks. Ask them to spend a few minutes writing down the names of different people they can pray and thank God for, and any specific requests for each person.

Tie It Together



God created us to be in community with one another. He designed community and fellowship so that we can learn more about Him from one another, encourage and love one another, and be united in God's Kingdom. Part of what that looks like is spending time in prayer for others. We can love others by praying for them and the specific things going on in their lives. One way to remember to pray for others is to make a list of things that others have either asked you to pray for them, or you feel God leading you to pray for them. You do not have to keep a list, but it is a helpful way in reminding you of others' needs.

Closing Prayer



The purpose is for the camp counselor to model a prayer for the campers.

Supplies:

Campers' prayer requests from before Big Group

Depending on the age and number of campers, the prayer time can be opened up to campers, as well. Use the prayer requests listed during plug-in and spend some time praying for these requests.

Tie It Together



It is important to spend time praying with others as well as time praying by yourself. Matthew 18:20 says, "For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them." God hears our prayers and will draw near to us. Let's spend these last few minutes in prayer with one another. We'll use the prayer request list we came up with before Big Group, and all of you are welcome to add any more prayer requests you would like.



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