

The Model Prayer

Matthew 6:6-13



New Testament 1
Part 2: The Sermon on the Mount

SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 1 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Matthew 6:6-15; Luke 11:1-4

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (James 5:16b).

OLDER CHILDREN: The "Model Prayer" (Matthew 6:9-13)

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site

- ["God's Love"](#)
- ["Prayer Hand"](#)
- ["God Is Listening"](#)
- ["Whisper a Prayer"](#)
- ["Jesus Taught Us How to Pray"](#)
- ["Thanksgiving"](#)
- ["When We Pray for Each Other"](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [Jesus' Birth & Sermon](#) Bible fact cards (provided under "N.T. 1 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)
- Apologetics Press' [Bible Timeline](#)
- "Summary of the Bible" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- "Matthew Chapter Summary" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- ["Map of New Testament World"](#) (provided in map section of curriculum Web site)
- ["Map of Palestine"](#) (provided in map section of curriculum Web site)



PERSONAL APPLICATION:

When we pray, we talk to our Heavenly Father, and how we talk to Him is very important.

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Jesus told everyone how to be a better person; how to act/ behave like God wants us to. Those things are very important. Jesus also knew that it's important to talk to God the right way. He gave us some ways that can help us when we talk with God.

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

We have studied the Sermon on the Mount and know that during those lessons, Jesus gave us some specific ways to be a better person. (Review some of the previous lessons' points. See [N.T. 1 Review Questions](#) for example questions.) Jesus also knew the importance of our being able to talk with God. He spent a great deal of time in prayer to God and wants us to so as well. He gave us some things to include when talking to God.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. In His Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), Jesus told the multitudes that God wanted them to be good people inside and out—to have pure minds that would lead them to act like He did towards others. In chapter six, Jesus told them not to do good things just so others could see them. He said that the religious leaders of the day (the Pharisees) prayed on street corners and made a show of giving to the poor just so others would be impressed and think they were good people. Jesus said they were **hypocrites**. They wanted honor and glory for themselves instead of giving honor to God (Matthew 5:16). Their reasons for praying and giving were wrong, and their attitudes were wrong.



Hypocrite: Someone who pretends to be something he is not. He might act or talk like he is a good person, and he might tell others the way they should be, but he isn't good, and he does not act the way he says others should act. Like someone who wears a mask or disguise to try to hide his true identity, a hypocrite tries to hide who he really is inside. He is insincere, a fake.

2. Jesus told His disciples not to use the same words over and over again in their prayers. He knew that repeating the same things usually means that not much thought is going into what is being said. Anyone (even people who don't believe in God) can memorize a prayer and say it over and over again. But that is not the way to talk to God. Jesus wanted His disciples (and us) to understand that God was their (and our) Heavenly Father. We don't say the same things over and over again to our dads every day when we talk to him, do we?
3. His disciples often saw Jesus pray, heard Him pray, and knew that His conversations with God were very different than the Pharisees' public prayers. They asked Him to teach them to pray. So Jesus gave them an example (a model or pattern) of how they should pray (things they should include in their prayers).

4. **“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name”**: Our prayers are conversations with God, our Heavenly Father. God is with us all the time, and He takes care of us. He loves us even more than our earthly fathers/our dads. Unlike earthly fathers, God cannot do anything wrong; He is holy (set apart as special/different from all others) and His name is holy (hallowed). We should talk to God with respect and reverence, and we should never say His name with anything but respect and reverence. We should not take the Lord’s name in vain or use euphemisms, since that is disrespectful to God (“nice” ways of taking the Lord’s name in vain—e.g., “OMG” = “Oh, My God”; “Goh!” = “God”; “Lawd” = “Lord”; “Geez” = “Jesus”).
5. **“Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”**: The kingdom of God is the Church. When Jesus told His disciples to pray for the Church to come, He was thinking ahead to the time a few years later when the Church would begin (after His death and resurrection, on the Day of Pentecost, in Acts 2). Today we don’t need to pray for the Church to come, but we can pray that many people will become part of the Church (i.e., become Christians). We can also pray for God’s will to be done (i.e., for His plans to be accomplished).
6. **“Give us this day our daily bread”**: When we talk to God, Jesus wants us to remember to thank God for all the ways He takes care of us and to ask for His continued help. God doesn’t give us food and other things we need without us working/doing our part, but as long as we are obeying Him, including praying and thanking Him, He will make sure we have food (see 2 Thessalonians 3:10; Matthew 6:25-34).
7. **“Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors”**: A couple verses after Jesus says this, He explains, “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” A debt is something we owe someone and should pay back. But “debt” can also mean a sin (or trespass) we commit. When we sin, it is like owing God for the time and energy we wasted making a bad choice. We need His forgiveness. We need God to “cancel the debt”—to erase the sin. But He will not do that if we are not willing to forgive other people when they do something wrong to us. (“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy”—Matthew 5:7.)
8. **“And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one”**: We need our Heavenly Father’s help to stay away from people and things that encourage us to make bad choices. “The evil one” is the devil; he is anxious for us to do wrong things because he does not want us to follow God’s rules. And he doesn’t want us to be forgiven when we do make mistakes.
9. Jesus’ model prayer reminds us how important it is to talk to God, what things we should talk to Him about, and the attitude with which we should pray.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for Complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5:

- [“The Model Prayer Coloring Sheet”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- [“Prayer booklet printouts”](#) (provided in activity sheets): For each child, make several copies of the provided silhouette of praying hands to make a prayer booklet. **Or** trace around each child’s hand

and glue to the cover of a booklet of plain pages. Let them draw and/or write on each page something or someone for which they pray (or need to pray). Make sure that a copy of the model prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) is also in the booklet.

- Have a glove for each child. On small cut-out circles or squares of construction paper, have the children draw or write things for which they are thankful. Glue/help them glue the small squares/circles onto each finger of the glove.

1st-2nd Graders:

- Have pockets from an old pair of jeans, or pockets made from construction paper. Copy the following phrases onto construction or colored paper. Ask kids to fill in the blanks and put in the prayer pocket: (1) I love You, God, because... (2) You are _____; (3) Thank you for _____; (4) Help me to _____.
- “[The Model Prayer](#)” crossword puzzle (provided in activity sheets)
- Play Hang-Man with words from this lesson.

3rd-4th Graders:

- Advanced Bible Reader: Have the kids read Matthew 6 and Luke 11.
- “[The Model Prayer](#)” crossword puzzle (provided in activity sheets)
- Play Hang-Man with words from this lesson.

FINGERPLAYS:

“GOD’S LOVE”

God (point up) loves (cross hands over chest) me (point to self).
And He loves you too (point to someone else).
God (point up) knows everything we do.

We can pray (fold hands as though praying)
And talk to God (point up).
He always listens (cup one hand against ear) and never gets bored.

God (point up) is my (point to self) friend.
He’s your friend too (point to someone else).
I (point to self) love (cross hands over chest) God (point up),
Don’t you? (point to someone else)

“PRAYER HAND”

Use the fingers on your hand to illustrate this fingerplay
and help them remember Jesus’ model prayer.

INDEX FINGER: Praise God because He’s #1.
MIDDLE FINGER: Thank God because He gives us everything we need.
RING FINGER: Pray for others.
LITTLE FINGER: Ask for forgiveness.
THUMB: Ask God for what you need.

SONGS:

“GOD IS LISTENING” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*
(Tune: “Frère Jacques”)

God is listening, God is listening, (put your hand to your ear)
While we pray, while we pray. (put hands together as if to pray)
Bow your head so lightly, (bow your head)
Close your eyes so tightly, (close your eyes)
Let us pray. Let us pray.

“WHISPER A PRAYER” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

Whisper a prayer in the morning.
Whisper a prayer at noon.
Whisper a prayer in the evening,
To keep your heart in tune.

God hears our prayers in the morning.
God hears our prayers at noon.
God hears our prayers in the evening,
So keep your heart in tune.

“THANKSGIVING” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*
Tune: “Jesus Loves Me”)

I’m thankful for this home of mine,
Sun and Moon and stars that shine,
My parents’ loving care of me,
And all the lovely things I see.

CHORUS:

Yes, I am thankful.
Yes, I am thankful.
Yes, I am thankful,
For everything I see.

I’m thankful for my cozy bed,
Friends and toys and milk and bread,
For books to read, and songs to sing,
I thank you God for everything.

(CHORUS)

“JESUS TAUGHT US HOW TO PRAY” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “Jesus Loves Me”)

Jesus taught us how to pray, to God our Father everyday;
Morning, noon, and night-time, too. I can pray, and so can you.

Yes, we can pray! Yes, we can pray!

Yes, we can pray; to God through-out the day.

“WHEN WE PRAY FOR EACH OTHER” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “The More We Get Together”)

When we pray for each other,
Each other, each other,
When we pray for each other,
The stronger we’ll be.

‘Cause your prayers
And my prayers
Together make great prayers.

When we pray for each other,
The stronger we’ll be.

The more we love each other,
Each other, each other,
The more we love each other
The happier we’ll be.

‘Cause your love,
And my love,
Together is God’s love.

The more we love each other,
The happier we’ll be.

*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



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Part 2: The Sermon on the Mount

WEDNESDAY EVENING

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SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Matthew 7:7-11

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (James 5:16b).

OLDER CHILDREN: The "Model Prayer" (Matthew 6:9-13)

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF SUNDAY'S LESSON FOR WORDS):

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LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See Sunday morning's lesson

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

When we are seeking God with our whole heart, we can trust God to always provide for us what He knows is best.

INTRODUCTION:

Review Sunday's lesson (see [N.T. 1 Review Questions](#) for example questions).

[N.T. 1 Bible Facts Flashcards](#) (provided under "N.T. 1 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)



POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Briefly review the Model Prayer and its significance.
2. Remember that God is our Father. He knows what we need, and He knows what we want. God will provide us with what **He** knows is best. He doesn't always give us what we **want**, but He has promised to always give us what we **need** as long as we wholeheartedly seek Him and His will (see Matthew 6:25-33). We must trust Him and continue to talk to Him in prayer.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

YOUNGER CHILDREN: Help them make door hangers that say, "Ask, Seek, Knock."

OLDER CHILDREN:

- Give each child a scripture about prayer to look up. Use an egg-timer to give the kids a certain amount of time to find the scripture given. Let each read his/her passage in the order they find them.
- Give some of the kids the scripture references, and give some the written passages. Give them a certain amount of time to find each other and match the references to the passages.

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