



TEACH US TO PRAY

WEEK 3: IN HEAVEN

MATTHEW 6

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OVERVIEW

Main Idea: This series is designed to walk kids through the Lord's Prayer & allow them to memorize it, but also understand its truths and develop a vibrant prayer life! This third lesson will teach kids that God will always hear our prayers even though he may feel far away in heaven.

Suggested Schedule:

- Opening Activities (5-10 minutes)
- Bible Teaching (15 minutes)
- Application Activities (10-15 minutes)

Total Time: ~30-40 minutes

Supplies:

- cups or blocks (something to build or stack)
- Charades cards in printables folder
- Bible
- snack (optional)
- walkie talkies
- cellphone or old landline
- Lord's Prayer Poster

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DETAILS

OPENING ACTIVITIES – 5-10 MINUTES

Description: Remind kids of rules and do a few opening activities to get their brains and bodies working.

Supplies: cups or blocks (something to build or stack), Charades cards in printables folder

Details:

Optional: Have all kids sit in their chairs in a circle – especially good for summertime to change things up from your normal routine!

Say: **Welcome to (your ministry name)! We are continuing our Teach Us To Pray series this morning, learning all about the Lord's Prayer. First, let me remind you about our rules.** (share any details or specific instructions regarding rules and expectations)

As we get started, I have some fun games for us to play!

Choose one or both of the following activities to do.

Activity 1: Tower Building

Supplies: Cups, Blocks, etc.

Provide cups, blocks, or some other stacking material (or a combination of several kinds). Give kids 5 minutes to build the tallest tower they can! They can work together or in small groups. Be sure to help younger kids with stacking and building.

Activity 2: Moving Charades

Supplies: Charades Cards

Have kids form teams of 4-6 people. Each person on the team will get a chance to be the “actor.” They will choose a picture card and act out what’s on the card for the team to guess. After every turn, the team has to take a giant step backwards from the group. The goal is for the group to get further and further away from the actor, and in turn, make the game increasingly different. Play

until each child on the team has had a turn.

BIBLE TEACHING – 15 MINUTES

Description: Teach that God is our Father in heaven. Even though heaven can feel far away, God always hears our prayers.

Supplies: Bible, snack (optional), walkie talkies, cellphone or old landline

Details:

Optional: To help kids pay attention during the Bible Teaching time, hand out snack first! Let them eat their snack while you teach that God is our Father in heaven, and that even though heaven can feel far away, God always hears our prayers.

Ask: **What did you think of our games today? Were they fun?** (allow responses)
I really enjoyed watching everyone build their towers & try to guess what your friends were acting out, even when they were far away!

It can be really hard to talk to people who are far away can't it? That game was tough, but have you ever tried to talk to someone that's not physically close to you? Maybe you've been trying to get your mom's attention when she's in the other room or downstairs? (Allow kids to share examples)

Have you ever wondered if God hears us when we pray? The Lord's Prayer that we have been learning calls God Our Father, which we learned about last week, and then it tells us where God is: in Heaven. Lots of times in church, we talk about the fact that God is in Heaven. But how does He hear us if He's so far away!?

Show kids walkie talkies, cellphone, or landline. **Have you ever tried to talk to someone on a phone and not had a good signal?** (Show cellphone) **Have you ever tried to talk to someone on a walkie talkie and they haven't replied?** (Show walkie talkie)

Sometimes, we might think praying to God is a little bit like that. That He can't hear us if we don't say the perfect words, or because He's too far away. But that's not true!

The Bible tells us that because of Jesus, God hears our prayers! Hebrews 7:25 says this: "He is always able to save those who come to God through him. He

can do this, because he always lives, ready to help those who come before God." (ICB)

We are never too far, too little, too loud, or too quiet for God to hear our prayers. Even though God is far away in heaven, Jesus is always listening - ready to hear us, wherever we are or whatever we're doing. He makes a way for us to talk to God freely!

That's good news! Let's say a special prayer now and remember that God always hears our prayers, even all the way in Heaven.

Invite children to whisper a prayer out loud to God, the whole room at once. Then after a moment, close the group in prayer.

APPLICATION ACTIVITIES – 10-15 MINUTES

Description: Use the following discussion questions and activities to close out your time and encourage kids to explore/apply the day's lesson.

Supplies: Lord's Prayer Poster

Details:

Activity 1: Discussion Questions

Discuss some or all of the following questions, either as one group or in small groups:

- Have you ever wondered if God hears your prayers?
- Do you think heaven is far away?
- Has God ever answered one of your prayers?
- How do you think we can feel closer to God? OR What can we do to feel closer to God?

Activity 2: Lord's Prayer Actions

Read the Lord's Prayer Poster together and come up with ideas to help you remember it (actions, a dance, song, etc.). Divide kids into groups if you have enough and let them have time to do this in each group, then share it with the larger group!

Dismiss using your regular dismissal procedures.