

LESSON 9: SERMON ON THE MOUNT: PRAYER

Leader Guide for Video-Based At Home Lesson

 Matthew 7:7-11

05/24/2020

This Lesson at a Glance



OPENING

Families share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Families ask for a joke, pray, and receive snacks.

Supplies

- Bible
- tissue box
- river rocks (find them in the craft or home décor sections of discount stores)
- gift-wrapping supplies
- snacks (families will need these)

Easy Prep

- Gift-wrap the river rocks in a box.
- Let parents know they'll need a snack for their kids.



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

Families watch a video and discuss the Bible Point.

Supplies

- “The Power of Prayer” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))



MUSIC VIDEO

Families sing songs of praise to God.

Supplies

- “Pray About Everything” (Philippians 4:6-7) (watch or download [here](#))



DEEPER BIBLE (OPTIONAL)

Families grapple with the point of prayer.

Supplies

- Bibles



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Families play a game like “Poop Deck.”



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Families share prayer requests.



TAKE-HOME

Kids receive a take-home page about the lesson.

Supplies

Easy Prep

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• this week’s “Dig In @ Home” handout (1 per child) (download here) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Add your church announcements to the “Dig In @ Home” handout. |
|---|---|

**Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let’s keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



OPENING

Welcome

[5 min]

Supplies

- Bible

Welcome

- Thank kids for joining you online.
- Make announcements.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **We’re learning about the Sermon on the Mount. It’s Jesus’ most famous sermon! It’s called the Sermon on the Mount because he stood up on a hill—or mountain—to preach. Today we’re learning that Jesus preached about how God hears our prayers. Prayer is just talking with God!**

Share

- Tell kids about a person *you* love to listen to and why.
- Have families pause the video and share who *they* love to listen to and why.

Summarize

Open a Bible to Matthew 7, and hold it up. Say: **We all have interesting people we love to listen to. And so does God! God loves to listen to us! God hears our prayers, and he wants to talk with us. Let's see what Jesus said about praying in the Bible. The Bible is one of the ways God talks to us! Everything in it is true, and it's God's Word for us. Let's talk with God right now.**

Pray, thanking God for hearing our prayers.



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

[15 min]

Sermon on the Mount: Prayer (Matthew 7:7-11)

Supplies

- Bible
- tissue box
- river rocks (find them in the craft or home décor sections of discount stores)
- gift-wrapping supplies
- snacks (families will need these)

Easy Prep

- Gift-wrap the river rocks in a box.
- Let parents know they'll need a snack for their kids.

Ask for a Joke

Say: **I have a hilarious joke to share with you! I'll tell you the joke...but only when you ask enough times.**

Play up like you're listening for kids to ask. Say things like: **I can't hear you asking!** or **Keep on asking!** Do this for a while so you're confident kids will have asked several times.

Say: **Okay, okay, I think I heard you asking me enough! Here's my joke:**

Knock knock (pause, with your hand to your ear)

Ach (pause, with your hand to your ear)

Oh my! God bless you! Do you need a tissue? (Hold up a tissue to the camera.)

Say: **You had to ask a lot of times in order to get me to tell you that joke! Let me read you something Jesus said about asking God for help.**

Read Matthew 7:7-8. Then have families discuss these questions. You'll encourage them to pause the video after you ask each one. If you have the capability, you can also put the questions on the screen.

Ask: • **Why do you think Jesus said to keep on asking?**

• **How do you think asking God for help is like asking over and over to hear a joke? How is it different?**

Say: **Jesus wasn't saying God is like a magic genie who will grant our every request if we just ask the right number of times. He was making the point that God hears our prayers. God knows what we need, and we can trust him to hear our prayers and respond with what we need.**

Pray

Say: **Let's try that now. Jesus said to ask, seek, and knock. Let's talk to God about three different things. First, we'll ask God for help. Think of something you need God's help with. Then silently talk to him, asking him for help. Allow time.**

Say: **Jesus also said to seek. That means to look for something. So let's seek peace now. Hold your hands like binoculars as you silently talk to God about seeking more peace in your life. Allow time.**

Say: **Jesus also said to knock. When you go to a friend's house, you knock, and your friend lets you in! When we knock, we're asking to spend more time with God. Let's knock now. Have kids gently knock on the floor, wall, or table as they silently talk to God about wanting to be his friend and spend time with him.**

Say: **God hears our prayers because he's our friend. He cares about what we're asking for, what we're seeking, and when we knock. He wants to hear our hearts. And he'll always respond with good gifts.**

Eat a Snack

Say: **Let's celebrate prayer with a snack! Since we're talking about God's answers to prayer being gifts, I wrapped up a snack in a gift box for you!**

Hold up the gift to the camera, and then open it. Show the contents to the camera.

Say: **Hmm, how can I share this snack with you over a video? I'm not sure. But you know, now that I think about it, maybe rocks aren't a very good snack. This reminds me of something else Jesus said about prayer.**

Read Matthew 7:9-11.

Say: **God hears our prayers. He hears every single one! And when we ask for things that are good for us, sometimes he says "yes." But sometimes we ask**

for things that *aren't* good for us. When that happens, we can still trust God...not to give us what we *want*, but to give us what we *need*. God always knows what's best for us!

Just as a parent wouldn't give you a rock or a snake when you need food to eat, God won't give you something that wouldn't be good for you. And neither would I! Set the rock package aside.

So let's see if your parents can give you a snack that's better than my rocks.

Encourage families to pause the videos and distribute a snack.

Say: **As you share your snack, pause me and say something you might talk to God about that you think *would* be good for you.**

God hears our prayers. We can trust him to take care of our every need, and we can always turn to him as we ask, seek, and knock to find good gifts.



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

[5 min]

The Power of Prayer

Supplies

- “The Power of Prayer” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))

Tip

- Don't have internet in your classroom? That's okay! You can download the videos before class using the “download” button at the link provided, or just purchase this quarter's DVD [here](#).

Discuss and Watch “The Power of Prayer”

Say: **We're learning that God hears our prayers! How do we know that? Well...let's watch a bunch of examples of how God heard prayers in the Bible. As we do, you'll get a turn to pray in different ways.**

Share the link to “The Power of Prayer” so families can watch it.

Have families discuss this question. You'll encourage them to pause the video after you ask it. If you have the capability, you can also put the question on the screen.

Ask: • **Which example of God hearing prayers was the most impressive to you? Why?**

Say: **All throughout the Bible, God heard people’s prayers. Over thousands of years that the Bible covered, God always listened. And God hears our prayers today, too.**



MUSIC VIDEO

[5 min]

Pray About Everything (Philippians 4:6-7)

Supplies

- “Pray About Everything” (Philippians 4:6-7) (watch or download [here](#))

Sing Songs to God

Share the link to “Pray About Everything” (Philippians 4:6-7) so families can watch and sing along.



DEEPER BIBLE (OPTIONAL)

[10 min]

Why Doesn’t God Always Give Us What We Ask For?

Supplies

- Bibles

Set It Up

Say: **Today we’ve been learning that Jesus said if we ask God, we will receive. And listen to this verse.**

Read Psalm 37:4.

Have families discuss this question. You’ll encourage them to pause the video after you ask it. If you have the capability, you can also put the question on the screen.

Ask: • **What does this verse mean to you?**

Say: **So if the Bible says God will give us what our hearts desire, the things that matter most to us, why doesn't God always give us what we ask for? Let's dig in to that.**

Dig Deeper

Ask: • **Share about a time God *didn't* give you what you asked for in prayer.** Share your own example first, and then have families pause the video to share their answers.

Say: **Just because God doesn't always say yes doesn't mean we should give up on praying. It just might mean we think differently about prayer.**

Let's try something. You'll have a conversation with another person in your family. Whichever partner is younger will keep asking the older partner for various snacks you'd like to eat. Don't say anything else...just keep asking for snacks. Older partner, you'll ask questions that help you get to know your partner, such as "What plans do you have this week?" or "What do you like to do in your free time?"

Allow about a minute or so for partners to converse.

Ask: • **How did you feel during this conversation? Call out your feelings!** (Put your hand to your ear like you're listening.)

• **What do you wish your partner had done differently?**

Say: **If you kept asking for snacks, maybe you were disappointed your partner didn't give you what you were asking for. But you were also missing the point of the conversation! You missed out on getting to know your partner because you were focused on asking for things. Imagine if you had a friend who never said anything to you except to ask you for stuff! You probably wouldn't want to keep hanging out with that friend.**

We often think of prayer as asking God for what we want. And that's a *part* of prayer. But if that's all we do, we're missing the point: growing a friendship with God. Prayer is a chance for us to *listen* to God, not just talk. It's a chance to tell God about our day, to ask him questions, and to tell him what we like about him. God hears our prayers because he's our friend who wants to grow even closer with us.

Have families discuss these questions. You'll encourage them to pause the video after you ask each one. If you have the capability, you can also put the questions on the screen.

Ask: • **What are some things you'd talk to a friend about that you never thought to pray about?**

• **How would it feel to talk with God about those things?**

Dig Even Deeper

Say: **The Bible talks about prayer as a conversation with our friend that goes both ways.**

Read Psalm 5:3 and Isaiah 50:4.

Say: **The closer we get to God by talking with him as a friend, the more we'll trust that God hears our prayers—and the more God will change our hearts to show us what we need to pray for.**

God is our friend, so we talk with him like we'd talk with a friend. Sometimes we ask him for things we want or need, and other times we talk about other things or listen to him. No matter what, God hears our prayers. He loves us, and prayer can help us grow to be closer friends with God.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

[5 min]

Listen Up, Sailors!

Play a Game Like Poop Deck

Say: **Today we're talking about how God hears our prayers. One reason God *hears* is that God *listens*—always. Let's play a game that explores how well—and quickly—we listen.**

- Explain you're in the back (aft) of a boat. If families stand near the computer, that's the aft. The opposite side of the room is the front (bow) of the boat. The right side of the room is the

starboard side of the boat, and the left side is port side. As you point to the four locations, have kids repeat with you the location names several times.

- Ask kids to gather in the middle of the room, halfway between the computer and the opposite wall. Tell them you'll call out a location, and they need to move to the corresponding section of the room.
- As kids play, randomly call out actions for them to perform such as hoisting sails, scrubbing decks, and raising the anchor.
- Keep the game moving quickly by calling out a new location frequently. You can also vary your volume.
- Occasionally call out the location where kids are currently standing. Ask if you tricked anyone into moving.

Talk About It

Say: **Well done, sailors. Have a seat—you made it into safe harbor!**

Have families discuss this question. You'll encourage them to pause the video after it. If you have the capability, you can also put the question on the screen.

Ask: • **What did you do to make sure you heard me calling out instructions?**

Say: **When you were busy scrubbing the deck or raising the main sail, it was hard to hear me. When we're busy in life it's sometimes hard to hear God, too.**

But God *always* hears us. God is never too busy to pay attention to us. God hears our prayers!



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

[5 min]

Prayer Requests

Share Prayer Requests

Say: **God hears our prayers. Let's pray together now.**

- Have family members pause the video to share prayer requests.
- Pray: **God, I pray for every prayer request that was just mentioned. I pray for healing, for safety, for peace, for animals, and for any other troubles we're facing. Thank you that you heard all these prayers. We know you'll give us good gifts if we ask, seek, and knock. In Jesus' name, amen.**
- Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.



TAKE-HOME

[0 min]

Dig In @ Home

Supplies

- this week's "Dig In @ Home" handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Add your church announcements to the "Dig In @ Home" handout.

Say: **Thank you so much for joining me online! We've got more family fun for you to do together, so parents, check your email for the "Dig In @ Home" handout! Have a great week!**