

Unit 23 • Session 3

Jesus Taught About Prayer

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Luke 11; 18

Story Point:

Jesus taught people how to pray.

KEY PASSAGE:

John 14:25-26

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What did Jesus teach when He was on earth? Jesus taught about God and His kingdom. He taught that all Scripture is about Him.

APPLY THE STORY

(25–30 minutes)

LEADER Bible Study

Prayer is personal communication with God. Many people aren't sure how to pray or feel uncomfortable praying. To pray effectively, then, we must be taught how to pray. This is why Jesus' disciples asked Him to teach them to pray.

Jesus began with the Lord's Prayer, not to establish the words we should use but to show how we should pray and what we should pray about. Through prayer, we demonstrate our dependence on and faith in the Lord. We should approach God as a Father and pray for His kingdom first and then for ourselves and others.

Then Jesus told a story about a man who went to his friend in the middle of the night to ask for food for a visitor. The friend did not want to be bothered but because the man did not give up, the friend finally gave him what he needed. God is not a sleepy neighbor. If a grumpy friend will reward persistence, how much more so will God! He cares about His children and is happy to give us what we need when we ask.

In a similar way, a human father who loves his child would not give him a snake if he asked for a fish. Will God give us everything we ask for? No, but when we are persistent with our prayers, we can trust Him to answer according to His glory and our good.

Jesus used another parable in Luke 18: A judge was unwilling to grant a widow's plea for justice, but the woman did not give up. So the judge gave her justice. We should not give up praying if we have not received an answer from God. God is not like a wicked judge. When we pray consistently, God will give us justice and He will act quickly.

The BIBLE Story

Jesus Taught About Prayer

Luke 11; 18

Jesus had just finished praying when one of His disciples said, “Lord, teach us to pray.” So Jesus told them, “When you pray, say, ‘Father, Your name be honored as holy. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves also forgive everyone in debt to us. And do not bring us into temptation.’”

Then Jesus told them a story. “Imagine one of you goes to a friend at midnight and says, ‘Friend, let me borrow three loaves of bread because a friend of mine has traveled to visit me, and I don’t have anything to offer him.’ The friend shouts from inside his house, ‘Go away! My family is in bed. I don’t want to get up to help you.’ **Even though the man does not want to help his friend, he will get up and give his friend what he needs because he asked boldly.**”

Jesus told this story to teach the disciples about prayer. He said, “Ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you.”

Jesus asked, “Does any father, when his son asks for a fish, give him a snake instead? Or if the son asks for an egg, does the father give him a scorpion?” Jesus said that fathers who are sinners know how to give good gifts to their children. God is an even greater Father! He gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask.

Jesus told another story—a parable—to teach the disciples to pray without giving up. “In a town was a judge who did not care about God or people. Over and over, a widow went to the judge and asked him to protect her from wrongdoing. The judge did not want to help, but after awhile he said, ‘I will give this widow what she wants so she does not keep bothering me.’”

Jesus pointed out that the unjust judge did what was right because the widow did not give up. “When people cry out to God day and night, will He ignore them?” Jesus asked. “No! He will quickly make things right.” Jesus wanted His followers to have faith that doesn’t give up.

Christ Connection: Jesus taught us to pray. Because of Jesus, we can pray to God as a Father and ask for what we need. We can trust that God is good and loving, and we can count on Him to do what is right.

Bible Storytelling Tips

Use props: Hold up props at appropriate times during the story (bread, an egg, a fish, and so on).

Move around: Move to a different spot in the room to help distinguish between each of Jesus’ stories.

APPLY THE STORY

Session Title: Jesus Taught About Prayer

Bible Passage: Luke 11; 18

Story Point: Jesus taught people how to pray.

Key Passage: John 14:25-26

Big Picture Question: What did Jesus teach when He was on earth? Jesus taught about God and His kingdom. He taught that all Scripture is about Him.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

Key Passage Poster

Show the key passage poster and invite kids to read it aloud together two or three times. Then cover or remove the poster. Begin saying the key passage, one or two words at a time, and then pause.

Prompt kids to supply the next word. Then say the next one or two words. Pause again for kids to say the next word.

Continue through the entire key passage. Invite volunteers to recite John 14:25-26.

Say • Great job, everyone. Memorizing God's Word helps us remember what is true about Him and about ourselves. Keep working on memorizing our key passage this week.

Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

Bibles, 1 per kid

Story Point Poster

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Luke 11. Explain Jesus often went places where He could be alone to pray. Sometimes His disciples went with Him. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Luke 11:9-10.

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

Say • Like the man went to his neighbor for what he needed, God wants us ask Him for exactly what we need. He tells us to ask, seek, and knock.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

Will God always give us what we ask for when we pray? *Lead kids to recognize that the Bible says God gives us what we ask for when we ask according to His will, or His plan. Sometimes God does not give us what we ask for because we ask for wrong things or for wrong reasons, or because He has a better plan for us. We can trust that God is good and loving, and we can count on Him to do what is right.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 John 5:14.)

Why do we pray? *Remind kids that prayer is how we talk to God. We can praise Him, confess our sins, thank Him, and ask for help. Prayer shows our dependence on God and our trust in Him.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Heb. 4:16.)

What can you do when you aren't sure what to pray? *Encourage kids to think of prayer like having a conversation with a friend at the lunch table. We can share our feelings and our thoughts. God knows our hearts and is happy to hear from us. Our prayers don't need to be long or eloquent. Remind kids that the Holy Spirit helps us when we pray.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 34:17.)

Activity choice (10 minutes)

Option 1: Planting a church

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment from Teach the Story.

Say • Some missionaries are called "church planters" because they start churches from the very beginning. They don't

actually “plant” anything, but they begin to worship with a few people and invite others to come.

They don’t even have to have a building that says “church” outside. Kesavan’s church meets in a high school gym!

Let’s act out how a small group of people can become a church.

Assign one kid to be the church planter and stand in the center of the room. Read the following statements, asking other kids to join the gathering in the center.

Continue adding kids until everyone is standing in the center, representing a new church. Encourage the kids to act out the statements as you read:

A church planter prays and asks God to help build a church.

A few friends join the church planter to pray and worship. They usually start meeting in someone’s home.

They invite more friends to come and hear about Jesus. They sing, pray, and fellowship together. They hear stories from the Bible.

As people become Christians, they invite more and more people to come. They baptize new believers and more people start coming to find out about Jesus. Sometimes the group gets so big that they have to move to another building.

Close in prayer for Kesavan’s church plant, Fellowship Church Rouge Park.

Option 2: Prayer key ring

key rings, 1 per kid

pony beads

16-inch lengths of colored cord, 1 per kid

masking tape

scissors

Before the session, prepare a key ring as an example. Give each kid a key ring and a piece of cord. Demonstrate how to fold the cord in half. Slip the loop of the cord through the key ring and tie with a lark’s head knot.

Instruct kids to use masking tape to tape the key ring securely to the table. Invite kids to select several pony beads in different colors, each bead representing someone or some situation they would like to pray about.

Show kids how to thread the beads one at a time onto the cord by crossing the cord through the holes. As kids work, open your Bible and read aloud 1 John 5:14-15.

Option: Review the gospel with boys and girls. Explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions.

Say • **Jesus taught people how to pray.** Because of Jesus, we can pray to God as a Father and ask for what we need. We can trust that God is good and loving, and we can count on Him to do what is right.

Help kids tie knots at the end of their key rings and trim any excess cord. Encourage kids to use their key rings as a reminder to pray.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

pencils

Journal Page

“Prayer Time” activity page, 1 per kid

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:

What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?

What does the story teach me about myself?

Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?

Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?

How does this story help me to live on mission better?

As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas. Then pray, thanking God for teaching us to pray. Thank Him for being a good Father to whom we can go with every trouble, praise, and need.

As time allows, lead kids to complete “Prayer Time” on the activity page. Kids should use the outline to organize their prayers.

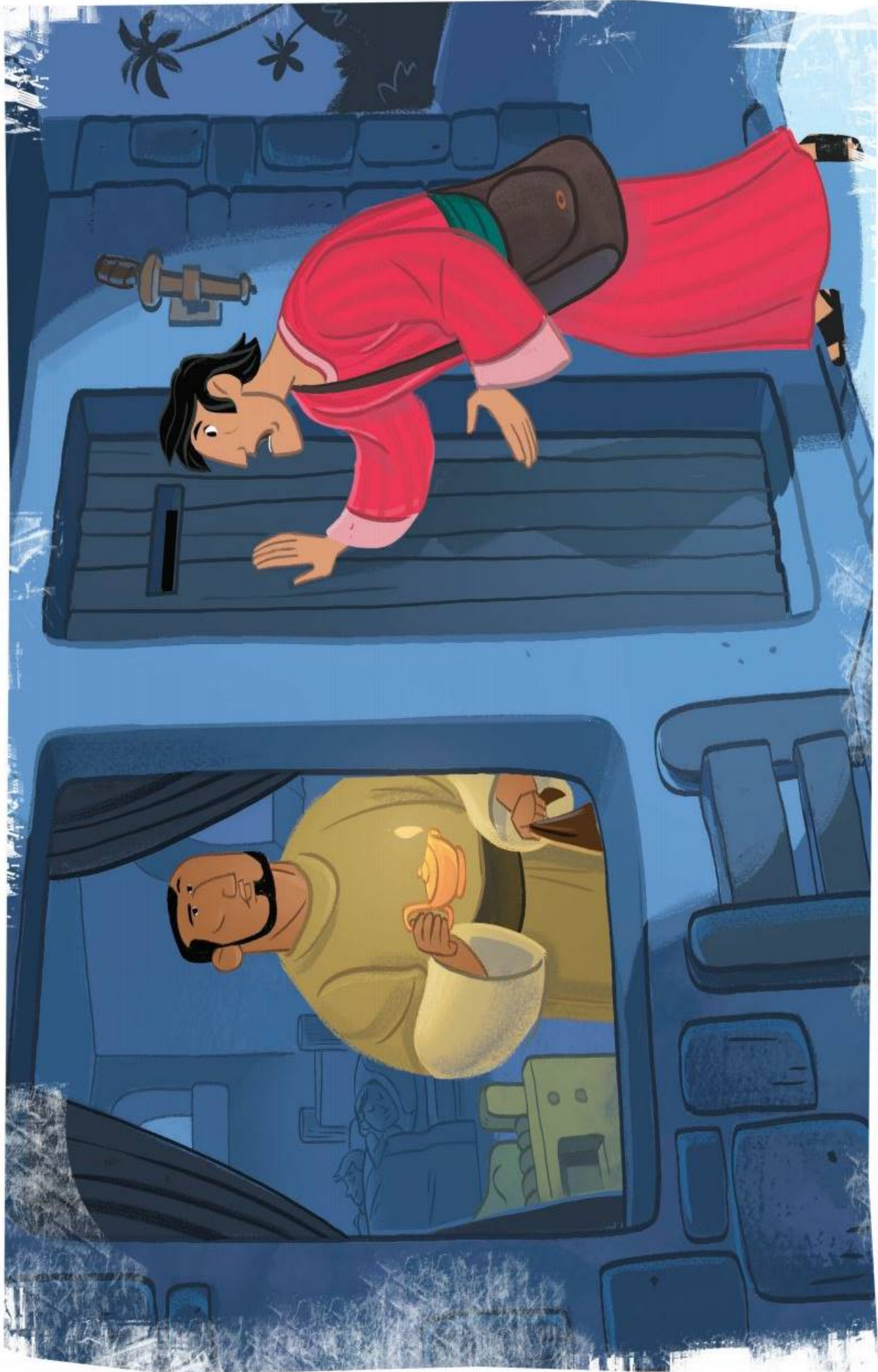
Tip: Give parents this week’s *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.



**“These things I have spoken to you while I
am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy
Spirit, whom the Father will send in my
name, he will teach you all things and bring
to your remembrance all that
I have said to you.”**

John 14:25-26





Jesus taught people how to pray.



What did Jesus teach when He was on earth?



What did Jesus teach when He was on earth?

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God and His kingdom.
He taught that
all Scripture is
about Him.



Journal Page



- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- Discuss a time your family can pray together (mealtimes, bedtime, and so on). Commit to praying regularly.
- What keeps you from praying?
- How do you feel knowing God hears us when we pray?

Jesus Taught About Prayer

Luke 11: 18

STORY POINT: JESUS TAUGHT PEOPLE HOW TO PRAY.

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Then Jesus told a story. "Imagine one of you goes to a friend at midnight and says, 'Let me borrow three loaves of bread because a friend of mine has traveled to visit me, and I don't have anything to offer him.' Even though the man does not want to help his friend, he will get up and give his friend what he needs because he asked boldly."

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Making Connections

Number the ways to communicate in order from oldest to newest.

 television	 telephone	 drawing	 radio	 email	 prayer	 writing	 Internet/ social media
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Oldest		Newest					

Prayer Time!

Use this outline to help you organize your prayers.

God, I confess...	God, I Praise you Because you are...	God, thank you for...	God, Please help...
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