



Luke

Jesus Taught About Prayer

Lesson #3
August 8/9

Lesson Objective: Jesus gave us an example of how to pray.

Activity: *Cookie Face Race*

Supplies: sandwich cookies, stopwatch or timer

Give each player a cookie. The player should tilt their head back and position the cookie on their forehead. When you say “go,” players should try to move the cookie to their mouths using only their faces. Players may not touch the cookies with their hands. Set a timer and announce how much time has passed (30 seconds, 60 seconds, and so on) but allow players to continue until they are successful.

Connect the activity to the Lesson:

Did you ever feel like you wanted to give up? Why or why not? In our lesson today we will hear about a woman who didn’t give up until she got what she wanted. And we learn what this has to do with prayer.

WORSHIP - Choose 2-3 songs to worship together as a family.

Introduction

Prayer is communicating with God. Because Jesus came into the world, died for our sins, and rose again He now sits at God’s right hand in heaven and intercedes for us. That means we don’t need anyone on earth to communicate to God for us. We can go directly to Him through Jesus and talk with God. Isn’t that wonderful news?! But what does prayer sound like? Jesus’ disciples asked Him the same thing. So He taught them a prayer to pray to use as an example. Many call it The Lord’s Prayer. I bet you’ve heard it before. Let’s watch the video and see if you recognize it.

Video: “Jesus Taught About Prayer” – (Video Transcript)

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 those who sin against us. And deliver us from 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.

Read: Luke 11, 18

Debrief

What does the story of the widow and judge teach about prayer? *(The woman did not give up, so the unjust judge did what was right. Jesus taught us to be persistent in prayer, asking God without giving up. God is a just judge; He will always do what is right.)*

Will God always give us what we ask for when we pray? *(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.)*

What can you do when you aren't sure what to pray? *(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.)*

GUIDE

Prayer is essential to a growing spiritual life and relationship with God. Think of prayer like having a conversation with a friend at the lunch table. But God is the perfect friend. He will never betray you or make fun of you no matter what you say. You can be completely honest and open with Him share all of your feelings and thoughts. God knows our hearts and is happy to hear from us. Our prayers don't need to be long or eloquent. And the Holy Spirit will help us when we pray.

Momentum Moment *What Do You Want?*

Supplies: index cards, pencils or pens

Everyone sits in a circle. Give each person a pencil and index cards equaling the number of players. (For eight players, give each kid eight index cards.) Instruct students to number their cards starting with 1. Have draw on the first card something they would like to have. Then tell them to pass their entire stack of cards to the person on their left. Each player will look at the picture on 1, put that card at the back of the stack, and write on the 2 card words to describe what he thinks the drawing represents. Kids will pass the stacks to the left, read the words on the 2 card, move that card to the back, and draw on the 3 card a picture representing the words. Continue around the circle, alternating between writing and drawing, until each kid is holding her original stack. Share at the end.

Did what you got at the end match what you wanted? We don't have to worry about miscommunication when we pray to God. He hears our prayers and knows exactly what we are saying. We might not always get exactly what we want because God knows what is best for us (and sometimes we don't). But we can put our faith and trust in our loving God that He will do what is best for us all the time.