**Worship Theme:**
We can talk to God.

**Weaving Faith Into Life:**
Children will learn that God wants to listen to us, and they’ll look at the Lord’s Prayer.

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<tr>
<th>Session Sequence</th>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
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| **Let’s Praise God!** *(up to 25 minutes)* | Sing  
• “Standing on the Promises” (track 18)  
• “Those Who Hope” (Isaiah 40:31) (track 14)  
• “He Is Powerful” (track 15)  
• “His Mercy” (Titus 3:5a) (track 1)  
• “Are You Going to Praise the Lord?” (track 16) | **KidsOwn Worship Kit:**  
* Songs From FaithWeaver  
**Classroom Supplies:**  
* CD player, cell phone |

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| **Let’s Learn the Point!** *(up to 25 minutes)* | * God Is Always There  
Learn that God will always listen. | **Classroom Supplies:**  
* Construction paper, scissors, glue |
| | **Our Father**  
Do motions to help them remember Jesus’ model for prayer. | **Classroom Supplies:**  
* Bible |
| | **Circle of Prayer**  
Experience prayer as a privilege. | **Classroom Supplies:**  
* Stuffed animal |
### Session Sequence | What Children Will Do | Supplies
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#### Let's Learn the Point! *(up to 25 minutes)*

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| **The Lord's Prayer** | Learn that we can talk to God. | **KidsOwn Worship Kit:**  
**Songs From FaithWeaver:**  
“How You Should Pray”  
(Matthew 6:9-13) (track 11)  
**Classroom Supplies:**  
Bibles, CD player, newsprint, markers |
| * “Prayer!” | Watch a video clip about prayer. | **KidsOwn Worship Kit:**  
**Lesson Videos DVD: “Prayer!”**  
**Classroom Supplies:**  
TV, DVD player |
| * Coin Drop | Contrast God's capacity to listen with the human capacity to listen. | **Classroom Supplies:**  
Paper cups, pennies, knife |

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#### Let's Pray! *(up to 10 minutes)*

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| **The Offering** | Offer their gifts to God. | **Classroom Supplies:**  
Offering bowls |
| **Even When** | Thank God for listening even when they feel unworthy. | **KidsOwn Worship Kit:**  
**Songs From FaithWeaver:**  
“How You Should Pray”  
(Matthew 6:9-13) (track 11)  
**Classroom Supplies:**  
Paper, offering bowls, CD player |
| **Talk From Your Heart** | Tell God what's in their hearts. | **Classroom Supplies:**  
Offering bowls |

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* Starred activities can be used successfully with preschool and elementary children together. Customize your session to fit your needs. You can separate preschoolers and elementary children for Let’s Learn the Point! Or, if you keep the children all together for the entire worship session, we suggest you choose from the starred activities.
This passage begins with Jesus reminding his followers how not to pray. The religious leaders of that time were accustomed to praying loudly on the street corners so that the people would see them as holy and religious. Jesus knew that their prayers were not sincere appeals to God but rather were attempts to build themselves up in the eyes of the people. Instead, Jesus says, prayer is to be between the individual and God—sincere communication that is a direct result of one's relationship with him.

Notice also that in Matthew 6:9, Jesus says this is “how you should pray,” not “what you should pray.” Jesus gives this prayer as a pattern or a form—an outline around which all believers can build their prayers. This pattern may be broken down in different ways, but one way is to break prayer into two basic parts: adoration and petition.

The first verse of the Lord’s Prayer expresses praise for God’s majesty and acknowledges God’s love for us. The very first word of the prayer reveals the relationship to God of the person praying. The word we translate as “father” is an intimate word that might just as easily be translated as “daddy” or “dearest father.” Jesus lets his followers know that they can share in his close relationship with God.

The first petition in the prayer is not related to personal needs. Rather, it addresses seeking what God wants. When we ask for God’s kingdom to come and for his will to be done, we’re asking for God’s purposes to be fulfilled in this world and in our lives.

After we seek God’s will, we then turn our prayer to asking God to fulfill personal, daily needs for food, forgiveness, and freedom from temptation. Not only do such requests seek the fulfillment of our needs, but they also acknowledge our dependence on God. Without God working in our lives and our world, there would be no food or forgiveness. And if Satan were not restricted from tempting us, our lives would be nearly unbearable—just think of the story of Job.

As we learn to pray the way Jesus taught his disciples to pray, keep in mind that Jesus insisted on putting God first. If God isn’t first in our lives, as well as in our prayers, God will not be honored, no matter how eloquently we pray.

**Devotion for Leaders**

Jesus showed us how to pray but, more importantly, he also set the example of putting God first. Everything Jesus did was for God, so it was only natural for his prayer to be focused on praising God and seeking God’s will.

**Weaving Faith Into Your Life:** Think of the last prayer you prayed. Maybe it was a quick, “God, help me impress my boss” or, “Lord, give me patience with my child.” There’s nothing wrong with quick prayers seeking God’s help. But these quick prayers can reveal our real view of God. Consider the motivations behind your last prayer. Did you want to impress your boss or have patience with your child so the other person could see Jesus living in you? Stop and pray now that God would be the center of your life—and your prayers.
**Why We Worship for Leaders**

Today we worship God because we can talk to him. God's availability is not dependent on how worthy we are or how articulate we are. God listens even when we are confused, wrong, or petty. God does not require that we pass entrance exams to enter his presence; he requires only that we talk to him.

We worship God today because God is willing to listen to each of the billions of people in the world. We can go before God with confidence, knowing that he will respond to the cries of our hearts.

**Easy Prep for Leaders**

**Let's Praise God!**—Have a cell phone handy to use as a prop.

“**Prayer!**”—Set up a TV and DVD player, and cue the *Lesson Videos* DVD to “Prayer!” Watch the segment at least once before the worship session so you’ll be familiar with it.

**Coin Drop**—Prepare a 3-ounce paper cup for each child by cutting a slot in the bottom. The slot should be just large enough for one penny to fit through it. Obtain several rolls of pennies.

**Preschool Activities**—Refer to the preschool pages for preparations.

### 1 Let’s Praise God!

Play *Songs From FaithWeaver* as children arrive. Greet children by name, and say to each one, “Think of as many words as you can that mean ‘talk.’”

When everyone has arrived,

**Say** Hello, everyone! Today we praise God because we can talk to him. As you came in, I asked you to think of other words that we could use instead of talk. Let’s substitute some of the words you thought of to see how we can communicate with God. Let the kids share their thoughts.

We can whisper to God, we can chat with God, and we can communicate with God in many different ways. Pick up the cell phone.

**Ask**

- When you call a friend, do you always get to talk to your friend? Why not? (No, sometimes they don’t answer; not if the phone battery is dead or they’re talking to someone else.)
- How is it different when we call God? (He is never too busy for us; he always answers.)

**Say** God is always available. God doesn’t have call waiting. God never lets voice mail pick up. Now that’s a sweet promise from God!
Sing “Standing on the Promises.”
Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say** When I count to three, tell me what you had for breakfast this morning. Everyone call out on the count of three.

After kids tell their answers, ask a child on one side of the room to report what a child on the other side of the room had for breakfast. Ask several other children what children on the other side of the room had for breakfast.

**Say** It’s hard to tell whether there was a problem with the listener or the talker. Let’s try it again. This time, listen really hard. And let’s try speaking a little louder, too. This time, shout out your answer! One, two, three…

Ask for several reports.

**Ask** • If you can’t hear when many people are speaking at the same time, how do you think God can? (Because he is not limited as a human being would be; he created everyone, so he can hear everyone.)

**Say** God isn’t limited by the things we’re limited by. Even when we have something much more important to tell than what we had for breakfast, people are sometimes distracted. They can’t really hear us because other things are going on. But God doesn’t have that problem. He’s never too distracted or too overloaded to hear everybody call on him at once. Can you imagine that?

Sing “Those Who Hope” (Isaiah 40:31).
Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say** God can hear his children anytime, anywhere, no matter how many people are talking to him at the same time. No one else can do that! And that’s just one way God shows his mighty power. Our God can do anything! Let’s sing “He Is Powerful.”

Sing “He Is Powerful.”
Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Ask** • Are there ever times in your life you almost wish God couldn’t hear you? When might you feel that way? (Answers will vary.)

**Say** I have good news for you! God wants to hear about those times, too. God wants us to come to him when we fail. We can talk to God about things we’d be embarrassed to share with anyone else. He wants us to talk to him about stuff we think no one in the world could understand. We can go to God whenever we need a friend or whenever we need help. God will always understand us. Because of his mercy, God sent his Son so we could have love and forgiveness. Let’s sing about how merciful God is.
Sing “His Mercy” (Titus 3:5a).
Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say** Because God loves you, he wants to hear from you anytime, anywhere. Let’s praise God today because we can always talk to him.

Sing “Are You Going to Praise the Lord?”
Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say** Let’s thank God because we can always talk to him.

**Pray** God, we thank you and praise you because you are able to hear our prayers. We don’t understand how you do it, but we are grateful that you care about us enough to listen to us. Thank you for always hearing us so we can talk to you anytime, anywhere, about anything. In Jesus’ name, amen.

### Let’s Learn the Point!

**Preschool Activities, pages 13-14**
At this time, have the preschool leader invite the preschoolers to go to their own room for this section of activities. Tear out the Preschool Activities page, and give it to the preschool leader. Have the preschool leader bring the preschoolers back to participate in Let’s Pray! with the older children. If you prefer to keep all the children together, do the starred (*) activities. They will work well with both elementary and preschool children.

**Elementary Activities**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Say** We’re going to sing our Bible story today! We have a song that comes right from our Bible passage.

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Have children form groups of four. Assign a number (1 through 4) to each group member, and give each group newsprint and markers.

**Say** You can find the words of Jesus’ prayer in Matthew 6:9-13. Have the number One person in your group look those verses up now, and have the number Two person read them. Then, as a group, decide how this prayer could be divided into four parts. The Ones will take the first section, the Twos will take the second section, the Threes will take the third section, and
the Fours will take the fourth section. You should then work independently to decide what your section is saying to God or asking God for. For example, a section of the prayer might be about forgiveness or about honoring God. When we get back together, you’ll each read or say your part of the prayer and the topic you’ve decided it’s about. You’ll have about eight minutes to work. Make notes on your newsprint to help you remember.

Circulate among the children as they work, and make sure each group understands how to categorize parts of the prayer. For example, children could decide that verses 9 and 10 are the first part of the prayer and that they are about honoring God, greeting God, or recognizing who God is. Encourage the kids to consider more than one possibility. After eight minutes, ask the Ones to share the verses their group chose and the category they decided on.

**Ask**

- What are some other things you might say to God that would be in the same category? (Answers will vary.)

Follow the same process for each of the four sections of the prayer: Ask the Twos to share, then the Threes, and finally the Fours. Not all groups will divide the prayer the same way or choose the same themes. Encourage the children to learn from each other. After kids have shared,

**Ask**

- Why do you think Jesus taught the disciples to pray this particular prayer? (He knew what God wants to hear from us; he knew they needed to learn the right things to say.)

- How important do you think the specific words of the prayer are? (Very important if it’s what Jesus told them to say; the exact words are not very important, just the ideas that they mean.)

**Say**

Jesus also taught the disciples how not to pray. In your group, look up Matthew 6:5-8. Find at least two ways Jesus said not to pray. You’ll have about three minutes.

After three minutes, have the kids share how not to pray.

**Ask**

- Why do you think we shouldn’t pray that way? (It is selfish; it doesn’t please God to have that attitude.)

**Say**

God wants us to talk to him. He doesn’t want to just overhear what we’re saying to someone else the way he would hear the person who prays on the street corner. He wants us to talk to him about the things that are really important to us. God knows what we need, but he loves to hear us tell him how we are trusting him to provide for us.

* “Prayer!”*

Show the Lesson Videos DVD segment titled “Prayer!” The video explains what prayer is and encourages children to think of prayer as talking to a best friend. After the video, ask the following questions.
Preschool Activities

Jesus Teaches His Disciples to Pray

Session 1

Matthew 6:5-13

Worship Theme:

We can talk to God.

Easy Prep for Leaders

God Is Always There—Cut one 5-inch square each from red, yellow, and green paper. Mount the squares on a sheet of black construction paper so they resemble a traffic signal. Have a second sheet of construction paper to cover the lights on the traffic signal.

Using Theo

Consider using Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet today in these ways:

- Have Theo lead the preschoolers from the main worship area to the preschool room.
- Have Theo cover the traffic lights in “God Is Always There.”
- See the KidsOwn Worship Kit for a puppet skit written for today’s worship session.

* God Is Always There

Say We’re going to play a game using a traffic signal.

Ask • What does the traffic signal tell us when the green light is showing?
   • What does the yellow light mean?
   • What does the red light mean?

Say In our game, you’ll have to read the traffic signals to know when to talk and when to be quiet. I’ll tell you something to talk about, and you can say anything you think of while I show the green light. The yellow light means “look out.” When I show the yellow light, you’ll know it’s almost time to stop. When I show the red light, you must stop talking right away.

Play the game several times. If a child continues talking when the red light is showing, remind him or her to stop. Have the child say, “Oops, I kept talking.” Then play the game again.

Our Father

Say Jesus knew that sometimes it’s hard for us to know what to say to God. So Jesus gave us some ideas about what to say. Our Bible story today is sometimes called the Lord’s Prayer. Open your Bible to Matthew 6 and show the children.

Jesus told his disciples they didn’t have to say long prayers. He told them, “God knows what you need before you ask him.”

Ask • Who else knows what you need before you ask?
   • Do you usually have to ask your mom or dad for a bath when you need one? a nap? Why not?

Say God knows what’s best for us, just as our parents know what’s best for us. Jesus taught special words to help us remember to talk to God about everything. We’re going to use our hands to help us remember what to pray, so everyone hold up your hand and wave to say “hi.” (Pause.)
Our Father (continued)

When we begin to pray, we greet our Holy Father, God, the way we say “hello” to each other. Jesus taught the words, “Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name.”

Now point to yourself, then point up. Model the action, and have the children repeat it. That reminds us to tell God that we want what he wants. Jesus used the words “Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” Repeat the prayer with the motions. We pray:

Hello, holy God. (Wave your hand.)
I want (point to yourself)
what you want. (Point up.)

Next we pray about something that God knows we need each day. Jesus used the words “Give us today our daily bread,” so let’s use our hands as though we’re eating a sandwich. Model the action. Have the children copy your motion. Then repeat the prayer to this point.

Hello, holy God. (Wave your hand.)
I want (point to yourself)
what you want. (Point up.)
Send us food. (Pretend to eat a sandwich.)

Jesus told us we also need to forgive and be forgiven.

What do we need to be forgiven for?

Circle of Prayer

Have the children sit in a circle. Hold the stuffed animal.

This is my pal, [name of stuffed animal]. We’ll pass [animal’s name] around so everyone can see it. While you hold [animal’s name], you have a special privilege. You can say anything you want to it or nothing at all.

You might say, “I like your fluffy fur,” or “Where did you get those big brown eyes?” Maybe you just want to give it a big hug. When you have finished, pass it on. But here’s the catch: You have to be totally quiet when you’re not holding my pal. Ready?

Have children pass the stuffed animal around the circle.

Let’s put our hands together as though we’re praying to remind us to forgive others and to ask God’s forgiveness. Place your palms together and encourage children to follow your lead.
Repeat the prayer and motions:

Hello, holy God. (Wave your hand.)
I want (Point to yourself.)
what you want. (Point up.)
Send us food (pretend to eat a sandwich),
and forgiveness (Place your palms together.)

Next the prayer Jesus taught says, “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” When we say those words, we are asking God to protect us from doing wrong. Sometimes when mommies and daddies want to protect us, they pick us up in their arms, so let’s cross our arms over our chests as if we’re holding ourselves to remind us of protection.
Model the action, then repeat the prayer.

Hello, holy God. (Wave your hand.)
I want (Point to yourself.)
what you want. (Point up.)
Send us food (pretend to eat a sandwich),
and forgiveness (place your palms together)
and protection. (Cross your arms over your chest.)
Repeat the prayer several times.

Now you have prayed as Jesus taught us to pray. We thank God because we can always pray or talk to God!
What did you learn from this video? (Answers will vary.)
What one thing in this video surprised you the most? (Answers will vary.)
Why do you think people pray in different ways? (Because we are all different; we have different needs from each other.)
What do you think God thinks about different kinds of prayers? (I think he likes it; he made us different, so he knows our prayers will be different.)

Find a partner, and share your thoughts about praying to God. Tell your partner where you like to pray, when you like to pray, or what you like to talk to God about. You have one minute.

Give the children a minute to share thoughts about prayer.

Now talk about these specific questions with your partner.

What's the hardest thing about praying? (Sometimes it seems like God is not listening to me; it's hard to find time to really talk to God; sometimes I just ask for stuff and I know I should do more.)
What's the easiest thing about praying? (You can pray anywhere; I know God listens to me no matter what I say.)
What are five things you think God thinks or feels when you pray to him? (He loves me; he wants to answer my prayers in the way that's best for me; he's happy; he forgives me when I ask him to; he's probably sad sometimes when I don't tell him I love him but just ask for things for myself.)
What are five reasons it's important to pray? (God wants us to; it's how we praise him; I can ask for forgiveness; it's how I talk to God; God gives me answers to my problems when I pray.)

Give the children a minute or two to share. Then regain their attention. Encourage volunteers to share their insights with the rest of the group.

The Bible tells us to pray all the time about everything. That's pretty tough to do with distractions all around us. But God is the very best friend we have. God is more powerful than anyone else in the universe. God promises to listen to our prayers and help us. God wants us to talk to him the way we talk to our best friends or to our moms and dads. Let's learn more about prayer.

* Coin Drop

Give each child one of the small paper cups prepared before worship. Ask the children to turn the cup bottom-side up. Give each child a penny.

As much as our parents, friends, or teachers love us, they are only able to take in so much of what we say. They have other things to pay attention to as well. Talking to them is somewhat
like putting a penny through this slot. The slot is only big enough to handle one penny at a time. Ask the children to put the penny through the slot.

Ask all the kids to tell you about their weekend at one time. Repeat what you were able to hear.

**Say**

I can’t take in what you’re saying if you are all talking at one time. I heard some of you, but I didn’t get all the details from everyone. But God can hear everyone’s prayers at the same time. He’s not limited in the same way your parents and friends are or I am. Watch this.

Turn your cup over and place it in your palm, brim-side up. Pour a handful of pennies in the cup all at once.

**Ask**

• Why was my cup able to take in so many pennies at once? (There was more room; you weren’t limited by the slot.)

• How is this similar to God’s ability to hear our prayers? (He can hear everyone; he’s not limited by anything.)

• Why can God hear everyone’s prayer all at the same time? (Because he’s God; I don’t understand it, I just know it’s true.)

**Say**

Let’s take some time to talk to God. Everyone talk to God at the same time. Ask God to meet one of your needs, or just praise him.

**Ask**

• Why does the almighty God who created the universe want to hear from people like you and me? (He loves us; he made us.)

**Say**

Even though God is almighty, he cares enough about each of us to listen when we pray. Isn’t it wonderful that God loves us enough to listen to us? God is able to listen whenever we pray, and he is willing to listen to us anytime. God is worthy of our praise because we can talk to him.

Let’s all talk to God together with a cheer. Repeat after me:

You’re God! (Pause.) You’re Lord! (Pause.) You listen when we pray! (Pause.) You care. (Pause.) You hear (pause) all that we have to say!

### Let’s Pray!

**The Offering**

**Say**

Today we learned that we can talk to God. We learned that God always listens. We can pray anytime and anywhere, and God will hear us. This is a wonderful gift to us. As we give our offering, let’s give God another gift today. Let’s give God our thanks for listening to us when we pray. As you pass the offering bowl, thank God for always listening.
**Even When**

**Say** Let’s thank God because we can talk to him “even when.” We can talk to God even when we’re angry. We can talk to God even when we’re confused. I will start the prayer, and when I say “even when,” you take turns filling in the rest.

**Pray** Thank you, God, for being a God that I can talk to even when...
Allow each child to fill in the blank. In Jesus’ name, amen.

**Talk From Your Heart**

Set the offering bowls at the front of the worship area.

**Ask** • How would you feel if your mom or dad said the same three things every time he or she spoke to you? (It would annoy me; I would wonder what their problem was.)

**Say** Remember that Jesus said not to go on and on saying the same things over and over when we pray. That lets us know that we need to spend some time thinking about what’s really in our hearts instead of just saying what we’ve heard others say or saying the same thing we’ve already said to God many times before. Give each child a piece of paper.

Let’s talk to God from our hearts. Let’s not just say the same thing over and over. I’m going to give each of you a piece of paper and turn on some music to help you think about the things God wants to hear from us. Tear your paper into a heart shape as you think of some new and different things to say to God this morning—things that come straight from your heart. Then bring the heart to the offering bowl so I’ll know you have finished.


When most children have finished tearing heart shapes, begin to hold up the hearts so the children can compare the differences. Note that, even though they began as identical pieces of paper, no two hearts are alike.

**Say** Even if we start with the same materials—like the prayer Jesus taught the disciples to pray—God hears from each of our hearts individually. Whenever we come to God, he hears what is in our hearts, no matter what words we use. We can talk to God, and he always hears us.

**Pray** Thank you, God. We can always talk to you about whatever is on our hearts. In Jesus’ name, amen.

**Worship Leader Tip**

During quiet prayer times, children are likely to become distracted. To help your quiet prayer times stay more focused, create an atmosphere of prayer. Dim the lights, play quiet music, and tone your presentation down before you go into a prayer session. Ask your helpers not to provide distractions by talking or cleaning up. Time the prayer session so that it ends before parents begin picking up their children from children's church. Preparing children for prayer time will make the time more fruitful.