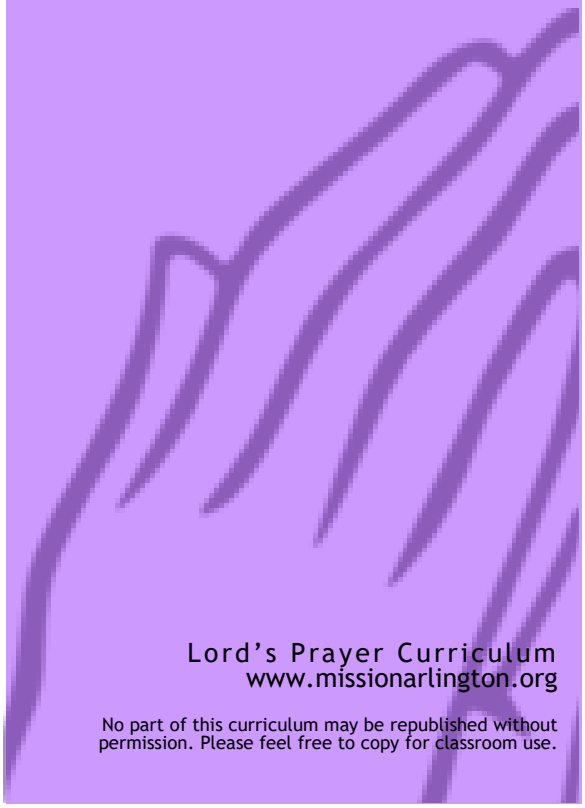
THE LORD'S PRAYER

Modeling Your Prayer Life After The Prayer Life of Jesus



Lord's Prayer Curriculum
www.missionarlington.org

No part of this curriculum may be republished without permission. Please feel free to copy for classroom use.

Lesson 1

When You Pray

Memory Verse:

Be ... faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12

Lesson Goals:

#1 - Memorize the Lord's Prayer.

#2 - Teach the meaning of the Lord's Prayer.

#3 - Encourage students to put into practice what they have learned from the Lord's Prayer.

Audience:

Young, un-churched learners
Adaptable for all ages, including adults (See **For more training** on Activities page)

Scripture to Study:

Matthew 6:5-8 (as background)
Luke 18:1-14
Mark 12:40
I Thessalonians 5:17

Lesson 1

When You Pray

Matthew 6:5-8

How many of you have ever heard the Lord's Prayer? Do you repeat it at church? Has anyone memorized it?

Don't worry if you can't say it from memory or if you've never even heard it. That's what we are here for! We are about to begin a study of the Lord's Prayer.

First, though, let's find out why the Lord's Prayer is in the Bible and learn about some instructions Jesus gave His disciples, and you and me, about this prayer.

In Luke (11:1), we read that one of Jesus' disciples asked Him, "Lord, teach us to pray." So you see, the Lord's Prayer is Jesus' response to at least one of His disciples who saw Him praying and wanted to learn how to pray.

How about you, do you want to learn how to pray? You may be asking, "What is prayer?" Well, prayer is communication between God and His children; it's a conversation. It involves us talking, but also means that we listen. Do you like having a conversation with someone who talks and talks and talks and never leaves time for you to say anything? Of course, not. We shouldn't expect God to listen to us talk and talk and talk with no intention of listening to what He has to say!

So, what did Jesus have to say about prayer? He responded, "**When you pray**…" That means that Jesus expects that we will be praying. God's children, those who belong to Him, should want to talk to Him. Prayer to a child of God is as important as breathing is to humans and animals.

When we pray, what should we do? Well, before we talk about what we *should* do, let's look at what we should *NOT* do. When we pray, we should not be like the hypocrites. What is a hypocrite? It's someone who pretends to be what he is not. Jesus said the hypocrites liked for others to see them praying. They were not nearly as interested in God hearing them as much as they were interested in what others thought about their praying. Jesus said that because of this they had already received the reward they were looking for.

Then, Jesus talked about what we should do. He said, "but **when you pray**, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen." (Matthew 6:6 NIV) Most of your praying should be done in private. Does that mean it is wrong to pray out loud at church? No! But that shouldn't be the only time you pray and you shouldn't be focused on what everyone else thinks of your prayer. We can talk to God anywhere.

Jesus told His disciples another thing they should *NOT* do. He continued, "and **when you pray**, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words." (Matthew 6:7 NIV) A pagan is someone who doesn't know God. You may already know what babbling is; it is repeating the same thing over and over again. Pagans, those who do not know God, babble. They think if they say something enough that they will be heard. Jesus tells us that is not true.

"Don't be like them!" (Matthew 6:8a NIV) So, if praying in public for the approval of others and repeating the same thing over and over again isn't real prayer, what is? We saw a glimpse of the answer in between the *should nots*. Get alone with God. Talk to the One who cannot be seen, but who rewards what you do in secret. You can do this because your Father knows what you

need before you ask Him. You don't need to tell God how good you are or wake Him up with all your words. If you belong to Him, He knows you and He knows what you need.

Is God your Father? We talked about prayer being communication between God and His children. Are you His child? Have you begun that relationship with God? Can you call Him your Father? Well, have you been adopted into His family?

How does that happen? How do you know if God is your Father? Well, you need to understand that God loves you very much. He loves you so much that He gave His one and only Son for you, to die in your place. (John 3:16) You may be wondering why you should have to die. Actually all of us should. You see, all of us have sinned and that sin separates us from God. (Romans 3:23) That sin also has consequences. For sinning and disobeying God, the Bible says that we deserve death. (Romans 6:23) That is where God's great love comes in; while you were lost in sin, Jesus died for you. (Romans 5:8) God has done all the work. But there is something you must do and that is believe, believe that Jesus died in your place and that God raised Him back to life. And when you do, say the prayer that God is waiting to hear from you, agreeing with Him that He is in control and that He saves. Are you ready to make God your father, to call Him "Daddy?"

Read Romans 8:14-17. This is for you, if you have prayed, giving God control of your life with a longing to follow Him the rest of your life.

YOU can PRAY like Jesus, too!

What a lesson! We have learned that Jesus' disciples wanted to learn to pray. Do you want to learn how to pray, too? You have learned about two things you shouldn't do in prayer and one thing that you should do. Can anyone remember either of the things Jesus said you shouldn't do? 1) Do not be like the hypocrites who seek others' attention. 2) Don't babble like those who don't know God. Well, what *should* you be doing? First of all you should be praying. It is a given that you will talk to God if you belong to Him. And when you talk to Him, where should you go? Jesus tells us to go into our rooms and close the door. Does that mean your room is the only place you can pray? No! It does mean that prayer is a private conversation with God. Prayer can certainly be public, but we can run the risk of thinking about what others think. Prayer is to be focused on the only One who can answer us and that is God, our Father.

Next Week: Pray Like This

ACTIVITIES

- Memory Verse Activity - Make a prayer chain. Print the memory verse, a word at a time, on strips of colored paper. Then on additional strips, write out things you can pray for.

- Make Lord's Prayer Bookmarks. Print out copies of the Lord's Prayer. Be sure to include the reference. Paste these to larger pieces of construction paper, cardstock, foam, etc. Encourage your students to decorate their bookmarks and use them to learn the Lord's Prayer.

- Review the Roman's Road, or another plan of salvation, with any students who are interested.

- Make prayer reminders or start prayer notebooks for each student. Provide a place for notes up front. Then provide a place for the date and the prayer request. Make sure there is room to make notes and write a date when the prayer is answered.

- **For more training:** Review the lesson and compare and contrast it to Luke 18:1-14 and I Thessalonians 5:17. Discuss the difference between being persistent and babbling on, as well as the difference between the prideful Pharisee and the humble tax collector. Talk about how you can be in the habit of always praying with meaning.

- For more training: Read 1 Kings 18:16b-39. Discuss the different ways of calling out to one's god exhibited in these verses. Contrast Elijah's prayer to the show put on by the prophets of Baal. Discuss how these verses give us examples for our lesson.

Be

FAITHFUL

in

prayer.

Romans 12:12

Modeling My Prayer Life After Jesus

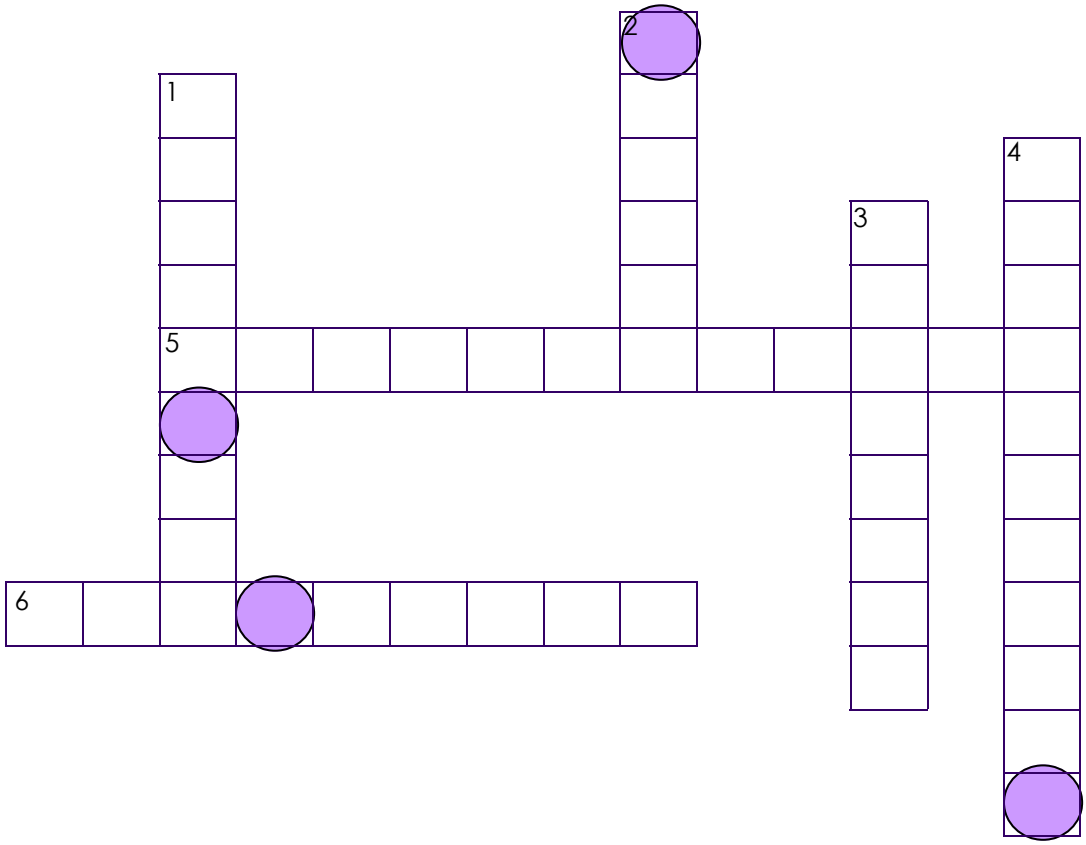
Lesson 1: When You Pray



Be faithful in prayer.
Romans 12:12

HIDDEN MESSAGE

Can you crack the code to the cross word puzzle to find the Hidden Message?



DOWN

1 Someone who pretends to be what he is not. _____
2 People who don't know God. ____
3 Our memory verse says, "Be ____ in prayer." Romans 12:12
4 What did Jesus repeat 3x? ____

ACROSS

5 Prayer is a ____ with God.
6 Prayer is as important as ____.

The disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to ___ ___ ___ ___ .

WORD SEARCH

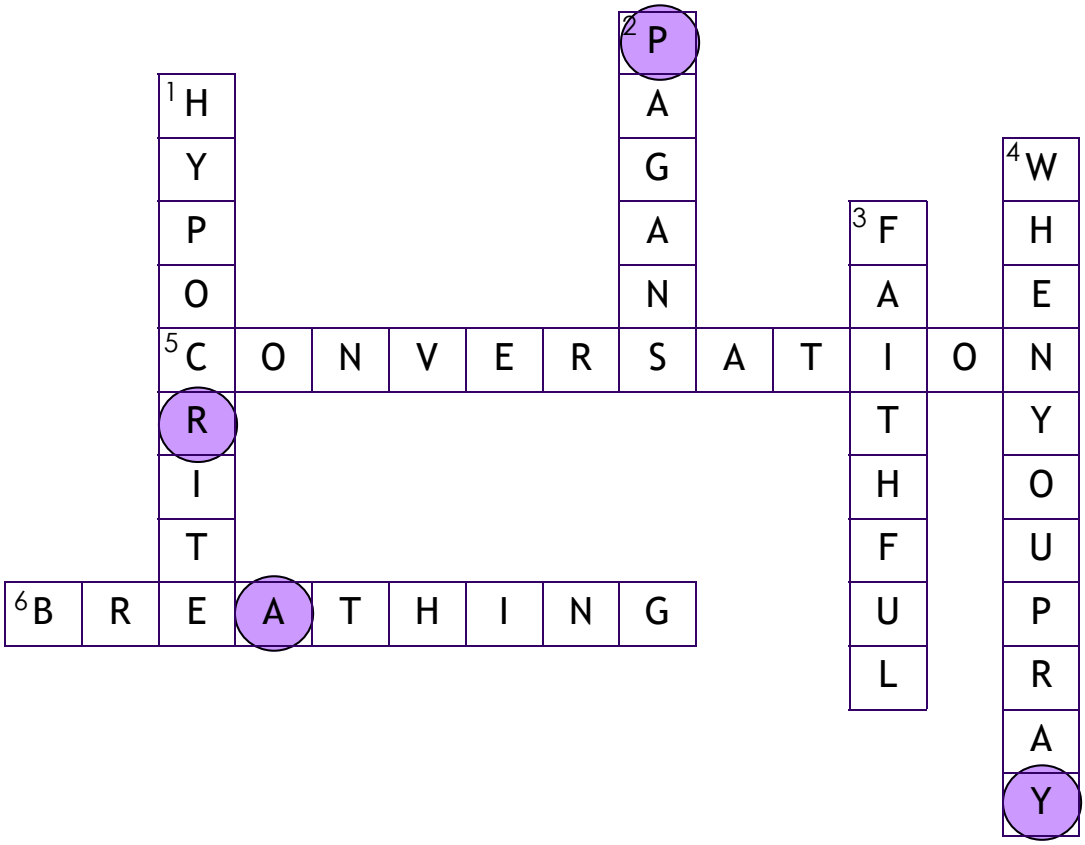
I R C N F F E R I T G E O
N E J A B L E N I E C L R
W H E N Y O U P R A Y B C
M T S E L I S A H C R B R
X A U L E A B S A H A A S
E F S E P T M A T U X B M
P R E L P M A E E S D T G
G U W O H S R O F T O N E
O O N I R C S O F O R O T
D Y O C E A M P L P F D R
R Y G S A C A N E R R R P
A P N B E L C R O A S M A
E I X C D O G O T Y A R P
F D I S C I P L E S F F O
X A E M L P S D O D G B E

- Jesus
- disciples
- teach us to pray
- when you pray
- not for show
- don't babble
- in secret
- pray to God
- your Father

Answer Page

HIDDEN MESSAGE

Can you crack the code to the cross word puzzle to find the Hidden Message?



DOWN

1 Someone who pretends to be what he is not. _____
2 People who don't know God. ____
3 Our memory verse says, "Be ____ in prayer." Romans 12:12
4 What did Jesus repeat 3x? ____

ACROSS

5 Prayer is a ____ with God.
6 Prayer is as important as ____.

The disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to ___ ___ ___ ___ .

Answer Page

WORD SEARCH



- Jesus
- disciples
- teach us to pray
- when you pray
- not for show
- don't babble
- in secret
- pray to God
- your Father