



## LESSON 1 FOR LEADERS

### INVITATION

*We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...*

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Teaches Us How to Pray

**SCRIPTURE:** [Matthew 6](#)

**WORD OF WONDER:** [From Psalm 66:19–20](#)

Take a moment to read [Matthew 6:5–13](#).

It's clear that the disciples knew about prayer. As Jewish men, they prayed often. Prayer was woven into their daily lives. But Jesus taught them to pray differently. He prayed with intimacy and confidence.

Jesus' prayers went way beyond rote repetition of familiar phrases. It was as though Jesus was talking with God, not at Him, and the disciples sensed the love that fueled Jesus' prayers.

That is what they wanted in their prayers. Not duty, but devotion. Not performance, but passion.

We still need Jesus to teach us to pray. If you're unsure that's true, ask yourself this: If someone was eavesdropping while you pray, how would they describe your relationship with whoever's on the other end of your words? Do you sound as though you're speaking with someone you know? Someone you love? Are you reciting or communicating?

I ask not to shame you (or myself—we're in this together!) but because in this lesson you have a choice: You can present the Lord's Prayer as a formula for prayer or as an invitation to intimacy with God.

Doing the first gives kids useful, straight-from-Jesus information—and that's great. But also doing the second gives them permission to open their hearts to God.

And that's when prayer really begins.

—**Mikal Keefer**

Children's Ministry Volunteer

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#### DID YOU KNOW?

#### FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

##### WHO?

Matthew is the first of the Gospels in the New Testament. While Mark emphasizes Jesus' miracles and Luke highlights Jesus' care for the poor and oppressed, Matthew focuses most on Jesus' practical teaching ministry

##### WHAT?

[Matthew 6](#) is part of Jesus' famous Sermon on the Mount ([Matthew 5–7](#)), one of the five major speeches that Jesus gives in this Gospel. In this speech, Jesus helps His disciples understand what true fulfillment of God's law looks like.

##### WHERE?

Matthew's Gospel does not tell us exactly what "mountain" Jesus gave the sermon on. An elevated location was ideal for giving speeches to large crowds, as it allowed everyone to see Jesus and hear Him speak.

##### WHEN?

The Gospel of Matthew places the Sermon on the Mount immediately after describing Jesus' miraculous ministry in Galilee ([Matthew 4:23–25](#)).

##### CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Matthew's Gospel portrays Jesus as the prophet like Moses who was promised in Deuteronomy: "He will be one of their own people. I will put my words in his mouth" ([18:18](#)). Like Moses, Jesus instructs God's people on how to obey God and communicate with Him ([Matthew 5–7](#)).



## Curiosity

### LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

*Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.*

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#### Curiosity Activity: Needs Versus Wants Relay

**SUPPLIES:** disposable water bottle, block house or dollhouse, several clean items of clothing, a few pieces of play food, a few toys, a few stuffed animals, candy, party hat, baskets or buckets (2), paper (2 sheets), marker, tape

Ahead of time, gather various supplies that represent things we need (water bottle, play food, shelter or dollhouse, clothing) and things we may want (candy, party hat, toys stuffed animals). Put them all in a pile and use a marker to write “NEEDS” on one sheet of paper and “WANTS” on another sheet. Tape each sheet to a basket or bucket and set the two baskets or buckets on the other side of the room.

**Today we’re talking about prayer. Jesus teaches us how to pray, and one of the things He tells us is that we can ask God to give us what we need. Let’s play a game to figure out which things we need in order to live and which things we may just want. I’ll hold up objects and you decide whether each one is a need or a want. A need is something we must have in order to stay alive. A want is something we just hope to have.**

Point to each basket and read the sign on it. Even kids who can’t read can look at the signs. If they need help remembering what the sign says, station a leader at the baskets to help.

**We’ll line up, and when it’s your turn, you’ll pick up an item, run down to the baskets, and place the item in the “needs” or “wants” basket.** When talking about homes and shelter for living, keep in mind that not all kids live in a house; some may live in apartments or with other families.

Once kids have put all the items in the baskets, review the items and discuss with the kids whether each one is something we need to live or something we may just want to have.

10:45 Service



## Belief

### LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

*Guide kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.*

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### Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God’s big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, we are so glad we can talk to You! Thank You for being there to listen to us. Help us learn how to talk to You. We invite Your Holy Spirit to be with us. In Jesus’ name, Amen.**

### God’s Big Story

Pull out the Bible.

Ask: What is this called? *The Bible*

Ask: Why is the Bible important? *Because it is God’s word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.*

#### TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Read from the Big Picture Bible p 323

The Lord's Prayer

**Word of Wonder**

**WORD OF WONDER**

**But God has surely listened. He has heard  
my prayer. Give praise to God.**

— Psalm 66:19–20a

Our Word of Wonder is from **Psalm 66:19–20**. We're learning what it means to pray and how we can talk to God! God always listens to our prayers. He is never too busy or tired. We can always talk with Him. Jesus teaches us how we can pray.

Jesus says our prayers should include praising God, asking God to forgive us for our sins (the wrong things we do), asking God to help other people, and asking for what we need ourselves.

We're going to practice saying the Word of Wonder together.

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What does our Word of Wonder say God does?** (*He listens and hears our prayers.*)
- **How does it make you feel to know that God listens to you and hears your prayers?**



## Faith

### LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

*Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.*

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#### Craft: Prayer Sensory Books

**SUPPLIES:** construction paper (3 sheets per kid), scissors (prep only), hole punch (prep only), binder rings (1 per kid), markers, scour pads (1 per every 2 kids), soft fabric (3" x 3" piece per kid) or yarn (3" piece per kid), cardboard (3" x 3" piece per kid), aluminum foil (3" x 3" piece per kid), assorted buttons (5 different types per kid), glue or hot glue gun (leader only), string (optional, 1 small piece per kid), stapler and staples (optional)

Ahead of time, cut construction paper in half and put into books with six pages each. Use a hole punch to create a hole at the top left corner of each piece and use a binder ring to connect the six pages together. Instead of a binder ring, you can simply tie string through the hole or staple the books together. Make one book per kid. On the front, write "My Prayer Book." Cut the scour pads in half, then cut the fabric into small square pieces so there is one for each child. Cut the cardboard box and aluminum both into 3" x 3" square pieces, enough for each child to have one of each.



Give kids the supplies for their prayer books. Each child will need one binder-ring connected paper book with six pages, five different buttons, one half of a scour pad, one square of fabric, one square of cardboard, and one square of aluminum foil. Set out glue and markers for kids to share.

Encourage the kids to follow along with you as you guide them in assembling their prayer books.

**Today we're learning how Jesus teaches us to pray. We are going to make a prayer sensory book to help us remember some of the things Jesus teaches us to pray about! You can take this book home and use it to remind you how to pray.**

## 10:45 Service

**On the first page, we will glue down the buttons. These buttons will remind us that just like they are all different, there are so many different things we can praise God for. We can praise Him because He helps us. We can praise Him because He loves us, He is good, and He is kind. Like buttons connect pieces of clothing, prayer connects us to God.** Encourage the kids to glue the five buttons to the first page of their paper book. If regular glue doesn't hold the buttons, you can use a hot glue gun (adult only) to glue the buttons (and the following supplies) onto the paper.

### **Make It Inclusive!**

Sensory books that involve interactive movement and a variety of textures can be helpful for kids with sensory processing disorder or ADHD by alleviating anxiety and allowing for sensory play and self-regulation. You can even offer more sensory experience by adding water and glitter to an empty bottle and sealing it shut, then allowing kids to pray calmly as they watch the glitter.

**On the next page, we will glue the soft fabric or yarn. It's almost like a blanket, which keeps us warm when we're cold and gives us something to snuggle. This will help us remember to ask God for the things we need and go to Him for comfort.** Encourage the kids to glue the or yarn to the next page.

**Next, we will glue down the scour pad. When you feel it, it is rough and scratchy, and it doesn't feel very soft. This reminds us that when we sin and make bad choices, it doesn't feel good, but we can ask God to forgive us for those things!** Encourage the kids to glue the scour pad to the next page.



**Next, we will glue down the pieces of cardboard. Is cardboard hard or soft? Allow the kids to respond. Yes, hard! We probably know people who are going through hard times and need God's help, so we can pray for them.** Encourage the kids to glue the cardboard piece to the next page.

**Last, we will glue down this aluminum foil. It is kind of like a mirror. When we look into a mirror, we see ourselves. This reminds us to pray for ourselves. We can ask God to help us forgive and love others, do what God wants us to do, and follow God!** Encourage the kids to glue the aluminum foil to the last page.

**Leader Tip:** Have a leader available to help the kids glue and assemble books as you go through the talking points for each page. You can even use the book to pray with the kids.

**You can take your books home to help you remember ways you can pray!**



## Identity

### LESSON 1 EARLY CHILDHOOD

*Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God’s wonder.*

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### Responding in Worship: Prayer Stations

**SUPPLIES:** toy musical instruments, glue sticks or tape, play food, clean blanket, clean clothing items, posterboards (2), markers, mirror

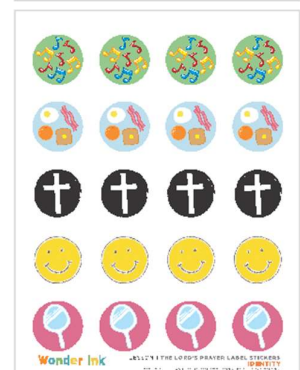
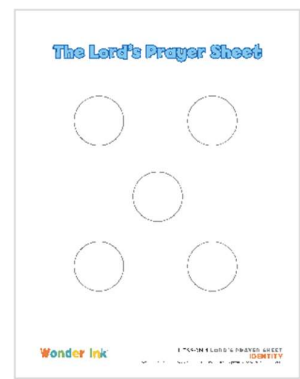
**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** [Lord’s Prayer Sheet](#) (1 per kid), [Lord’s Prayer Labels Sheet](#) (1 of each label per kid), music from the [Power of Prayer Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Print the [Lord’s Prayer Sheet](#) so you have one for each kid and the [Lord’s Prayer Labels Sheet](#), so you have one label for each kid. You can print this page on a round sticker template (1½" round stickers; 20 per page) or you can cut these out; you’ll need one of each image per kid. Put each image at the corresponding prayer station so as kids travel around the room, they can glue or use tape on their picture for that station. Draw simple cross on a posterboard and draw simple stick figure people on the other posterboard.

Set up five prayer stations around the room:

- Praise—Set out toy musical instruments, musical note labels glue sticks, and play music from the [Power of Prayer Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#).
- Needs—Set out the play food, a clean blanket, clean clothing items, food labels, and glue sticks.

Kinder – Power of Prayer – Lesson 1 – May 5





## 10:45 Service

Forgiveness—Set up a posterboard with a cross drawn on it. Also set out the cross labels, and glue sticks. Others—Set up a posterboard with people pictures drawn on it. Also set up the smiley face labels, and glue sticks.

Others—Set up a posterboard with people pictures drawn on it. Also set up the smiley face labels, and glue sticks.

- Self— Set out a mirror, mirror image labels, and glue sticks.

At each station, kids will practice praying for the five categories above. Once they have prayed, they will use the provided glue stick and glue the label for each station to one of the circles on their Lord's Prayer Sheet.

**Let's do a fun activity today called Prayer Stations! At each station, you will see some items that will remind you about the things Jesus teaches us to pray for. Take a minute at each station and pray about those things. Remember, praying is just talking to God. After you pray to God at each station, you will glue the label in one of the circles on your paper.**

Kids can go through the stations one at a time or in groups with a leader. You can explain ahead of time what they do at each station, or place a leader at each station to explain as kids arrive.

- Praise—Kids will use the musical instruments to play music to praise God. They will listen to worship music that is playing and can sing and dance to praise and thank God. They can pray and tell God how much they love Him and thank Him for being so amazing.
- Needs—Kids will touch the play food, blanket, and clothing, and thank God for providing for their needs. They can ask Him to continue to provide for their needs.
- Forgiveness—They can look at the cross (or use a marker to draw their own cross) and thank God for forgiving their sins through Jesus. They can confess sins to Him and pray, asking God for forgiveness.
- Others—Kids can pray for people they know who need help.
- Self—Kids can look at themselves in the mirror and pray for anything they want to ask God for.

## 10:45 Service

### Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them and thank God for always listening to us.

**God, thank You for teaching us how to pray. Help us remember that you always listen to us, and we can come to you. Help us remember to praise you and ask for what we need. We love you. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

**Blessing:** May God help you love the things He loves. May He provide for your needs each day. May you forgive others and be forgiven. May He always remind you how Jesus teaches us to pray.