

## **F10. Prayer**

*James 5:13-16*

### **Learning Objectives**

1. The children will recognize that prayer is a way to speak to God and draw near to Him.
2. The children will examine what James wrote about the topic of prayer.
3. The children will recognize that we can pray to God anywhere, anytime, about anything.

**Memory Verse:**            *“But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private.”    --Matthew 6:6 (NLT)*

### **Getting Started**

*Choose One*

#### **Grades K-2**

Connect the dots – Praying Hands:

See: [www.kidssundayschool.com](http://www.kidssundayschool.com) → Preschool → Color pages → “Praying Hands”

You will need to print out a copy of the “connect-the-dots” worksheet for each child and provide crayons and pencils for the children. Have the materials out on the table so that children can begin the activity as they enter your class. You may also want to write the message statement on the bottom of each worksheet before class.

Object Talk – “Things That we can Hear”:

In a paper bag, so the students cannot see, have items that make noise (for example: a whistle, bell, baby rattle, stapler, etc.). These are sounds they should be familiar with. Have the children close their eyes as you have the students guess what item is making each sound.

Explain to the children that all the sounds were different, but we knew them all. God wants to hear us when we pray. We all sound different, but He knows our voices, just like we knew the sounds. God is waiting to hear our voices! (Continue with the lesson.)

#### **Grades 3-5**

Object Talk

See: [www.kidssundayschool.com](http://www.kidssundayschool.com) → Grade school → Lessons → Life Applications - Prayer (Lesson 1) – “As Kids Arrive”

Display the following items on a table: Telephone, Newspaper, Letters & Envelopes, a Road Map, and a radio. As the children arrive, give them a sheet of paper and ask them to list what they think the items on the table have in common. Just before class starts let the kids know that all the things displayed on the table are used to communicate with each other. Tell the children that today we will explore a way to communicate with God – through prayer.

“Prayer” White Board Activity

See: [www.kidssundayschool.com](http://www.kidssundayschool.com) → Grade school → Lessons → Life Applications - Prayer (Lesson 2) – “As Kids Arrive”

You will need your white board or an easel for this activity. (If you have sticky easel paper, use three sheets; or make three columns on your white board; or use three sheets of paper on the table). As the children arrive to class, have them write on the board (or on the sticky paper or papers on the table) adding to any of the three lists: “how we pray”, “where we pray”, or “when we pray”. Let them come up with as many ideas as possible, then share their lists and add to them as much as possible. Continue with the lesson.

**Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions**

**Message:**      ***We can pray to God anywhere, anytime, about anything, AND He wants to hear from us!***

**James 5:13-18 ~ The Prayer of Faith (NIRV)**

<sup>13</sup> Are any of you in trouble? Then you should pray. Are any of you happy? Then sing songs of praise.

<sup>14</sup> Are any of you sick? Then send for the elders of the church to pray over you. Ask them to anoint you with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> The prayer offered by those who have faith will make you well. The Lord will heal you. If you have sinned, you will be forgiven.

<sup>16</sup> So admit to one another that you have sinned. Pray for one another so that you might be healed. The prayer of a godly person is powerful. It makes things happen.

**Additional Background Information for Teachers (from NACI Lesson on Prayer):**

Prayer is an opportunity for us to feel close to God. Praying is described as the “breathing of the soul.” It is necessary for us to pray. If we do not pray, we do not have a living faith. A prayer without faith is also not a real prayer. When we pray, we experience God’s presence and we believe that He hears as well as answers our prayers.

When we pray, we humbly bow before God and allow the Holy Spirit to inspire a prayer within us. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave important instruction concerning prayer (Matthew 6:5-8). We are not to make an outward show of prayer nor are we to use a lot of words. We may address God as “Father”. Prayers should come from the heart. We are not required to pray a certain way. The intensity of a prayer can be encouraged by closing one’s eyes, folding one’s hands, or kneeling. By doing this we are taking ourselves out of the busy activity of daily life to pause and bow before God in humbleness.

As New Apostolic Christians, we are encouraged to begin and end our day with a prayer. We also may pray before meals. We may also turn to God throughout the course of the day in order to feel His nearness and seek His help. In the family circle, children learn to pray as well as develop their own prayer life.

A prayer should include, and generally in this order: adoration and worship, thanks, petitions and intercessions. Our knowledge of God’s greatness prompts us to worship and adore Him. We give thanks for everything that has been given to us spiritually through His word, grace and the sacraments. We should also give thanks for the gifts we receive in our natural lives (such as food, clothing and accommodation). We bring all our concerns to God in our petitions. Such concerns may be in regard to strengthening our faith, angel protection, or help in daily life. The most important petition is with regard to the return of Christ and our longing to be accepted in grace at that moment. When we intercede for another person, we express our love towards our family or neighbor and even those in the beyond. We always close our prayer “in Jesus name. Amen.”

**Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - Continued**

### Discussion Questions:

1. When does James say we should pray? Give three reasons. *(When we are in trouble, when we are happy, and when we are sick.)*
2. What could we pray for when we are in trouble? *(We could pray for God to help or guide us.)*
3. What could we pray for when we are happy? *(We could praise God in our prayers when we are happy.)*
4. What could we pray when we are sick? *(We can pray for God to help make us well, to heal us.)*
5. What can we pray when we have sinned or done something that we shouldn't have? *(We can pray that we are forgiven.)*
6. Why should we pray for each other? *(We can help others by praying for them. Refer to Verse 16 – also the memory verse.)*
7. If we know that someone is really having a hard time with something, what is something that we can ALWAYS do for them? *(PRAY!)*
8. Does God always listen to our prayers, even if He doesn't answer them exactly the way we wanted or asked Him to? *(YES! God is always listening to our prayers. He gives us what is best for us, and sometimes that means not giving us exactly what we ask for. He is our Heavenly Father, He knows what is best, and we need to trust Him completely. This is not always easy.)*

### Additional Discussion Questions:

*Teacher Note: Make a chart or poster as you go through these questions. Put "Service for the Departed" at the top. Have a calendar or 12 squares with the months written on them. As the children identify what months of the year we have this special service, have them come up and color in that square with a marker.*

1. What is the Service for the Departed? *(A special day when we remember souls who have died/passed on, and we pray for them.)*
2. How many Services for the Departed are there each year? *(Three.)*
3. What months do the Services for the Departed take place in? *(The first weekend of: March, July, and November.)*
4. What can we do to help those souls? *(Pray for them.)*
5. When could we pray for these souls? *(Each time we pray, but especially as we approach an upcoming special Service for the Departed)*
6. Why is it necessary for us to remember to pray for those who have died or passed on? *(In praying for them, we pray that the congregation will be a place where they can feel welcome to come. We also pray that our hearts can be filled with love for all souls.)*
7. Does everyone die or pass on someday? *(No – not everyone, because one day the Lord will return and if we have proven ourselves through our good works, by the grace of God we will go with the Lord Jesus to the place that God has prepared for us.)*
8. What does it mean to "prepare our hearts" for the Service for the Departed? How do we accomplish this? *(Answers may vary; we want to have a peaceful heart and do our very best to stay away from the things that might cause our heart to be anything but peaceful. This includes what we watch/see, what we listen to, how we behave at home, praying, etc.)*

### Application to Real Life

## Grades K-2

### When Can We Pray?

Enjoy a healthy snack together. While the children are eating, make a class list of times and reasons why we can pray. Use your easel paper or a poster board, and title it “When Can We Pray?” Examples may include:

|                  |                   |                     |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| When we are sad  | When we are happy | When we need help   |
| To say thank you | Before we eat     | Before we go to bed |

Be sure to post the list in class where you can refer back to it as needed.

### Airplane Prayers

See: [www.kidssundayschool.com](http://www.kidssundayschool.com) → Preschool → Activities → “Airplane Prayers”

Please see the above referenced website for detailed instructions. You will need tables, chairs, blocks or other assorted toys, and an “airplane prayers map” (see website to print). This activity will take about 15-20 minutes, so you will need to allow enough time at the end of class to complete it. This activity is a fun way to teach children about praying for others. You will use the objects (as described in the activity) to create your own airplane and pretend to fly to faraway places, marking your destinations on your map along the way. When you return home again, you will talk with the children about what kinds of prayers the people of the areas they visited might need. Then pray together for the people in those areas, being specific according to the children’s responses during the discussion. This activity will help the children to become more aware of others in the world around them, and to remember to pray for them too.

## Grades 3-5

Remind the children that we can all pray not matter what we are going through in our lives. We can pray to God anywhere, anytime, about anything. The memory verse tells us that our prayers are powerful and that they can make things happen. When we pray, we want to remember to (list these on the easel or white board, have the children write these down or have them pre-printed for the children to take with them):

1. PRAISE God
2. THANK God
3. Pray for OTHERS
4. Pray for ME
5. Ask God for FORGIVENESS for the specific things we have done wrong, and for His help so that we may “do better”.

Allow the children time to go and find a quiet place in the church and pray to God. Encourage them to especially pray for those that are no longer with us on this Earth as we approach the upcoming service for the departed.

### Memory Work Fun

1. Recite the memory verse. Then explain what it means in your own words.
2. Recite and/or review the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm.
3. What is the name of the Holy Sacrament we participate in during every divine service?
4. Ask a volunteer to say a short closing prayer, thanking God for being with us.

### Activity Ideas

*Choose One*

## **All Ages**

### **“What can YOU pray for?” Poster Activity:**

Before class, have hands cut out of construction paper (you can usually purchase these pre-cut at teacher stores, Christian stores, or sometimes even office supply stores on the teacher isle). Discuss with the children what kind of things they might pray for. On each of the hands, write a child's idea for prayer. Then allow the children to use glue sticks to add their praying hand to a class poster (use a large piece of paper or poster board) titled “What Can YOU Pray For?”.

### **Prayer Chain**

Make a prayer chain of people that the children can pray for. You will need many strips of colored paper. On each strip, have the children write down someone (or a group of people) they can pray for. Add it to the chain using a stapler or glue stick. Children can take their chain home and add to it (even with their family) and save it for the next service, or you may choose to make a class chain to hang in the Sunday school area.

## **Grades K-2**

### **Make Prayer Mats:**

See: [www.kidssundayschool.com](http://www.kidssundayschool.com) → Preschool → Crafts → Prayer Mats

You will need a small carpet sample for each child, or a plain solid colored welcome mat will work as well for this activity. You will also need stickers, permanent markers, and paint. Please see the above website for detailed instructions. The children will make their own prayer mats to take home and use beside their bed at home to kneel on and to remind them to pray to God each day. Remember to keep the conversation going as you work. You may also wish to put the memory verse or message statement on your prayer mats as well. Be creative and have fun!

### **“Duck-Duck-Prayer” Game:**

This game is just like Duck-Duck-Goose, only this time you will reinforce the concept of prayer. The child who ends up being “it” must first tell one thing he/she learned about prayer in today's class, or they might also tell one thing they will pray for.

### **Telephone Game:**

Play telephone with the children with simple phrases they can repeat. Examples could be “God loves us all” or “I can say the Lord's Prayer”. Explain that when we pray, it is important to be clear so God can hear what we are saying to him.

## Activity Ideas - Continued

Choose One

### Grades 3-5

#### “Let the Prayers Begin” Skit

See: [www.kidssundayschool.com](http://www.kidssundayschool.com) → Grade school → skits → “Let the Prayers Begin”

You will need copies of each of the three prayer skits and four puppets for this activity. You may also choose to use other props after reading the skits. Please see the above website for the skits and detailed instructions. After each skit you will ask the same three questions about prayer: What did they pray for? What can learn about prayer from the skit? When could we pray a similar prayer in our own lives?

After the skits, remind the children that there are many times that we can pray each day. It doesn't matter where we pray or when exactly we pray, just as long as we DO pray to God each day. He wants to hear from us and He is there to help us.

#### “Answers Without Speaking”

See: [www.kidssundayschool.com](http://www.kidssundayschool.com) → Grade School → Activities → “Answers without Speaking”

You will need a cup of water, a piece of fruit, a hand drawn map of your church, a picture of a stop sign (see website above) and some index cards for this activity. This activity will demonstrate for the children how God answers our prayers without speaking by having the children communicate with each other without speaking and using various objects instead. Please see the above website for detailed instructions.

## Journal

Optional

### Grades K-2

What are some things you are praying for or want to pray for? Draw pictures in your journal or write about those things.

### Grades 3-5 (choose one)

What are some ways you could improve how you pray to God? (Do you need to praise Him more? Ask less for things for yourself? Do you need to prayer for others more? Maybe you need to be less “automatic” and pray more from your heart?) Write about it.

What are you praying for right now in your life or what do you think you need to be praying for right now in your life? Write about it.

## Homework Ideas

- Read at home with a grownup the lesson **Jesus is Born** (Luke 2:1-20).
- Learn the memory verse: *“For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”* --Luke 2:11 (NKJV)
- Work on memorizing commandment #\_\_\_\_\_.
- (Optional for younger children) Complete the **Jesus is Born** coloring and activity sheet as your parents read you the Sunday School Lesson. Return your coloring page for a sticker.
- (Optional for older children) What is the best gift you ever received? Be ready to share in class.

## **Other Resources**

[www.kidssundayschool.com](http://www.kidssundayschool.com) → Grade School → Lessons → Scroll Down to “Spiritual Life” - Prayer

[www.daniellesplace.com](http://www.daniellesplace.com) → Search the Resource Room for “Prayer”



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Jesus is Born



"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior,  
who is Christ the Lord." --Luke 2:11 (NKJV)



## Take Home Page: F10. Prayer

### Today I learned...

Today your child learned that **we can pray to God anywhere, anytime, about anything, AND He wants to hear from us!** The children examined what James wrote about prayer in the Bible. They also talked about how prayer is a way we can speak to God and draw near to Him.

### Help me learn my memory verse...

*“But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private.” (Matthew 6:6)*

### Ask me...

1. When does James say we should pray? (When we are....)
2. Why do you think we should pray for each other?
3. If you know someone is really having a hard time or a bad day, what can we ALWAYS do for them?

### Live Your Faith...

*Praying is described as the “breathing of the soul.” It is necessary for us to pray. If we do not pray, we do not have a living faith. A prayer without faith is also not a real prayer. When we pray, we experience God’s presence and believe that He hears as well as answers our prayers. A prayer should include adoration and worship, thanks, petitions, and intercessions. Our knowledge of God’s greatness prompts us to worship and adore Him. We should give thanks for everything that has been given to us spiritually through His word, grace and the sacraments. We should also give thanks for the gifts we receive in our natural lives (such as food, clothing and accommodation). We bring all our concerns to God in our petitions. Such concerns may be in regard to strengthening our faith, angel protection, or help in daily life. The most important petition is with regard to the return of Christ and our longing to be accepted in grace at that moment. When we intercede for another person, we express our love towards our family or neighbor and even those in the beyond. Prayer strengthens faith and trust in God and provides the assurance of security in God. After praying, we can be sure that all our concerns now lie in the hand of God.*

*Ideas for Discussion Prayer is an opportunity for us to feel close to God.*

*As a family, discuss specific petitions and intercessions that can be included in your family prayers. Make a list together and use that list during your family prayer time this week.*