

Spotlight on Prayer 2



KNOWING GOD

Spending time with God

YEAR 2 – KINGDOM LIFE

UNIT: TALKING WITH GOD

1 | Teacher's Notes (This lesson can be taught as part of Unit 2 – Knowing God)

Scripture Philippians 3:8; Matthew 19:14

Objectives To explain that

- Today's lesson is about talking with God.
- God wants us to know him personally.
- You need to spend time with someone in order to really get to know them. Jesus loves spending time with children!
- Knowing Jesus, our King, is worth more than anything else. He is the most important person of all.
- We spend time with Jesus in prayer and by reading his Word, the Bible.
- Jesus wants to be our best friend. We can tell him anything, anytime and anywhere.

Memory Verse "To know Jesus is worth much more than anything else." (Philippians 3:8b - NIRV)

ACNA Today's lesson of Knowing God is connected to the following Catechism questions:

**Catechism
Connections**

Q154 What is prayer? Prayer is turning my heart toward God, to listen and to speak with him.

Q155 What should you seek in prayer? In prayer, I should seek not only God's provision for my needs, but fellowship with God, who made me for fellowship with himself.

Q157 Why should you pray? I should pray because God calls me to do so, because I was made for fellowship with him, because I need the help of his Holy Spirit, and because he has promised to answer the prayers of his people.

Q159 When should you pray? I should pray at regular times throughout each day, with fellow Christians for prayer and worship, and whenever I am aware of a need for God's grace. And I should learn to "pray without ceasing" as I grow in the knowledge of God's presence.

Q171 How does your Father in heaven help you here on earth? Because God is in all places and knows all things, he hears and answers my prayers, directs my paths, and strengthens me in times of trouble.

**Suggested
Materials,
Props, and
Costumes**

Big story props:

- Large Bible
- The Kingdom Life storyboard (see photo)

Lesson Props: (see Props Document for instructions on how to make these)

- Poster picture of Jesus and the children (available in props document)
- Storyboard symbol: Mini version of the poster picture (Jesus and children)
- Smaller Bible to use as lesson prop
- Handout for drawing (available in props document)
- Colouring pencils (ideally identical set for each child)
- Optional: instrumental worship music playing softly during "quiet time".

Memory Verse: "To know Jesus is worth much more than anything else."
(Philippians 3:8b - NIRV)

(Found on the last page of this lesson plan) Print out and place in large Bible.

2 | Lesson Outline:

Welcome	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
Greeting & Collect for Purity	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity (<i>see Resource Section</i>)
Prayer of Confession	Say the Prayer of Confession (<i>see Resource Section</i>) Extinguish the candles
Music	Jesus loves me this I know I want to know you (City Alight) – chorus only Please check internet for lyrics and music.
Review of foundations	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment. For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section
Reading	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
Story Board Review	Ask review questions relating to props from previous lessons on story board. Story board review is found in Section 4
Props/Costumes	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) Big story props: Large Bible, Kingdom Life storyboard
Bible Story	Proceed with story and prayer found in Section 4.
Related activities	After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.
Preparation for Communion & leaving class	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. See Resource Section.

3 | Storyboard Progression

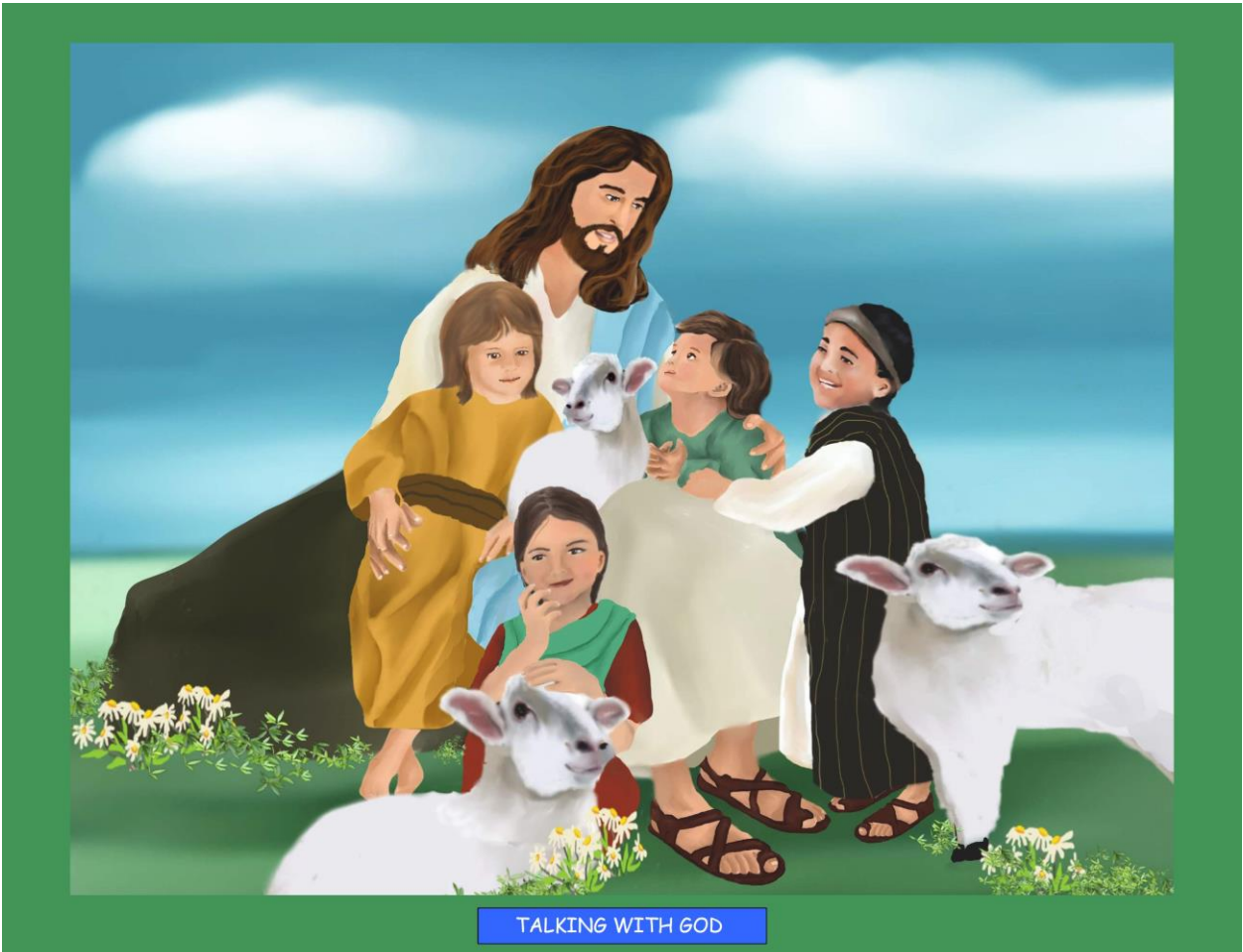


This is how the storyboard should look at the start of the lesson.



This is how the **Talking with God** section should look at the **end** of the lesson.

Start the lesson by looking at this poster:



4 | Story and Prayer

SETUP: *Set up two stations for this lesson: At the first station, have the poster picture (shown above) up on a flannelgraph or a wall. At this station you will also need a Bible, and the drawing handout and the colouring pencils. At the second station, have the Kingdom Life storyboard set up. Start the lesson at the first station.*

POSTER: *(Show the children the poster picture).*

What do you see in this picture?

I wonder how these children got to know Jesus.

I wonder what they are thinking and talking about.

I wonder if we can spend time with Jesus like that.

Let's find out more in our story....

BIBLE: *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Today's lesson is from the Bible, and it is about talking with God in prayer and how we can meet God and get to know him.'*

STORY:

It is very easy to meet God, because he is everywhere. He is right here with us now, and we can **all** know him personally.

Getting to know God is very much like meeting a new boy or girl at school.

TEACHER: How do you get to know someone and become friends? *(Let the children respond.)* Yes, you need to spend time with them, talk with them, do fun things together.

(Point to the poster picture) In our poster picture, the children are spending time with Jesus. He loves spending time with children! In the Bible, Jesus says, "Let the little children come to me...the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to people like them." (Matthew 19:14)

We can get to know Jesus in the same way because he is always with us.

Jesus is the most important person in the world! He is God the Son, our Forever King and Lord of All! And yet, he invites **all** of us to know him **personally!** Isn't that amazing?

TEACHER: Who would like to read our memory verse again? *(Hold up the memory verse and have a student read it.)*

STUDENT: "To know Jesus is worth much more than anything else." *(Have all the children read it together a couple of times.)*

TEACHER: Yes! Knowing Jesus is worth more than anything else in the world! Knowing him is worth more than the most expensive jewels and the best computer games. Knowing him is worth more than.....*(have the children respond).*

TEACHER: Why do you think knowing Jesus is worth much more than anything else? *(Let the children respond.)* Yes, because he is God. He created us and he loves us. He wants to give us **life** both now and forever.

TEACHER: But, how do we get to know Jesus if we can't see him with our eyes, or hear him with our ears? How do we talk with him? *(Let the children respond.)*

TEACHER: Yes, we can talk with Jesus in prayer. We can speak to him quietly in our hearts or out loud with our voice. We can tell Jesus everything, even the things we don't want to tell anybody else. He wants to be our closest friend. We can talk with him anytime and anywhere because he is **always** with us.

Jesus also speaks to **us** in our hearts, especially when we read the Bible. *(Open up the Bible as if to read.)* Jesus speaks to us every time we read it, because the Bible is God's Word to us.

We are going to spend some time with Jesus now, but we are going to do our prayer time a little differently today. It is good to pray together, but it is also good to spend some time alone with God. Today we are going to talk to Jesus quietly in our hearts by drawing a picture to him.

I want you to each find a quiet place in this room to sit by yourself. I'm going to give each of you this card and some colouring pencils. *(Show children the drawing handout.)*

Think about something that you would like to talk to Jesus about, and draw a picture or write some words to him.

Remember, talking to Jesus is like talking to your best friend. Think about what you might want to tell your best friend and draw a picture of that or write those words to Jesus. When you are finished, you can either show us your picture, or you can keep it just between you and Jesus.

TEACHER: Let's pray before we start:

“Lord Jesus, thank you that you want to be our best friend. Come and be with us now as we spend time with you today. Amen.”

ACTION: Give each child a drawing handout and a small bag of colouring pencils. Let the children find a quiet place by themselves in the room. Play soft instrumental worship music in the background. Give the children as much time as seems appropriate (approximately 6 -10 minutes). Then bring the children together to talk about their experience and share or show their picture if they want to.

TEACHER: Before we finish, let's go over to the storyboard and put down our symbol.

ACTION: Take the children to the storyboard.

TEACHER: Let's put this picture of Jesus and the children on the storyboard to remind us that we can get to know Jesus, and he wants to be our best friend. He is always with us, and he wants us to talk with him about everything in prayer.
(Place symbol on storyboard as shown.)

Life Application:

Encourage the children to also spend time with Jesus at home, talking with him or drawing a picture to him.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

- **What did you learn about Jesus today?** (Jesus wants us to spend time with him in prayer, to get to know him personally. He wants to be our best friend.)
- **How do you get to know someone and become friends?** (You have to spend time with them, talk with them and do things together.)
- **How do we get to know Jesus?** (By spending time with him in prayer and reading the Bible.)
- **Who is the most important person you could ever spend time with?** (Jesus, our Forever King and Lord of All.)
- **Does Jesus love spending time with children?** (Yes, Jesus said "Let the little children come to me...the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to people like them.")
- **Why is knowing Jesus worth much more than anything else?** (Because he is God. He created us and he loves us, and he wants to give us **life** both now and forever.)

5 | Response Activities

Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

Optional activities

- Different learning stations, such as: a book table, modelling clay, colouring papers

"To know Jesus is
worth much more
than anything else."

(Philippians 3:8)