

Spotlight on Prayer 6



ASKING GOD

Supplication

YEAR 2 – KINGDOM LIFE

UNIT: TALKING WITH GOD

1 | Teacher's Notes (This lesson can be taught as part of Unit 5, 6 or 7.)

Scripture Philippians 4:6; Matthew 7:7–11; James 4:3

Objectives To explain that

- Today's lesson is about talking with God.
- Supplication means to ask God for something for ourselves or for others.
- God wants us to talk to him about everything in prayer. If we are worried about something, we can tell God about our worries and ask him to help us.
- God can answer our prayers in three ways: Yes, no, or wait.
- We can be sure that God always hears our prayers, even if the answer is not what we wanted. We need to trust that God knows what is best for us and others.
- We don't have to pray out loud for God to hear us. However, it is helpful to pray out loud to keep focused. Also, when we pray together, others can hear our prayer and be encouraged.

Memory Verse "Don't worry about anything. No matter what happens, tell God about everything. Ask and pray, and give thanks to him." (Philippians 4:6 NIRV)

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

**Catechism
Connections**

Q189 Having prayed first for God's glory, kingdom, and will, what do you now pray?
I pray for my needs and those of my brothers and sisters: for daily provision, pardon for sins, and protection from evil.

Q190 What does "our daily bread" mean? Daily bread includes all that we need each day for our bodily provision and spiritual nourishment.

Q191 Why should you pray for daily bread? God calls me to trust him for the needs of each day, to be concerned for the needs of others, to be content with what I have, and to grow in gratitude for his provision.

Q192 Why does God give you daily bread? God gives me daily bread because he is a good and loving Father, who gives good things to all his children, sustains us in life, and desires that we grow daily in his grace.

Q224 What is a "rule" of prayer? A rule of prayer is a regular discipline by which I cultivate a life of prayer and grow to love and glorify God more fully.

Q225 What can hinder your regular prayers? My prayers may be hindered by many things, such as lethargy or loss, selfishness or sin, distractions or difficulties, or seasons of spiritual dryness. With God's help, a rule of prayer strengthens me to overcome all these.

Q236 What is petition? In petition, I make requests to God on my own behalf for his provision and protection.

Q237 What is intercession? In intercession, I make requests to God on behalf of others, the Church, and the world.

Q242 What should you remember when prayers seem to go unanswered? I should be certain that God always hears my prayers and answers them by his wisdom, in his own time and manner, for my good, and for his glory.

**Suggested
Materials,
Props, and
Costumes****Big story props:**

- Large Bible
- The Kingdom Life storyboard is **not** used in this lesson.

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

- Use the Condensed poster picture as a focus for this lesson (also found in the props document)
- Three big question cards as outlined in the story
- "Family Prayer" colouring page (found in separate colouring page document)
- Cards with different people to pray for: family members, friend, teacher etc.
- The Lord's Prayer poster (see resource section)

Memory Verse: "Don't worry about anything. No matter what happens, tell God about everything. Ask and pray, and give thanks to him." (Philippians 4:6 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	Our God is a Great Big God Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God Jesus Taught Us How to Pray (DLTK's Bible Songs for Kids) <i>Please check internet for lyrics and music.</i>
Review of foundations	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment. <i>For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section</i>
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. <i>Story board review is found in Section 4</i>
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	<i>Proceed with story and prayer found in Section 4.</i>
Related activities	<i>After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.</i>
Preparation for Communion & leaving class	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. <i>See Resource Section.</i>

3 | Storyboard Progression

The Kingdom Life storyboard is not used in this lesson. Use this condensed poster picture as a focus for the lesson:

Asking God
Supplication

God's answers: yes, no, wait



"Don't worry about anything. No matter what happens, tell God about everything. Ask and pray, and give thanks to him."
Philippians 4:6

Heavenly Father,
Please:

In Jesus name,
Amen

TALKING WITH GOD

4 | Story and Prayer

SETUP: *Have the condensed poster picture up on a flannelgraph or wall next to the teacher. Also have the Lord's Prayer poster and the prayer cards on hand. Before the lesson starts, select 3 children to read the big questions and give them the question cards. The Kingdom Life storyboard is not used in this lesson.*

BIBLE: *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Today's lesson is from the Bible, and it is about talking with God in prayer.'*

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

What do you see in this picture?

I wonder what the children are praying for.

I wonder what the word "supplication" means.

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

STORY:

TEACHER: Jesus taught us to pray. In previous lessons we have talked about different types of prayer, like adoring God in worship, confessing our sins, and giving thanks to God. Now we are going to talk about "asking" God for things. *(Point to "Asking God" heading on poster.)*

Another word for "asking" is "**Supplication**" *(point to word on poster).*

Supplication means to ask God for something for ourselves or for others.

Our memory verse today was all about asking God. *(Point to verse on poster.)*

Can someone read our memory verse again?

STUDENT: "Don't worry about anything. No matter what happens, tell God about everything. Ask and pray, and give thanks to him."

TEACHER: Do you sometimes worry about things? Yes, me too! But God tells us not to worry. Instead, he wants us to talk to **him** about **everything** in prayer. If we are worried about something, we can tell God about it and ask him to help us. Our Heavenly Father always hears our prayers and wants to answer them. God's answers might be **yes**, **no**, or **wait**. *(Point to words on poster)*

Sometimes God's answer to our prayer is "**yes**".

Jesus told his disciples: "Ask, and you will receive." (Matthew 7:7) God loves to give good gifts to his children.

ACTION: *If you or someone you know have experienced God answering yes to a prayer (especially if it is a significant and quantifiable answer to prayer) this would be a great time to share that with the children.*

TEACHER: We have three big questions about prayer. Let's hear the first question.

STUDENT #1: Does God always give us exactly what we want when we ask him?

TEACHER: No, he doesn't. The Bible says that sometimes "your prayers are not answered, because you pray just for selfish reasons." (James 4:3)

Sometimes God's answer to our prayer is "no". (*Point to "no" on poster.*) That might be because our prayer is selfish. (*Example: praying for a blue bike when your red bike is just fine.*)

Other times the prayer might not be selfish at all, but the answer is still "no". It can be hard for us to understand why we don't get what we ask for. However, God sees the big picture and knows what is best for us, and we can **know** and **trust** that he takes care of us. **God's will is always best** because he is perfectly wise and loving.

Sometimes God's answer to our prayer is "wait" (*point to "wait" on poster*). The answer to our prayer might not come right away. God wants us to keep on praying and trust that he will answer our prayer when the time is right.

God can answer our prayers in three ways. Let's say them together: (*Point to words on poster and say together:*) **Yes, no or wait**. One thing we can be sure of is that God always **hears** our prayers, even when the answer is different than what we asked him for.

TEACHER: Now, let's hear our second big question about prayer.

STUDENT #2: Do we have to pray out loud for God to hear us? (*Let the children respond.*)

TEACHER: No, we can pray quietly in our hearts or whisper our prayers to God. We can do that anytime and anywhere.

TEACHER: Let's hear our last big question about prayer.

STUDENT #3: If God hears quiet prayers, why is it important to sometimes pray out loud? (*Let the children share their ideas.*)

TEACHER: We pray out loud for several reasons. If we pray out loud when we're alone, it helps us to keep our attention and focus on God and our prayers. We

pray out loud with others so that they can hear our prayer as well and be encouraged.

(Show the family prayer colouring page.) Here is a picture of a family praying together. We can pray together at home in our families, and we can also pray together with our church family. When we pray together, we feel closer to one another. Praying together is another way of caring for each other.

TEACHER: When we pray out loud, we can use prayers that are **written out** for us, like the Lord's Prayer *(point to the Lord's Prayer)*. We can also pray using our **own words**. It does not have to be a long prayer; it can just be short and simple.

Let's think about what we can pray for today.

ACTION: *Spread out prayer cards for the children to see. (The lesson can be taught without these cards if desired.)*

TEACHER: These cards describe different people that we can pray for: family members, friends, teachers, etc.

Choose a card that describes someone you would like to pray for today. Think about what you want God to do for that person. If you can't think of any needs to pray for, you can just pray that God will bless that person.

ACTION: *Let the children choose a card each.*

TEACHER: We will use this prayer on our poster *(point to prayer template on poster)* to help us know how to pray.

When someone prays out loud, we should listen to their prayer and agree with their prayer in our hearts.

ACTION: *Pick up one of the cards and model what to do, and then let the children who want to take turns speaking out their prayer to God. For any children who are reluctant to pray out loud, ask them what their prayer request is and if they are comfortable repeating a prayer after you. If not, tell them that's no problem – we will all pray for that request together. Then pray for their prayer request yourself.*

Life Application:

If time allows, give the children an opportunity to spend time quietly alone and draw a picture to God of something they want to ask him for. Give each child a piece of card and have colouring pencils available. 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 (approx. 6 minutes). Then bring the children together to talk about their experience. Let anyone who wants to, share or show their picture.

Optional: Have a teacher available for any children who would like prayer for anything.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

- **What did you learn about prayer today?** (God wants us to talk to him about everything. We can ask God to help us or others. God's answers can be "yes", "no" or "wait".)
- **What does the word Supplication mean?** (Supplication means to ask God for something for ourselves or for others.)
- **What does God want us to do when we are worried about something?** (He wants us to talk to him about it, and to ask for his help.)
- **What are the three answers to prayer that God might give?** (Yes, no, and wait.)
- **Is God's will always best?** (Yes, because he is perfectly wise and loving.)
- **If God hears quiet prayers, why is it sometimes important to pray out loud?** (If we pray out loud when we're alone, it helps us to keep our attention and focus on God and our prayers. We pray out loud with others so that they can hear our prayer as well and be encouraged.)

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

"Don't worry about anything. No matter what happens, tell God about everything. Ask and pray, and give thanks to him."

(Philippians 4:6)