

# Spotlight on Prayer 8

## THE ACTS ACRONYM

### Prayer Summary



YEAR 2 – KINGDOM LIFE

UNIT: TALKING WITH GOD

## 1 | Teacher's Notes (This lesson can be taught as part of Unit 9)

**Scripture** Matthew 6:33

**Objectives** To explain that

- Today's lesson is about talking with God.
- The acronym ACTS helps us remember four different types of prayer: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication.
- When we pray, we seek the kingdom of God, we focus on God. And we know that as we pray and focus on God and do his will, then he will provide the other things we need.

**Memory Verse** "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." (Matthew 6:33 - ESV)

**ACNA  
Catechism  
Connections**

Today's lesson of The ACTS Acronym is connected to the following Catechism questions:

234. What types of prayer are in the Lord's Prayer? The Lord's Prayer includes praise, petition, intercession, and confession to God.

235. What is praise? In praise, I glorify and adore God for his holiness, his sovereign rule over all, and his salvation given in Jesus Christ.

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

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

238. What is confession? In confession, I acknowledge my sins in repentance before God and receive his forgiveness.

239. What types of prayer are not included in the Lord's Prayer? Other types of prayer are thanksgiving, by which I give thanks to God for his providential goodness and answers to my prayers; and oblation, by which I offer to him all that I am and all that I do.

**Suggested  
Materials,  
Props, and  
Costumes**

**Big story props:**

- Large Bible
- Kingdom Life storyboard (see photo)

**Lesson Props:**

- ACTS poster: **Adoration** = I love you and worship you  
**Confession** = I'm sorry  
**Thanksgiving** = Thank you  
**Supplication** = Please
- 8 pieces of card to cover up the types of prayer and their meanings as outlined in lesson.
- Second copy of memory verse
- Prayer poster: Heavenly Father:  
I love you and worship you because you are....  
I'm sorry for....  
Thank you for....  
Please....  
In Jesus name, Amen
- Post-it notes for prayer requests (to place on prayer poster)
- Storyboard symbol: smaller version of ACTS poster

**Memory Verse:** "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." (Matthew 6:33 - ESV)

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

## 2 | Lesson Outline:

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



## 4 | Story and Prayer

**SETUP:** *Set up three teaching stations: Station 1: Place the ACTS poster up on a flannelgraph or wall ("meanings" covered up with pieces of card). Station 2: Have the prayer template up on the flannelgraph or wall. Station 3: Have the Kingdom Life storyboard set up as it was after the previous lesson. Start the lesson by station 1.*

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

### **STORY:**

**TEACHER:** Let's start by remembering some things we have learned about prayer. Who are we talking with when we pray? (*God*) How often can we talk with God? (*anytime*) Where can we talk with God? (*anywhere*) Are there different types of prayer? (*Thanksgiving, asking for things, worship, confession, silent prayer etc.*)

**ACTION:** *Let the children respond to the questions.*

**TEACHER:** In this lesson, we are going to learn a special way to help us remember the different types of prayer.

This year we have learned four big words that describe different types of prayer. They are: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication. (*Point to words on poster.*)

Who can tell us what these words mean?

Let's start with **Adoration**. (*Have the children respond.*)

**TEACHER:** Yes, Adoration is another word for worship. When we worship God, we adore him for who he is.

(*Teacher uncover meaning.*) We are saying to God: "I love you and worship you."

What are some things that are true about God that we can worship him for? (*Take suggestions from the children...examples: Creator, Almighty, Eternal, Holy, Love etc.*) We can think about those things and say to God something like: "I love you and worship you because you are my Creator."

**TEACHER:** Our second type of prayer is **Confession**. What does Confession mean? (*Have the children respond.*)

Yes, Confession means telling God about our sin and asking his forgiveness.

*(Teacher uncover meaning.)* When we confess our sins to God we are saying “I’m sorry” to God. We ask his forgiveness for the wrong things we have thought, said, or done. Because Jesus died and rose again to pay for our sin, we can know for sure that God forgives us when we ask him.

Our third type of prayer is Thanksgiving. What does Thanksgiving mean?

*(Have the children respond.)*

*(Teacher uncover meaning.)* Yes, Thanksgiving means saying “thank you” to God for all the good things he gives us. How wonderful and important it is to thank God for all his blessings! *(Teacher prays... thank you Lord for this day...our health...and each other.)*

**TEACHER:** Our last type of prayer is **Supplication**. What does Supplication mean?

*(Have the children respond.)*

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

*(Teacher uncover meaning.)* When we ask God for something, we say “please” to God.

If you look closely at these words, Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication, you may notice something interesting. *(Hold a piece of card up to cover up the four big words so just the first letter is showing.)* If you look at the first letter of each of these words and read them from top to bottom you can see that it makes another word. Who can read this word? Yes, the word is **ACTS**.

ACTS is an acronym. An acronym is a word that is made up of the first letter of other words. If we can remember the acronym ACTS, then that can help us remember these four different types of prayer.

Let’s cover up these words and meanings again to see if we can remember them.

**ACTION:** *Ask the older children to put the cards back to cover over the four big words and their meanings. Leave the first letter of the four words uncovered.*

**TEACHER:** Who can remember what the words are in the acronym ACTS and what they mean?

**ACTION:** *Let the children try to remember. Uncover each word and meaning as it is mentioned.*

**TEACHER:** Now, let’s take some time to pray to our Heavenly Father.

***ACTION:*** Move over to the prayer station with the prayer poster.

**TEACHER:** I have a poster here with each of the four types of prayer. Let's think of one thing to pray for in each of these categories.

***ACTION:*** Let the children suggest one thing for each category. Write the chosen words on post-it notes and place on prayer poster to make complete sentences in each category. Then have the children echo the whole prayer.

**TEACHER:** Now, let's go over to our storyboard and put down our symbol.

***ACTION:*** Take the children to the storyboard and place the symbol as you say:

**TEACHER:** Let's place the ACTS acronym on our storyboard to remind us of these four different types of prayer – adoring and worshipping God, confessing or saying sorry for our sins, thanking God, and supplication, which is asking for things we need. *(Place acronym symbol on storyboard.)*

Let's finish our lesson by reading the memory verse again together: *(Have children echo the verse.)*

“Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” (Matthew 6:33)

**TEACHER:** When we pray, we seek the kingdom of God, we focus on God. And we know that as we pray and focus on God and do his will, then he will provide the other things we need, such as food and clothing.

**OPTIONAL:** Sing “Seek ye first the Kingdom of God”.

**SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:**

- **What did you learn about prayer today?** (That the acronym ACTS can remind us of four types of prayer. That spending time with God is the most important thing.)
- What does the "A" stand for in the acronym ACTS? (Adoration – I love you and worship you)
- What does the "C" stand for in the acronym ACTS? (Confession – I'm sorry)
- What does the "T" stand for in the acronym ACTS? (Thanksgiving – Thank you)
- What does the "S" stand for in the acronym ACTS? (Supplication - Please)
- What does our memory verse teach us? (That when we pray, we seek the kingdom of God, we focus on God. And we know that as we pray and focus on God and do his will, then he will provide the other things we need, such as food and clothing.)

## 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

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(Matthew 6:33)