

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 12
Lesson Plans for Older Children

Scripture: Luke 11:1-13

Even on a sultry summer day, the wind of the Spirit hovers — almost imperceptibly. Our lives rarely accommodate a slower pace for the summer. Yet, we are invited to notice, again, the priorities that drive us. We are invited to stop, however briefly, the manic activity and consider options Jesus offers us.

A Notation for This Week's Gospel

The Lord's Prayer. We have said it so many times the words may have lost some of their power. What if we chose to really search and knock, expecting the door to open? What is the Holy Spirit longing for us to request?

Theme: Rediscovering the prayer Jesus taught his disciples

Before Class: You will need copies of today's scripture and either enough copies of *The Book of Common Prayer* OR copies of The Lord's Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer (page 364.)

You will need to bring paper, pencils, markers, crayons, and other art supplies you might have.

Beginning: Tell the children our story today is about The Lord's Prayer. Tell them that some of the words in the prayer are words we don't use everyday. Tell them we will look at these harder words to be sure we understand them.

Opening Prayer: Use the version most familiar to the children. Or if you suspect they do not know it by heart, show them where it is in the Prayer Book (page 364). Invite the children to pray The Lord's Prayer, along with you.

The Story: Luke 11: 1-13 Invite three people to read the three sections of today's reading (1-4, 5-8, and 9-13.)

Questions:

Tell the children we will look at two kinds of questions:

"What?" (What do the words mean?) and

"Wondering Questions" (Wondering together about what are we expecting when we pray?)

"What" Questions (take notes on a large sheet of paper):

- What did Jesus suggest we call God? (Jesus calls God, Father. Jesus wants us to know that God considers us children of God. God is not away some place but right here wherever we are.)
- What does "Hallowed" mean? (Holy, awesome, wonderful).
- What does "Your kingdom come" mean? (Someone once said we need to be careful what we pray for — we just might get it. Here we are literally saying we want to do things YOUR way, God, which might be very different from what is happening.)

- What might be different if we did things God's way? (No wars, no violence, justice for everyone, no children going hungry, etc.)
- What does "Give us each day our daily bread" mean? (Helping us notice that we don't have to be worrying about stuff that is way off in the future — just focus on today.)
- " And forgive us . . ." What is Jesus teaching about forgiveness here? (First, we need to tell God about dumb stuff we have done and we need to be sure we are sorry about it. Then, we need to forgive those who have done mean stuff to us. The two go together.)
- What might the "time of trial" be? (When we are tempted to do dumb stuff, when someone is sick, when we are having a really bad day,)

"Wondering" Questions. (verses 5-13)

Note: it was common for people to live in one-room houses and at night everyone crawled into the same bed — all the animals curled up right beside the bed. Imagine the commotion (babies crying, dogs barking, sheep bleating, cocks crowing) if you got up in the middle of the night to answer the door!

- I wonder what verses 5-8 tell us about being persistent?
- I wonder if this means it is hard to get God's attention? (Could it be that it is hard for us to get our attention focused on God?)
- I wonder why Jesus tells us to keep on praying? (Could be it keeps us connected to God, helps us keep focused on what it is that we really need.)
- I wonder, when people pray to God , what is it that we "find?"
- I wonder what might be "opened?"
- I wonder what we might "receive?"

Activity: Invite each child to select a phrase(s), write it, and illustrate it as they choose. They can create a picture, a word search, a crossword, a poem, whatever they feel will best portray the phrase(s) they choose.

Below, you will find a sheet of phrases from today's reading. You might want to make copies of this for the children to use as they try to decide what phrase they want to choose.

Getting Closure: Invite the children to share what they have done.

Closing Prayer: Pray together the Lord's Prayer. If you have come up with different wording, feel free to use what the children have come up with. Amen.

Jesus was praying

‘Lord, teach us to pray,

‘When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone
indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.

Ask, and it will be given to you

Search, and you will find

Knock, and the door will be opened for you

For everyone who asks receives

Everyone who searches finds

Everyone who knocks, the door will be opened

How much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to
those who ask him!’

Luke 11:1-13

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.' ²He said to them, 'When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ And forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.
And do not bring us to the time of trial.'

⁵ And Jesus said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, "Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him."⁷ And he answers from within, "Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything."⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹ 'So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? ¹²Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? ¹³If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

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