

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 12
Lesson Plans for Younger 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: You will need to check which version of the Lord's Prayer your children are likely to know. Page 364 of the Book of Common Prayer has the two versions side by side. Notice also, where the version in today's scripture stops. In your story today, use the version the children would find most familiar. You may need either a large sheet of paper, or smaller sheets with one phrase from the Lord's Prayer written across the top of each. If you do this project, you will also need crayons.

Beginning: Tell the children they have probably heard The Lord's Prayer many times and some of them may know it by heart. Invite them to say it along with you as you pray.

Praying: Pray the version of The Lord's Prayer the children know, praying slowly enough that they can say it along with you. Amen.

The Story: Lots of times Jesus would go off by himself to pray to God. His friends wanted to be able to pray like Jesus did, so they said to Jesus, "Please teach us what to pray." So Jesus taught them the prayer we call The Lord's Prayer. "Here is how you do it," said Jesus.

Start by calling God our father, for that is who God is. Then say, 'Hallowed be your name' which means God's name is very, very special. Next say, 'Your Kingdom come.' This means we really want to do the things right here, right now, that God wants us to do. Then, 'Give us each day our daily bread.' We are not going to worry about stuff, we just ask for what we need today. Then, 'Forgive us our sins as we ourselves forgive those who have sinned against us.' And that means we tell God we are sorry for bad stuff we have done and we tell God we won't be mad anymore at people who have done bad stuff to us. Then, 'Save us from the time of trial.' Which really means help us to do what we know is right, and not do what we know is wrong."

Activity: Option One Invite the children to work with you to come up with a movement activity to express the parts of the prayer. Ask them, for example, to come up with a motion for hallowed

or holy. (It could be arms raised high in the air, arms extended out to the sides and swaying in a circle. Whatever you and the children find that fits for you.)

Option Two Teach the children a series of movements to go along with The Lord's Prayer. You can search the internet for "Lord's Prayer Body Prayer," or here is a great series of movements for the Lord's Prayer: <http://oursaviourmv.org/families/lordsprayer.pdf>

Regardless of doing Option One or Two, once you have gone through the prayer and movements once, do it a few more times so everyone can catch on and do it easily.

Option: If you have time left, you can give each child one of the verses on a sheet of paper and ask that child to illustrate that line. Or, you could work on one large sheet of paper and collaborate on what the illustration would be.

Getting Closure: Tell the children that Jesus also told his friends that God wants them to pray, to ask for things they need, and to tell God what is worrying them. God wants us to tell God about all the things we are thinking about. Invite them to name some of the things they would like to pray for or for those things that they give thanks.

Closing Prayer: Pray, together, The Lord's Prayer, using the motions you practiced earlier.

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