

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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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." ⁷And 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." ⁸I 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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Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 12
Lesson Plans for Adults

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 Bibles and copies of *The Book of Common Prayer*. You will probably have to make some choices as this is an exceptionally full passage. If you do not have time to do all three sections, choose which one, or ones, to do. If these lesson plans are also being used with children in your church, and you have parents of these children in your group, you may want to be sure to cover the first section, as that is the focus of the children's lessons.

Beginning: You may choose to invite the group to help decide which sections to discuss today:

- Section One digs into the meaning of The Lord's Prayer.
- Section Two deals with persistence in prayer.
- Section Three conveys God's desire to give us what is good.

Opening Prayer: Invite the group to open Prayer Books to page 364 and say together the version of The Lord's Prayer you hear the **least** frequently when you worship at your church.

The Scripture: Section One: Luke 11: 1-4 Invite someone to read the first section.

Questions:

With Bibles open to this passage, and *The Book of Common Prayer* open to page 364, take the Lord's Prayer, verse by verse and paraphrase what each communicates.

"(Our) Father..." Decide what you think about calling God "Father." Clearly, Jesus regularly referred to God as his Father. Could this be reinforcing the male imagery of God, or communicating the image of a deeply loving God? Honor your responses to the use of the word, Father.

"Hallowed be your name..." How would we define "hallowed?" (Holy? Awesome? What else?)

"*Your kingdom come...*" (In what ways would our world be radically different, if we did things in God's kingdom fashion? What might be much better? What might we have to give up?)

"*Give us each day . . .*" (In our consumer-products bloated culture, what could this mean to us? At the same time, do we think we are being called to live only for the day, saving nothing for the future? How do we manage this paradox?)

"*Forgive . . .*" (Notice the trade-off: Forgive us — "for" we forgive everyone . . . To amplify the meaning of this passage, see Luke 6:37b-38. Could it be that we have the capacity to receive forgiveness only to the extent we have already forgiven others, emptied ourselves of rage?)

"*The time of trial...*" (We pray to be spared the time of trial. Is it our experience that anyone gets through life with no trials? Perhaps this is where the rubber of faith meets the road of life. Could this part mean: we trust that you, God, will go through trials with us?)

Option: For a startlingly different version of The Lord's Prayer, you might want to make copies of the following: The Lord's Prayer from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*, page 181. After reading through this version of The Lord's Prayer, you can discuss what stood out for them, what struck them as very different, what got in the way, what opened them to new thinking, etc.

Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.

Section Two: Luke 11: 5-8 Invite a different person to read the second section.

Questions:

- Why does Jesus suggest the person at home would not get up to open the door for a friend? (Remind the group that people tended to live in one-room homes, all the family in one bed,

animals asleep beside the sleeping family. Imagine the commotion if someone got up and opened the door: dogs barking, cocks crowing, and babies starting to cry.)

- Discuss the "persistence" this passage addresses. (Whose attention is it difficult to get? Is it God's — or could it be our ability to stay focused?)
- Why do you think Jesus told this story — right after giving the disciples a format for prayer? (A useful format is only as useful as it is employed.)

Section Three: Luke 11: 9-13 Invite a third person to read the final section.

Questions:

- Notice the sequence in verse 9. Can you share times this has been your experience? And what about the times it has not?
- Consider this possibility: The order is backwards! If so, what happens when we "knock on the door?" (Could that be our opening ourselves — through prayer — to come into God's presence? What changes occur in us when we notice ourselves **in** God's presence?)
- What happens when we search? (What other options come into view when we are open to searching?)
- What, then, might change about what we ask? (What different focus might become available?)
- Perhaps it has been our experience to have an earthly father who was inept or even evil in what he provided (or did not provide) for his children. (Jesus is addressing his disciples, whom he knew well, so he must have noticed good fathering in them and knew they would get the concept. As we think of really "good" fathers we know, can we explore the concept of a God who loves us so much more than even these good fathers do?)

Getting Closure: If you have time, invite the group to share what they will take away with them from the study today.

Closing Prayer: Invite the group to sit, with eyes closed, while you read, slowly, phrase by phrase, The Lord's Prayer.

Luke 11:1-13

Section One

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.’² He 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.’

Section Two

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.” ⁷And 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.” ⁸I 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.

Section Three

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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