



# Life of Christ

## Jesus talks about prayer **Matthew 6:5-8**

**Younger Verse**

Christ loves me and gave Himself to save me. Galatians 2:20

**Older Verse**

I do not live anymore—it is Christ living in me. I still live in my body, but I live by faith in the Son of God. He loves me and gave Himself to save me. Galatians 2:20

**Lesson Goals**

Share how to pray  
Tell the attitude that a praying person should have

**Welcome Time**

Have you ever wondered how to pray to God? Jesus helps us know how in the Bible. Let's look up a few verses and see what He says.

**Bible Story**

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Jesus loved to talk to people about God. He wanted the people to understand important lessons. One day, Jesus helped people learn how to pray to God. Jesus helped His friends learn that they must have the right attitude as they pray.

Jesus explained that there were two different ways to pray: a right way and a wrong way. Jesus told His friends that the wrong way is to stand up so that people can see you. That person is not really praying to God. They are trying to show off and be noticed by others. Jesus was not saying that standing up to pray was wrong. He was saying that if a person who prays shows off in front of others, that is wrong.

Jesus shared that the right way to pray is with a heart that wants to talk to God. A person should pray quietly not drawing attention to himself.

Jesus also told His friends that another wrong thing to do is to pray, trying to impress people with our words (continue to pray and pray; just babbling on and on saying fancy, big words). Instead, Jesus said that we should be honest and speak from our heart. Jesus explained that God wants to hear us and He knows our needs even before we tell Him. He wants to talk with us and help us with our problems and needs.

What is the right way and the wrong way to pray? Jesus really wants our attitude to be right. We must not be proud and think we are better than others. We should be humble and come to God with a heart to hear from Him and do things His way. We should also remember that God is God and we are not! It is important to tell God our mistakes and ask Him to help us be clean, pure people.

How do we pray? We talk to God like we talk to each other. God hears us AND He knows if we have right attitudes. We do not have to pray a certain prayer to God. God knows our heart and our true attitude. Sometimes we have little prayers we like to

pray at supper etc. It is OK to pray these prayers if you really mean them. Sometimes we say the words but do not really pray the prayer. Or we say the prayer so fast that we don't really even listen to the meaning. That would be like the babbling that Jesus mentioned.

When we pray, we can pray out loud and silently. Praying out loud should not be a scary thing. We must remember that we are praying to God and we should have the attitude that Jesus mentioned. When we pray silently, God hears us and listens to our prayer needs.

How do we pray? Remember that the right attitude is important. When we pray, we must tell God our mistakes and ask for forgiveness. Then we can tell God thank you for all the ways He has been good to us. Next, share needs that you have for others and yourself. This kind of prayer is what God loves. He loves to talk with us and spend time with us.

The best prayer that you can pray is to ask Jesus to come into your heart. If you haven't done this, talk to any teacher. When you ask Jesus to come into your heart, He cleans out all the bad stuff and makes you a new person. Instead of doing bad things, you want to do the things that Jesus would do!

#### **Learning Activities**

Try some activities to help the kids see the importance of prayer.

#### **Memory Verse Activities**

Try to learn the last half of the verse this week. Talk about what it means to be "saved." Bring Lifesaver or Breathsaver candies to help the kids remember the verse.

#### **Prayer Time**

Ask the kids to share how to pray. As you pray, ask if anyone would like to pray out loud (remind them of the attitude to have). Give everyone opportunities to pray to God.

#### **Snack Time/CleanUp**

Pray and eat snacks. Take time to answer questions about prayer during this time. Sometimes, as you are spending time with them in an informal way, they really open up and tell you what they are thinking or share questions they have.

Planning for May 12th  
Why do I pray?  
Praying in the garden  
Matthew 26:36-46

# Preschool Lesson For How to Pray

It is so much fun to talk to little children about prayer. They are so genuine when they pray!

Jesus loved to talk to people about God. He wanted the people to understand important lessons. One day, Jesus helped people learn how to pray to God. Jesus helped His friends learn that they must have the right attitude as they pray.

Praying is talking to God. When we talk to God, He listens to us. We can talk to him out loud or silently.

When you pray, fold your hand so that you don't bother anyone else.

Close your eyes so you can think about God and not look around at others.

Tell God "thank you" for being so good to you.

Ask Him to help you with problems you or your family have. Pray for your friends too.

When you pray, talk like you talk to your best friend. You don't need to use big words.

God promises that He will listen when we pray.

Take time to pray today and let volunteers pray too!

## Hands-on Activities For How to pray

This weekend is Cinco de Mayo (the 5th of May). It is a special celebration time for Hispanic people. Bring a pinata, chips and salsa, tortillas etc. to celebrate with everyone.

Make a Prayer Tin Can and use the attached sheet to talk about talking to God.

Create a Prayer bulletin board to show the kids the importance of praying all the time.

As a teacher, we must show our kids how to pray. Take time to even demonstrate how to pray so that the kids can actually see you praying to God.

Bring pretzels and tell the children the story of how the pretzel began. A preacher (monk) wanted his kids to learn to pray. One day as he was making bread, he had an idea. He twisted the bread to look like someone praying. It became a pretzel!