

Living on a Prayer

Bible: Living on a Prayer (Model prayer) • *Luke 11:1-14*

Bottom Line: Practice praying to God.

Memory Verse: “For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.” *1 Timothy 4:8, NIV*

Life App: Commitment—Making a plan and putting it into practice

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (9:00, 10:15, 11:30)

9:00 & 11:30

Get Your Head in the Game

- “Secret Word” Activity Page; one set per small group

10:15

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Just For Fun

- Paper
- Pencils/markers

Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (9:10, 10:25, 11:40)

- Bible Presentation in Large Group

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (9:40, 10:55, 12:10)

9:00 & 11:30

Bible Extension

- Bibles
- Paper
- Pencils/markers

10:15

Take a Snapshot

- “Questions?” Activity Pages; one set per small group
- Pencils

Prayer: Making it Personal (9:55, 11:10, 12:25)

- Index cards from “Verses to Take with You” Activity
- Bible

Dismiss (10:00, 11:15, 12:30)

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Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 10 minutes)

Before the kids arrive, pray for today’s time in small group. Ask God to give you wisdom and understanding on how to get great discussion and teamwork going with your students. Pray that they would walk away with at least one new way to start a conversation with God this week and ask Him for wisdom to know how to best model prayer to them when you pray together as a group.

9:00 & 11:30

Get Your Head in the Game

What You Need: “Secret Word” Activity Page

What You Do:

- **Divide** your group into two teams.
- Each team **picks** one kid to be the first “guesser.”
- **Shuffle** the “Secret Words” cards.
- **Choose** one team to go first.
 - That team **selects** a card and works together to **produce** a one-word clue to give to the “guesser.”
 - After the one-word clue, the “guesser” **guesses** what the word is.
 - If the guesser doesn’t get the word correctly, the other team gets a chance to give a different one-word clue.
 - Play continues back and forth until one team’s guesser gets the word right.
 - The team to guess the word gets one point.

Note: You can hint to the students that they should pay attention to the other team’s clues and not focus only on their own for 2 reasons: the guesser can use a combination of the other team’s clues as well as their own team’s in order to figure out the secret word. Also, teams can’t repeat each other’s clues; otherwise, they forfeit their turn.

- **Play** another round with a new “guesser” for each team.
- **Play** enough rounds so everyone gets a turn at being the “guesser.”
- The team with the most points **wins**.

Wrap Up and Say:

“You had to be very intentional about the words you chose to use in this game, and communication was very important. Let’s head to Large Group to hear how we can communicate with God.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

10:15**Just For Fun***Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding***What You Need:** Paper, pencils**What You Do:**

- **Give** kids a piece of scrap paper and a pencil.
- **Shout** out a word and instruct students to **write** the first word that comes to their mind that is the opposite of the word you said.
 - For example: If you said, “Dog,” the kids might say, “Cat.”
- **Start** with words that have obvious opposites, for example: on, day, sun, wet, sleep, etc.
- Then **provide** words with more subtle opposites, like pizza, blue, car, etc.
- Kids **score** a point for every person who said the same word they did. (If your group is trustworthy, you can let them keep their own scores!)
- **Play** several rounds. The winner is the kid with the most points.
- To make this more **challenging**, instead of naming opposites, just do the first word that pops into your head. The challenge will be for students to think of words that are general enough for multiple students to think of!

Wrap Up and Say:

“What I find interesting is the range of answers that people have for the very same word trigger. It’s a good reminder that everyone hears and processes things differently. Remembering that will make us better communicators and probably alleviate a lot of drama that can come from misunderstandings and miscommunication . Let’s head to Large Group to hear how we can communicate with God.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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Life App: Commitment—Making a plan and putting it into practice

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 30 minutes)

GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host

2. Bible Truth

What You Need:

- Communicator
- Bible
- Dry erase board
- Sticky notes
- Dry erase markers

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Power Praise Team

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- “Let It Be Known”
- “Rising Up”
- “Oceans”

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Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 30 minutes)

Engage kids’ hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible Truth, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

CG: 10-second countdown

CG: Work It Out Theme Slide

Host enters.

Welcome

Welcome

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to The Base. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a weather phenomenon, a viral video on YouTube, etc. (NOTE: As this is January, talk about Winter Break as well as school starting back up.) Host tells them how excited he or she is that they’re there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what’s happening.

Host transitions to Worship.

HOST: “Hey, everybody! I love that we are all here together. Help me welcome the Power Praise team in this morning.”

WORSHIP

SFX: “Let It Be Known”

SFX: “Rising Up”

SFX: “Oceans”

Power Praise team exits as Host retakes the stage. Host transitions to the opening game.

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “Give me a show of hands of who loves Zumba. (*Allow response.*) Yeah, a few of you. The rest of you might be like me. See, when I was born, it was like I was born with two left feet. Whenever I danced, people would beg me to stop for the sake of innocent bystanders. Yeah, Zumba isn’t my thing. It just doesn’t look right. My body is too stiff and lanky and lacks the necessary rhythm to be successful.”

Optional: Communicator can share about a personal skill she has acquired over the years. Example below.

“However, if you give me a snowboard and a few moguls, it’s on like a snowy Donkey Kong! In my defense, I haven’t really practiced dancing like I have trained in snowboarding. I’ve spent many long hours working out what gear I need for a day on the slopes. I know the perfect weather conditions to find the powder for smooth turns. My stance has been perfected after years of preparation. It’s through *practice* that I’ve been able to work it out and improve my skills. Now, I can ‘shred the slopes’—as they say—with the best of them! Do any of you have something you love doing? What activity have you spent time learning and practicing in order to become better at it? Take a minute to circle up in your small groups and explain what activity you have spent hours learning through practice and hard work.”

Communicator allows groups about a minute to discuss activities they play and practice. Once groups finish, allow a couple of groups to share what they discussed.

“Those sound like awesome activities! And for most people, if they want to get better at something, it takes practice. With the help of a coach or teacher and steady practice, we get better. We can improve our art skills, cheer jumps, and baseball pitches. And if we don’t practice, we won’t have what it takes to keep up with the rest of our team.”

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “This is also true when it comes to building our faith skills—like prayer, for example. For many of us in the room, prayer is NOT a new concept. You know that prayer is talking to God. You’ve heard prayer is important at home and church. Before meals, you have seen people bow their heads to thank God for their food. Some of you have been encouraged to pray before you go to bed.”

“Maybe there are some in this room who go to God before the big game or the really hard test or when you’re really angry. Some really brave kids in this room are willing to not only pray at home or church . . . but they pray to God at school or on the bus or at a friend’s house. Those are all great times and places to talk to God. In fact, God wants to hear from us all the time. And that sounds good at a place like church, but the thought can be a little intimidating.”

“What about the times when you just don’t know what to say? What do you pray for when there isn’t anything major happening? If you’re being honest, some may have never been taught how to pray. Are you supposed to kneel by your bed? Bow your head? Close your eyes? What does God want to hear from us? Are there certain words we are supposed to use?”

“Rest assured. Nobody is born with his or her faith skills mastered. It takes learning and practice to work it out. Not even Jesus’ disciples had mastered prayer. This morning, I want us to look at a time when Jesus’ closest friends asked Him to teach them to pray. It’s pretty cool. Let’s check it out.”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “In Luke 11, we can read about Jesus taking time to pray. This caught the attention of His disciples. As He finished, they asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. His response was awesome. Listen carefully to Jesus’ instructions. He said, *(open Bible and read Luke 11:2-4) ‘When you pray, this is what you should say: “Father, may your name be honored. May your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we also forgive everyone who sins against us. Keep us from falling into sin when we are tempted.”’ (NirV).*

“This prayer is often called the Lord’s Prayer. Some of you may have this prayer memorized and may have said it before your basketball games. It sounds nice, but what does it mean exactly? Let’s break it down piece by piece to help us understand it.”

“When Jesus prayed, *‘May your name be honored,’ (Luke 11:2, NirV)* this was Him saying, ‘God, You are amazing.’ Jesus was stressing the importance of taking a moment to praise God for all He has done. If you pause for a moment to think, you’ll realize that God has done a lot! This is easy to forget and overlook. For example, I have a friend who always . . . ALWAYS . . . wakes up grumpy. It doesn’t matter how good yesterday was or what is planned for today . . . he gets out of bed in a bad mood. My friend forgets that God gave him another day to live. My friend forgets that God created the air he breathes. My friend forgets that God brought good friends into his life. And these are just a few of the reasons he could wake up in a better mood instead of being angry because he didn’t get to sleep longer. Maybe if my friend was praying to God, he could say, ‘God, thank You for the rest You provided. You’ve given me another day to conquer with oxygen in my lungs. I love You, God.’”

“*‘May your kingdom come’ (Luke 11:2, NirV)* is Jesus asking for God’s ways to come to earth. This is hard because we want to live life according to our own rules and not follow God’s ways. My mom was always good at showing me what this meant. I would get upset when my friends weren’t so friendly, but she would always remind me, ‘God loves you no matter what, and He loves your friends, too.’ It was just the reminder I needed to respond to my friends in love, which is exactly how we can show others the Kingdom of God.”

“Jesus continued His prayer by saying, *‘Give us each day our daily bread.’ (Luke 11:3, NirV)* This sounds like Jesus was telling His disciples to ask God for food, but this is also about asking God to provide what we NEED. So many times, we go to God with a long list of wants that sounds like a birthday wish list. We WANT the latest video game, the new BMX bike, new shoes, and an adorable, new, potty-trained puppy. However, Jesus wants us to go to God with our needs . . . the things we cannot live without. For example, I have this friend who was always really smart. Grades were never an issue because all her schoolwork came really easily to her. However, making friends for her was much harder than acing her history exam. She needed friendships and people who would be there for her. Maybe if my friend was praying to God, she could say, ‘God, please give me friends today that I didn’t have yesterday.’”

“As Jesus proceeded, He said, *‘Forgive us our sins, as we also forgive everyone who sins against us. Keep us from falling into sin when we are tempted.’ (Luke 11:4, NirV)* This is no easy task! When we do things God tells us not to do, it’s called sin. God will forgive our sin when we ask for God’s forgiveness.

“But Jesus didn’t tell His friends to stop there. He continued and pointed out their need—and our need—to forgive others. My brother tends to embellish his stories. Although he claims he doesn’t lie, his stories seem far from the truth. And God desires for all of us to be honest and true. On the days my brother is dishonest, he could say, ‘God, I was not completely honest with my friends today. Please forgive me and help me to speak words of truth. Give me strength to resist lying to seem cooler.’”

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “Prayer is an important faith skill to work on. I love how Jesus took a few minutes to teach the disciples the best way to talk to God. And remember something: these were Jesus’ closest friends. They traveled great distances by His side. Even they wanted to be taught to pray. All that to say: nobody is a natural talent when it comes to faith skills. All of us are working it out with the goal of understanding who God is and growing in our faith. That means that as we talk about prayer and read about prayer and . . . well . . . actually pray, our faith skill begins to grow.”

Communicator moves to dry erase board with Luke 11:2-4 written on it.

“Let’s brainstorm together. I am going to ask you a series of questions. As you raise your hands and answer the questions, I will write them down and stick them on this board. Make sense? Great! Answer me this: When your day is wrapping up, what do you thank God for?”

Communicator takes several responses and places the sticky notes all around, “Father, may your name be honored.” Affirm responses.

“Thanks for those answers. What ways can you have a God-focus—a kingdom-focus—during your day?”

Communicator takes several responses and places the sticky notes all around, “May your kingdom come.” Affirm responses.

“Those are great responses. Think about this question: What do we need to ask God for in the day to come? This could be a need you have or a need someone else has.”

Communicator takes several responses and places the sticky notes all around, “Give us each day our daily bread.” Affirm responses.

“Great answers to the question. It’s important we acknowledge what we’ve done wrong. He already knows, but He will forgive us. What are ways people disobey God during the day?”

Communicator takes several responses and places the sticky notes all around “Forgive us our sins . . .” Affirm responses.

“Yeah, nobody is perfect, which is all the more reason for us to go to God for forgiveness. Last question: Who are people in your life you may need to forgive? Don’t say specific names but speak generally, like a bully in school, that sort of thing.”

Communicator takes several responses and places the sticky notes all around “. . . as we also forgive everyone who sins against us.” Affirm responses.

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “Now, I realize we just spent some time talking about how to talk to God. But what does it look like—in your life and with your schedule—to talk to God? Let’s continue this conversation in Small Groups. And while you head to your groups, ask yourself this question . . .”

CG: Key Question Slide

“How do you pray to God?” As with most faith skills, it may not always be easy or convenient to pray, but that doesn’t make it any less important. Let’s work it out. Most importantly, let’s keep working it out for as long as it takes for us to be comfortable. It’s kind of like training, which is what our memory verse is getting at.”

CG: Memory Verse Slide

“For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. 1 Timothy 4:8, NIV”

Learning to pray and to become comfortable in praying the way that Jesus modeled for us is training ourselves in godliness. It holds promises for us in this life and in the eternal life.”

Let’s take a few minutes to train in prayer by talking to God right now. Let’s pray.”

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard then dismisses them to small group.

SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

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Life App: Commitment—Making a plan and putting it into practice

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 15 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible Truth applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

9:00 & 11:30

Bible Extension

[Talk about God | Bible Review]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: Bibles, paper, pencils

What You Do:

- Ask kids to **brainstorm** situations they should share with God. Examples could be:
 - How I am feeling
 - Difficulties I am having with friends
 - Questions I have about Him
 - What I am grateful for
 - Bad thoughts
 - Good thoughts
 - When I struggle to forgive a mean kid at school
 - Asking for help in sports tryouts
 - Praising God for good things
 - Asking Him for help for difficult things
- **Read** Luke 11:1-4.
- **Encourage** kids to select one of the situations and **write** a prayer to God.
 - They can work alone or in groups.
 - Encourage them to use Luke 11:1-4 as a model for their prayer.
 - Allow them to be creative; perhaps their prayer is a song or a poem or even a rap ballad!
- **Explain** that some prayers are only between you and God. Other times, we pray to God out loud as a group.
- **Ask** students if anyone wants to volunteer to share their prayer with the group.

10:15**Take a Snapshot****[Live for God | Application Activity]***Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding***What You Need:** “Questions?” Activity Pages, pencils**What You Do:**

- **Give** each kid a “Questions?” from the activity pages and a pencil.
 - If you have more than 8 kids, divide kids into groups of four or five.
- When you **say**, “GO,” each kid **writes** as much as she can to answer the question on her page.
- When you **say**, “PASS,” the kids **stop** writing (even if they are in the middle of a sentence) and **pass** their papers to the kid on their right.
- Kids **read** what is on the paper passed to them and . . .
 - **Write** a “!” if they agree with the comments written by other kids
 - **Write** a “?” if they are confused by a comment
 - **Write** short additional thoughts they have related to the question at the top of the page
- **Continue** until each kid has her original page. Be sure to vary the amount of time kids have each paper to keep interest high and to keep them motivated to move quickly.
- Briefly **discuss** the answers:
 - What did you notice?
 - What did people agree with?
 - Was there more than one answer for the questions? Why do you think some of the questions had more than one answer?
 - What was confusing? Why was it confusing?
- **Ask:**
 - What are things you tell God when you pray?
 - When is it hard to pray? What can you do if you don’t feel like praying?
 - What can you do if don’t know what to say to God?

All Service Times**Pray and Dismiss (5 minutes)****[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]**

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: Bible,

What You Do:

- **Pray** as a group, giving each kid an opportunity to use a “prayer starters.” Examples could be:
 - Lord, You are . . .
 - Lord, forgive me for . . .
 - Lord, help me to forgive . . .
 - Lord, thank you for . . .
 - Lord, please help . . . (asking for help for others)
 - Lord, today I am feeling . . . because . . .
 - Lord, guide me to be . . .
 - Lord, I need help with . . .
 - Lord, help me focus on You especially when . . .
 - Lord, help me to trust You when . . .
- **Close** by reading Luke 11:2-4.

“Dear God, You know us so well, and You know we need Your Word to teach us, to remind us how incredible You are. Thank You for reminding us to pray to you continuously, to stay connected to You. Even when we can’t think of words and don’t know what to say, You are still there waiting to hear from us. Thank You for giving us instruction for how to pray so that even when words fail us, we know we can say: Father, may your name be honored. May your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we also forgive everyone who sins against us. Keep us from falling into sin when we are tempted. (NirV) Amen.”

Pass out Parent CUE cards as adults arrive for pick-up.