



COMMITMENT | WEEK 3 | MAY 15-16, 2021

4th-5th Lesson

Livin' on a Prayer

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

Bible Story: Livin' on a Prayer (Model Prayer) • *Luke 11:1-4*

Key Question: How do you pray to God?

Bottom Line: Practice praying to God.

Basic Truth: I am loved by God no matter what so I can be confident that God knows who I am.

Memory Verse: Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come." 1 Timothy 4:8, NIV

**KID CONNECT:
10 MINUTES**

**LARGE GROUP:
30 MINUTES**

**SMALL GROUP:
20 MINUTES**

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Growing in faith is not something that happens by merely cramming more information about the Bible into a child's brain. All of that knowledge in their head means nothing if we don't help kids experience what that knowledge can do in their hearts. To fully experience faith, we want kids to practice their faith. And that takes commitment.

God keeps all His promises and puts His plans into action. Because God has followed through on those plans, we get the chance to be with God forever. We reflect God's commitment to us when we can make a plan and stick to it. This month, we'll help kids discover that one of the best plans they can make is to commit to an ongoing relationship with Jesus. Commit to practicing faith by reading God's Word, praying to Him consistently, talking about Him with friends, and living out that faith every day.

Key Question: How do you pray to God? Kids are just starting to discover that they can pray more than before meals and at bedtime. We hope the kids in your environments learn that they can pray to God whenever they feel like praying with whatever words come to mind. God is always there to listen.

In **Luke 11:1-4**, we find Jesus’s disciples asking Him how to pray. Jesus responds with a prayer that serves as the perfect model for how we can talk to God. We can pray with gratitude and honesty, pray for our needs and forgiveness. It’s comforting to know that we can pray, knowing that God knows us and wants to hear from us.

[Bottom Line] Practice praying to God. We can pray anytime, anywhere because God is always listening. We hope kids will understand more about the faith skill, PRAY, and find that talking to God is an essential part of growing in their faith.

KID CONNECT

WELCOME TIME

(VIDEO: INTRO MUSIC)

Play intro music and greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group.

OPENING ACTIVITY:

(“Tangram Pieces” and “Tangram Patterns” Activity Pages – 1 Per Kid, Scissors)

What You Do:

- Give each kid a pair of scissors and a “Tangram Pieces” Activity Page to cut apart.
- Give each kid a “Tangram Patterns” Activity Page and encourage them to use their pieces to create the shape they see.
- If they finish a pattern and time allows, they can select a new pattern to complete.

What You Say:

“Great job, guys! It took some practice moving the pieces around to create the pattern on the page. But you did it! *[Transition]* Jesus gave us a pattern to follow when we talk to God. Let’s go find out what Jesus said.”

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN AND WELCOME

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN, SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)

Show the countdown video as you transition to Large Group. Set it to end as the session begins. *The Large Group Leader has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to KidCity. The LGL is relatable and inviting. LGLs can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, holiday, etc. The LGL 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: “Welcome everyone! I’m so glad you are able to come hang out with us in KidCity today. My name is [INSERT NAME]. We are going to have a lot of fun today by playing a game, singing some incredible songs that worship God, and then we are going to hear an amazing true story from God’s Word, the Bible.

“But first, let’s quickly go over our KidCity Expectations (rules) so we can make sure that we make the most of our time today: *(Don’t dwell on these too long, but make sure you review them briefly so we can set everyone up for success.)*

1. Be Kind – We need to be kind with our words and actions to our friends, leaders, and the space that we are using.
2. Be Safe – Make wise choices with your actions and words.
3. Have Fun – Participate in what we are doing! It’s no fun just sitting there...

“Let’s kick off today by playing a game!”

LARGE GROUP GAME

MESSED UP!

(Water Bottle, Signs for “Messed Up!” Game)

LGL: “It’s Sunday! Let’s get the blood flowin’! Hop out of your seat and show everyone some sick moves!”

(AUDIO: UPBEAT WORKOUT MUSIC)

Lead the Large Group in some crazy but brief Tae-Bo inspired calisthenic moves. After about 60-90 seconds, wind the music down.

Grab a water bottle and take a long drink.

“Woo! Yeah! It’s great to get moving, get things loosened up, but it’s also important to get your brains doing the same kinds of things—mental gymnastics, if you will. I know a lot of times you all walk in here to KidCity like you’re still half asleep and it takes fifteen worship songs before you start to wake up! Today, however, let’s engage those brains right from the start.

“And since it’s KidCity, we’ll do it with a competition. Who’s with me? *(Pause for responses.)* Awesome! This game is appropriately called ‘Messed Up!’”

(SLIDE: MESSED UP!)

Hold the stack of signs.

“We’ll need two teams of ten for this competition. I’d like the teams to stand in a circle, facing each other. Then I’ll hand out these signs *(Hold up the stack of signs.)*, and I want you to hold them close, face down, so no one can see what’s on them. When I say ‘Go,’ flip them over so everyone in your circle can see them.

“These signs, when put in the correct order, spell out a word, a phrase, a Bible verse, or a famous saying. It’s up to you as a group to: 1) decide what the plan is, then 2) line up in the right order! First team to do so is the winner! Get it? Got it? Good! Let’s get in circles and hand out the signs!”

Play the game, using the signs in LG Assets.

*Optional: Print out several copies of the signs for safety, and play several rounds with different teams competing.
Once finished, thank all the volunteers with thunderous applause.*

“Fantastic! Now hopefully your brains are turned on! Let’s keep that going. Let’s stand and get ready to worship our amazing God!”

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: LET REVOLUTION START, O TASTE AND SEE)

INTRODUCE THE SESSION

(SLIDE: LIFE APP, FAITH SKILLS)

(No Supplies)

LGL: Before we jump in today, let’s remind ourselves of the definition of our Life App, Commitment.

(SLIDE: LIFE APP) “Commitment is making a plan and putting it into practice.

“This month we are talking about four different faith skills that are important if we are making a plan to get to know God better. The four different skills were HEAR, TALK, PRAY, and LIVE.”

(SLIDE: FAITH SKILLS)

“Last week we focused in on how important it is to read the Bible and HEAR what God is telling us through His Word and put it into practice. This week we’re digging into something that could potentially strike fear in the hearts of every person in here—and that’s praying to God, the King and Creator of the Universe.

“You might think, ‘What if I say the wrong thing?’ or ‘What if I don’t sound Christian enough?’ We might wonder the sorts of things we should pray for. We might even wonder how God even hears our prayers. Well good news, we aren’t the first ones to wonder those things! Jesus’ disciples saw how He made a habit of talking to His Father, God, and they wondered if there was a “right way” to pray. Let’s see what happened...”

BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: SO & SO SHOW; SLIDES: KEY QUESTION, BASIC TRUTH)

(VIDEO: THE SO & SO SHOW)

“It’s so good to know that God is with me all the time and that I can talk to Him about what’s going in my life. That’s really amazing, if you think about it! I can talk to Him anytime, anywhere, about anything—and you can, too!

“Jesus’ prayer gave us the perfect example of the way we can pray to God. We don’t have to just pray about the things we want or need. We can take time to honor God and praise Him. We can ask God to show us how we can be a part of what He’s doing in the world.

“Prayer is such a huge part of our training plan. It helps us grow stronger in our relationship with God. We can practice praying to God.

“If praying is new for you, you don’t have to feel nervous. You don’t have to worry about saying just the right things when you talk to God. Remember, He LOVES you! He is your perfect Father, and He loves to hear from you. You can ask someone else to help you pray, or you can try it on your own. Just speak to God right from your heart!

“If you’re someone who HAS prayed to God before or if praying is something you do every day, this is a great reminder about why it’s so important. We can be honest with God. We can talk to Him about the things going on in our lives, and we can know that He cares about them all. Praying helps us connect with God and reminds us that...

(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH) “I am loved by God no matter what, so I can be confident that God knows who I am.

“We don’t have to hide anything from God. He loves us no matter what.

“Ask yourself this question this week...

(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION) “How do you pray to God?”

“Before we head to small groups let’s go over our verse.

MEMORY VERSE

(SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE)

Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come. 1 Timothy 4:8 (NIV)

PRAYER

“Let’s pray together.

“God, You are so amazing! Thank You for this example Jesus gave of how we can talk to You. We know that prayer is an important way that we can stay connected to You. Help us pray the way Jesus showed us—to honor You and ask for Your kingdom to come . . . ask You for the things we need . . . and tell You we’re sorry when we’ve messed up. Thank You for loving us and ALWAYS hearing our prayers. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS

SMALL GROUP

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BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

(Bible, Paper – 1 per Kid, Pens/Markers)

What You Do:

- Read the list of words below at a rate of one word every second.
 - o father
 - o squirrel
 - o bread
 - o prayer
 - o macaroni
 - o forgive
 - o kingdom
 - o follow
 - o cupcakes
 - o heaven
 - o power
 - o Lord
 - o temptation
 - o pickles
 - o commitment
- When finished, give kids one minute to write down as many of the words as they can remember.
- Recite the list again and ask kids to put a check next to each word that corresponds with yours.
- Read Luke 11:1-4, asking kids to circle words on their list as they hear them read from the Lord's Prayer.
- Challenge kids by way of discussion to think of prayer beyond simply asking God for something.
 - o If you think of prayer as a conversation with God, what are some things you might talk to Him about?
 - o What do you see in Luke 11:1-4 that is similar to those conversations? What do you see that's different?
 - o Why do you think Jesus gave the disciples (and us) this prayer?

- Point out that Jesus gave us this prayer as an example to follow. It includes key areas that should be part of our conversations with God every day. Prayer brings our mind and heart's focus back on God. It helps us process what He's doing and understand what He might be doing in our lives.
 - Based on Jesus' prayer example, what would you say are important things God wants us to talk to Him about?
 - Why do you think that including each of these things is important?
- Encourage kids to share if their view of prayer has changed after today's Large Group session and conversation. How will they put into practice some of the things they learned?

VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

(Bible, Dice)

What You Do:

- Use this activity to lead kids in discovering three important types of prayer.
 - Prayers of praise that focus on God
 - Prayers of love that focus on our relationship with others
 - Prayers of request that focus on needs
- Invite one of the kids to look up Psalm 50:15 and read it aloud.
- Take turns rolling the die.
 - If it lands on an even number, a kid shares something from the verse that focuses in on praise prayer.
 - If it lands on an odd number, ask them to point out something the verse tells us about prayers for ourselves or others.
- As time allows, look up additional verses then roll the die again.
 - Psalm 91:1-2
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
 - Philippians 4:6
 - Luke 6:27-28
- Ask:
 - Why do you think God wants us to praise Him in our prayers? What could it change in our hearts if we make a habit of telling God why He's awesome?
 - When we pray for others, how does it also affect us?
 - What did you learn about prayer today that you want to try this week?

DISCUSSION

Ask the following questions and lead the group to discuss:

- If God knows everything already, why do we need to pray?
- Which part of the Lord's Prayer do you most often pray? (*Praising God for who He is, telling God you want His plans to be true, asking Him for what you need, asking Him for forgiveness*) Which parts do you sometimes forget to pray about?
- Is there a right or wrong way to pray?
- What can you do if you don't feel like praying or if you don't know what to say to God?

PRAY AND DISMISS

(Preteen GodTime Card - 1 per kid)

What You Say:

“God, we are so thankful that You hear our prayers. We are thankful that we can pray to You anytime, anywhere, and about anything. Thank You that Jesus gave us an example of how to pray. Thank You that He taught us that we should PRAISE You, ASK for the things we need each day, ASK for forgiveness, GIVE forgiveness, and ASK for help to live like Jesus. Please continue to teach us to come to You about anything. You love us so much, and we are so thankful for Your Son, Jesus. It’s in Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”

Pass out the GodTime Cards to each kid. If there’s spare time, encourage kids to start looking over their GodTime card and point out how it relates to today’s lesson.