



COMMITMENT | WEEK 3 | MAY 15-16, 2021

Virtual 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

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.

SMALL GROUP

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY AND DISCUSSION

(“Copy That!” Activity Page, Paper Markers)

What You Do:

- As kids join the meeting and get settled, engage them in conversation about the past week.
- If you choose, consider using an icebreaker question to get kids talking.
- Practice saying the memory verse together.
- If you’ve chosen to watch the Bible story video presentation as a group, get that started once you’ve given latecomers a chance to join the meeting, and once the group feels settled (Video found at theparenthub.net).

Activity:

What You Do:

- Tell kids that you have a picture that you want them to draw. You know what it’s supposed to look like, but they don’t.
- You’ll give them directions and they should follow your directions exactly.
- Give them an example instruction, so they can practice. (i.e., draw a rectangle in the middle of the page; then draw a square just to the left of it.)
- Start with the picture of a runner’s jersey. You can say something like, “draw a large rectangle with the long side going up and down. Draw a small crescent moon inside the top of the rectangle.)
- After you feel like you’ve given enough instruction for the drawing, reveal the “real” image and show kids what their drawing is supposed to look like.
 - (If printing was not an option, wait until you’ve done both “copycat” images before revealing the real ones to your group.)
- Continue on, giving instructions for drawing the trophy, and then revealing the goal image. (This one will almost certainly not end up looking like it’s supposed to, but it’ll be fun for kids to try!)

What You Say:

- Point out that, kind of like they had to follow your lead as they drew their images, Jesus gave us a model prayer to follow as we pray to God.
 - This model prayer 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.
- Read Luke 11:1-4, asking kids to listen for a few key words and write those down on their page.
- Ask:
 - 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?
 - 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?

- 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?

Close your group in prayer:

"Dear God, thank You for the amazing privilege of being able to talk to You anytime, anywhere, about anything. When we can't think of what to say, You are able to hear our thoughts and know what is on our hearts. Thank You for giving us an example for how to pray. Help us to continually talk to You as we go through our days this week. In Jesus' name, amen."