



COMMITMENT | WEEK 2 | MAY 12, 2024

# Elementary Lesson

## You Say

**Monthly Virtue:** Commitment—making a plan and putting it into practice.

**Bible Story:** You Say (The Lord’s Prayer) • Matthew 6:9-13

**Key Question:** How do you pray to God?

**Basic Truth:** I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me.

**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 (NirV)

### LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Growing in faith is not something that happens by simply 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 them experience how that knowledge can transform their heart. To experience faith, we want kids to practice their faith, and that takes commitment. Commitment is part of God’s nature and how God interacts with us, keeping promises and putting plans into action. God’s commitment to us is just one of the many reasons we can trust God no matter what. Because God’s promises and plans came true in Jesus, we can be with God forever. We reflect God’s character when we 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. We hope they commit to practicing their faith by reading God’s Word, praying to God honestly and consistently, talking about God with others, and living for God in how they show love throughout the everyday moments of their life.

Key Question: How do you pray to God? Kids in your ministry will have varied experiences with prayer. Many might just be starting to discover that they can pray more than before meals and at bedtime. Others might never have prayed out loud on their own. Whatever their experience with prayer, we hope all kids can learn that they can talk to God through prayer whenever they feel like praying, with whatever words come to mind. God is always there to listen and cares about what we have to say.

In Matthew 6:9-13 we find Jesus talking about prayer during His Sermon on the Mount. Jesus shared a model for prayer that helps us understand more about how we can talk to God. We can pray with gratitude and honesty, pray for our needs, and ask for forgiveness. It’s comforting to know that we can pray while remembering that God knows us and wants to hear from us.

**Pre-Service Check List**

- HUDDLE AS TEAM → You're in this together! Pray together and talk about the activities for the day.
- PLAY MUSIC
- PUT OUT TOYS → A welcoming environment is important! We want it to be obvious from the moment kids walk in that they belong HERE!
- PUT ASIDE DISTRACTIONS
- ENGAGE WITH KIDS

**Morning Flow**

- Doors Open 9:15/11:00
- Large Group Starts 9:35/11:20
- Small Group Starts 10:05/11:50

## LARGE GROUP

### COUNTDOWN AND WELCOME (3 Minutes)

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN, SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)

LGL: “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, but before we do let’s go over these announcements/KidCity Expectations.

**(SLIDE: BAPTISM)** (Said on the fourth weekend of the month only) “Today are baptisms at Hope. Baptism is a way of telling the world that you love God and have made the decision to follow Him with your life. It’s a big deal! Is there anyone here who is getting baptized today? (Pause and if someone is, go ahead and give them a high five and get the kids to clap). Awesome!”

**(SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)** “Now, 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
2. Be Safe
3. Have Fun

### LARGE GROUP GAME (6 Min)

#### TORTILLA HEAD

(Pack of Flour Tortillas - 2, Dinner-sized Paper Plate Attached to a Headband - 2)

Let’s remind ourselves of what we are talking about all month.

**(SLIDE: VIRTUE)** Commitment—making a plan and putting it into practice

We need commitment for lots of different things in life. If you take piano lessons, then that means you’re putting your plan to be a musician into practice. Or you might play on a soccer team. You can’t just show up for the game, right? You’ve got to put in the work. You’ve got to practice hard so you can be strong and ready to play.

“We also need commitment in our relationship with God. We need to make a plan to grow in our faith in God, and then put that plan into practice! Check out our monthly 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 (NirV)

We will talk more about that later, but for now, let’s play a game!

**(SLIDE: GAME SLIDE)**

## (SLIDES: FUN MUSIC)

### HOW TO PLAY:

- EXPLAIN THE GAME: Two teams of two will work together to try to catch as many tortillas as possible on their plates.
- PLAY: Designate one person from each team to be the 'catcher' and one to be the 'flipper'. The catcher will be wearing a headband with a plate attached to it. The flipper will either (depending on the age/skill level) toss the tortilla to their teammate normally or face away from their teammate and flip it over their head. The catcher must not touch the tortilla and can only catch with the plate. They can move one step in any direction to attempt to catch. Any tortillas that miss must stay on the ground.

"That was so fun! Now everyone stand up and let's worship God!"

## WORSHIP (6-7 Minutes)

(VIDEO: EVERY BEAT, WAVEWALKER)

## BIBLE STORY (12 Minutes)

(No supplies)

All month we're looking at the ways we practice our faith in Jesus. These are some of the ways we get to know God and follow Jesus. Last week we talked about how important it is to listen to God through reading the Bible. And today we're doing a deep dive into one of the most important ways we can get to know God . . . talk with God. In other words: prayer.

"As we get started, I have a question for you. When have you seen people pray? Are there certain times or places you are more likely to see people pray? What do you think? Let's hear from you.

"Yeah! That's great . . . people pray before eating meals or before they go on a long trip. Others pray when they wake up in the morning or right before bedtime. And, of course, people pray at church or in Small Group, like we do here at KidCity.

"Okay, how about another question? And maybe this might be harder to answer, but let's give it a try. Why do you think people pray? What do you think?

"Absolutely. Those are some great ideas. People pray for all sorts of reasons. They pray to say thank you to God, they pray for someone who is sick, and they pray for protection or for help in a tough situation. Which might make you wonder: is there a right or wrong way to pray?

"Are there certain words you have to use? Do some prayers 'not work'? Or are there prayers that God just simply ignores or doesn't answer because they're not said the right way?

"What about time? Do you have to pray for a certain amount of time before God hears it? How much do you have to pray to get good at it?

“Those are some great questions, and I’m guessing they’re maybe even questions you’ve had yourself. But remember when we have some big questions, we have a source for some big answers: the Bible. Remember, the people who wrote the Bible had personal experiences with God. And God inspired them to write about those experiences so people like us could get to know God better. Let’s check out what they have to say about prayer!

**(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY 5 MIN)**

Whether you take time in quiet to pray the prayer Jesus taught us or just use a small part of it to talk to God—God hears every word.

“The more you practice talking to God, the more natural it will start to feel. Kind of like talking to a friend. Remember, God is not impressed by big words, loud voices, or over-the-top acting. What God wants is you, the real you! God wants your time, your honesty, and your heart.

“So whenever, wherever, however you need to talk to God, just do it. Just tell God what’s on your mind and what you’re going through.

Think on this Basic Truth:

**(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH)** ‘I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me.’

All month long we are learning skills on how to know God better. The more we learn how to know God better, the more attuned we become to what God wants. We can trust that God will guide us for our good and His glory because we know that God loves us no matter what.

“Let’s wrap up today by asking our Key Question.

**(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION)** ‘How do YOU pray to God?’

Have kids turn and talk to their shoulder partner for 60 seconds. Your KQ slide on Playlister will keep track of time for you. While kids are talking, walk around and listen in to what they are saying and give prompts if needed. Don’t try to resolve anything, kids will have a further discussion within their small group time.

“Ok friends, come back together in 3, 2, 1...”

“I heard some great thoughts floating around. You are going to have more of a chance to talk about this in small group time, but for now let’s pray.

“Dear God, thank you for loving us and caring about all our needs. Thank you for being there to listen anytime we want to talk to you! Thank you for the way Jesus gave us an example of how we can pray. Help us practice talking to you about whatever is going on in our lives. Help us get in the habit of praying and help us stay committed to put that plan in practice. We love you, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

## **DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS**

## SMALL GROUP

**Monthly Virtue:** Commitment—making a plan and putting it into practice

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Kids learn best through play and through conversation. Both are equally important, so be sure to give time to both!

### KEY QUESTION (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

(No Supplies)

Spend some time coming together and talking about the Key Question. There aren't any right or wrong answers but use this time to help kids have a discussion about what they just learned and encourage them to grow in their faith. Try to keep the conversation spiritually based. Why does what we are talking about matter in light of what God has done for us?

Key Question: How do YOU pray to God? When should you pray?

(Answers will vary: I pray when I'm feeling big emotions, I pray with my family, I pray when my friend is going through a hard time; etc.)

### PRAYER PLAN (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

(“Prayer Plan” Activity Page – 1 per kid, Pens/Markers/Crayons)

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- One at a time, read a scenario below that kids might encounter.
- Give kids a few moments to think quietly about that scenario.
- Ask:
  - What could you thank God for in this situation?
  - What could you ask God for in this situation?
  - What is something true about God that might be helpful for you to remember in this situation?

Invite kids to share ideas of how they can talk to God in that moment.

Repeat for each scenario.

- #1 "You're throwing a ball in the house, and you break your brother's soccer trophy. Your parent runs in and asks what happened."
- #2 "Two of your friends start to have an argument in school. You care about both of them and want to help them work it out."

### What You Say:

“There are so many ways we can talk to God! We can thank God, we can ask for forgiveness, we can praise God, and we can ask for help. We can talk to God anytime, anywhere—it’s just like talking with a friend! Just like any friendship, we feel closer to God when we share what’s going on in our lives.

- Hand each kid a copy of the “Prayer Plan” Activity Page and a pen or pencil.
- Explain that they will be spending time creating their own prayer plans, which can help guide them to pray in the days ahead. (They can draw pictures or write words. If this is done with younger kids, it can be a guided activity. It can be done independently for older groups.)
  - **4th/5th** - After kids have finished their prayer plans, give them time to share a prayer request with the group or a partner, if they would like to. Encourage them to take a moment to pray for each other.
- Explain that just like we have discussed how there is no right or wrong way to pray, it’s also important to remember that prayer can happen by ourselves, as well as with others. It’s great to have time in our lives where both of those can happen.
- Help kids understand their plans should simply be a reminder to help them pray. They can pray anytime! Not only during designated times on their plans.
- Remind kids how with any commitment, it requires making a plan and putting it into practice. Prayer is no different! It is a skill that takes planning and practice. And we will also benefit from it as a way to grow in our faith.
- Encourage kids to use their prayer plans in the week ahead.

## PRAY

God, thank you for teaching us how to pray and then listening to every prayer we pray. We are so grateful that you listen to us and that you value what we have to say. Remind us to talk to you continually, like we talk to a friend. We want to be close to you. We love you and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.

## FINAL ACTIVITY: Biblical Literacy (K-5<sup>th</sup>) (Memory Verse Poster)

### What You Do:

- Review the Memory Verse.
- Break it down into three parts. With each part, have kids do the following physical activity while they say that part.
  - Training the body has some value. (Jumping jacks)
  - But being godly has value in every way. (Planks/running in place)
  - It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come. 1 Timothy 4:8 (Squats)
- Repeat activity.