



## Lord, Teach Us to Pray

### Scope & Sequence

*Lord, Teach Us to Pray* is an intergenerational study for children and adults on prayer. The curriculum uses *The Lord's Prayer* as a framework for teaching about prayer, because it is what Jesus used when His disciples requested that He teach them how to pray. In so doing, Jesus showed them what should be in the believer's heart when he comes to God in prayer. *Lord, Teach Us to Pray* is not about a correct formula for prayer—it is about God's children learning to fellowship with Him in prayer. Each week the class will add visuals to a large scrapbook that is completed in the final lesson. (Students will also be able to make their own smaller versions of this scrapbook.) *The Family Devotional Guide* enables families to build on each lesson at home through daily family devotions throughout the week.

#### Lesson 1: Lord, Teach Us to Pray

Elijah and the Prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18)

**God delights in and always answers the prayer of the righteous.**

- ▶ The curriculum begins by showing students that prayer isn't learned naturally; we need to be taught how to pray. In the Bible students learn that the prayers of ordinary Christians are answered. Believers need hearts that want to learn to pray, and only God can give us this heart.

Memory Verse: Psalm 34:15

#### Lesson 2: The Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6)

**Jesus gives us a pattern for prayer in The Lord's Prayer.**

- ▶ This lesson teaches that *The Lord's Prayer* shows us what the condition of the heart should be when we come to God in prayer and that our hearts should want what God wants. It is important that our hearts are right when we come to God in prayer. The lesson teaches that prayer is spending time with God. True prayer seeks God. Families will learn that prayer isn't making God aware of our needs, since God knows our needs. Telling God our needs in prayer is a way of expressing our trust in Him and dependence on Him.

Memory Verse: Psalm 19:14

#### Lesson 3: Our Father

Various Passages

**God's children have a close, personal relationship with Him.**

- ▶ Because of the work of Jesus on the cross, Christians are able to approach God in prayer. The lesson emphasizes that God is a Father who welcomes, loves, and responds to His children. He is not far-away, impersonal, or disinterested. The lesson also reminds students that Christians are part of the family of God's children and should pray for one another.

Memory Verse: Galatians 4:4-5

#### Lesson 4: In Heaven

Nathan Rebukes David (2 Samuel 12)

**God's children need to see the greatness of God when they pray.**

- ▶ Students will be reminded that God is omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient, and eternal. He is the King and has the right to rule. His children should respect how He chooses to answer prayer. The lesson teaches that God always answers prayer, but His answer may be "yes," "no," or "wait." The lesson emphasizes that God knows and cares for every detail of our lives.

Memory Verse: Psalm 115:3

**Lesson 5: Hallowed Be Your Name**

John the Baptist Exalts Christ (John 3)

**The attitudes, words, and actions of a Christian should bring honor to God's name.**

- ▶ God and His purposes should be the focus of the prayers of His children. In other words, prayer should be GOD-centered, not ME-centered. The lesson challenges students and their parents by reminding them that everything a Christian does, says, or thinks should bring honor to God's name.

Memory Verse: Psalm 115:1

**Lesson 6: Your Kingdom Come**

Jesus Heals a Woman (Mark 5)

**Along with the rest of creation, Christians should long for the return of Jesus.**

- ▶ This lesson demonstrates that if we love the world instead of the kingdom of God, we will not long for Jesus' return. Families will learn that praying "*Your Kingdom come*" is a commitment to being part of God's work of building His kingdom in this world.

Memory Verses: 1 John 2:15; Matthew 6:20-21

**Lesson 7: Your Will Be Done**

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane (Matthew 26)

**Submission to the will of God is an evidence that a person is a Christian.**

- ▶ The prayer "*Your will be done*" reflects a heart attitude that wants to submit willingly to what God ordains. Families will learn that true prayer is not attempting to manipulate God. It is learning to submit to God's desires.

Memory Verse: Psalm 40:8

**Lesson 8: Our Daily Bread**

Do Not Be Anxious (Matthew 6)

**God's children are dependent on Him.**

- ▶ God needs nothing and all good gifts come from Him. This lesson teaches that God is generous. He delights in taking care of the needs of His children. When Christians bring their needs to God, it should be with hearts of gratitude and faith.

Memory Verse: Matthew 6:33

**Lesson 9: Forgive Us**

Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (Matthew 18)

**If we do not forgive others, God will not forgive us.**

- ▶ Sin separates man from God and prevents answers to prayer. Students and their parents will be reminded that God's children are sinful and need to repent daily. The lesson also teaches that people who recognize their sin and experience God's grace will respond with forgiveness to those who sin against them. The willingness to forgive others is the mark of a person who recognizes that he has been forgiven by God.

Memory Verse: Matthew 6:14

**Lesson 10: Deliver Us from Evil**

Jesus Foretells Peter's Denial (Mark 14)

**The humble heart recognizes its own weakness for sin.**

- ▶ The study of this lesson teaches that "*deliver us from evil*" is the attitude of the person who recognizes his own weakness and acknowledges his dependency on God. This lesson also engages families in a discussion Romans 7 on law and sin.

Memory Verse: Mark 14:38

## Lesson 11: Heart Problems

Marks of the True Christian (Romans 12)

### **Sin blocks our prayers.**

- ▶ The only prayer of the non-Christian that God responds to is the prayer of repentance and confession of faith in Jesus. In the Bible students will find several examples of heart issues that hinder our prayer lives including lack of desire, wrong motives, insincerity, pride, unkindness, selfishness, and not trusting in Jesus.

Memory Verse: Psalm 66:18

## Lesson 12: Work at It

Trust in the Lord with All Your Heart (Proverbs 3)

### **We should pray specifically, boldly, and continually.**

- ▶ This lesson teaches that the ministry of prayer is often a hidden ministry and it is hard work. Families will learn that having a plan for prayer is helpful and that using scripture to pray helps us to know and to pray for the purposes of God.

Memory Verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:17

## Lesson 13: With All Your Heart

Believers Pray for Boldness (Acts 4)

### **Prayer is about getting to know God better.**

The Parable of the Persistent Widow (Luke 18)

- ▶ As the curriculum ends, this lesson challenges families to pray earnestly, with all their hearts, and to pray with perseverance. Students and their parents will study some biblical examples of those who prayed earnestly and with perseverance as well as post-biblical figures including Augustine and George Mueller.

Memory Verse: Psalm 116:1