

JOURNEY™

DISCIPLES

LEADER'S GUIDE SAMPLE



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LESSON OBJECTIVES >>

- » Students will know that prayer is a conversation with God.
- » Students will be able to know that prayer is a regular and essential practice of the Christian life.
- » Write your own:

CORE VERSE | *Matthew 6:9-13*

Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

CORE CONCEPTS

Prayer is a conversation based on a loving relationship with our heavenly Father!

CONVERSATION:

an exchange between two people who have a desire to express their views and know they have been heard.

LEADER PREP VIDEO

For a video explanation of the lesson, go to disciples.awanaym.org/leader/prayer

CORE CONTENT >> FROM STUDENT BIBLE STUDY

READ LUKE 11:1-13

When His disciples asked how to pray, Jesus responded by helping them understand prayer as a conversation based on a relationship. One of the first words out of His mouth is Father. Whether you have a good father, a bad father, or an absent father, we all understand that at some point, we had a person who played a role in bringing us into this world. By using this term, Jesus is helping us to begin to comprehend how we should relate to God in prayer.

First, Jesus instructs us to come to God as His children. If we have placed our faith and trust in Jesus Christ, we are God's children (John 1:12-13). So when Jesus challenges us to come to our Father with faith like a child (Mark 10:13-16), He means it! If God is our heavenly Father, we can talk to Him with the same closeness of a loving father with his children.

Next, Jesus makes clear to us that our Father is also the King of the whole universe. Verse 2 reminds us that since we are the children of the King, we owe Him our respect and allegiance. In praying this way, we are saying that we are on His side, committed to His plan and agenda. To be a child of a King is to be a prince or a princess (Galatians 4:7, Romans 8:14-17), but even they must live under the rule of their father the King. As God's children, we must be willing to submit our will and ways to Him.

Jesus continues by clarifying the kinds of things for which we should be asking our Father. A good father provides for the needs of his children. A good father forgives his children when they fail, while challenging them to forgive others in the same way. A good father protects his children by helping

them through difficult times and protecting them from evil. God is the best Father ever! Jesus is encouraging His disciples to ask their Father for all of these things on a regular basis with the full faith that He will take care of them.

Up to this point, most of what Jesus has said seems fairly reasonable. But over the next several verses (vv.5-10), Jesus takes this relational conversation to a whole other level! In essence, He tells His disciples to be bold and persistent! The story He tells of a friend going to his neighbor late at night for food seems almost shockingly bold. And yet Jesus is encouraging us to pray like that! In the Greek, the words ask, seek, and knock are all in the present active imperative tense. In other words, they would be best translated "Keep asking until it is given," "Keep seeking," "Keep knocking". In essence, Jesus is saying, "Keep at it until you get an answer" (v. 10).

As He concludes His discussion on prayer, Jesus reminds His disciples in verses 11-13 that most of our earthly fathers (who are sinful and broken just like us) didn't try to do us harm but rather provide for our basic needs. If that is how imperfect fathers treat their kids, how much better will your perfect heavenly Father, the all-powerful King of the entire universe, treat you, the children He prizes above all creation! Our Father God longs to hear from us about what we need and desire. He also loves to respond when we pray, the way every good father loves to engage with his children. While that doesn't mean He will give us everything that we want (a good father has to say no sometimes), He will always look out for our best interest and provide us with exactly what He knows we need.

INTERACTION >>

Here are three suggestions for engaging your students. Use the open space below to write out your plans.

GAME 1: BANANA SURGERY

(See AwanaYM Game Book, page 15, for materials list and how to play.)

GAME 2: BEANBAG BOMB DROP

(See AwanaYM Game Book, page 18, for materials list and how to play.)

SERVICE PROJECT

Let's have a really good conversation. Communication and conversation is essential to a healthy life. In our world, there are people who don't get letters, emails, or text messages. Our elderly have a lifetime's worth of information, stories, and experiences stored in their minds. They just need someone to share it with. Here's your challenge. Have you and your students find a nursing home or elderly live-in community. Spend time serving them refreshments. Provide them with some entertainment. However, most of all, spend time sitting with them and talking with them. One of the most meaningful experiences in this world is having someone be interested in your story. You'll be a blessing to the elderly and your students might learn a lot from their experiences. Take an afternoon and listen to some really good stories.

YOU PLAN IT | WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TONIGHT? >> TIME: ____ MINUTES

TRANSITION >>

VIDEO CLIP | SKIT | MIXER | WORSHIP

»

»

»

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

What one or two important things do the students need to know before they leave tonight?

»

»

INTRODUCTION >> TIME: ____ MINUTES

(BASED ON THE STUDENT'S INTRO EXPERIENCE)

This week students have been thinking about their relationship with God.

MAKE A LIST OF THE REQUESTS THAT STUDENTS WROTE IN THEIR BOOKS.

PRAY WITH THE STUDENTS, THEN ASK THEM ABOUT THEIR RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONS BELOW.

When you pray to God, do you normally just give Him a list of needs and desires?

Describe your normal time of prayer.

How would it change your prayer time if you began to invite God into a conversation about those needs and desires?

OPTIONAL TRANSITION >>

WATCH THIS VIDEO

How do you think about God when you pray?

DISCIPLES.AWANAYM.ORG/PRAYER

TEACHING NOTES:

CORE
VERSE

Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

Matthew 6:9-13

SHARE A STORY >>

STORYTELLER:

(SOMEONE WHO CAN TELL A GREAT STORY ABOUT A TIME WHEN THEIR PRACTICE OF PRAYER WAS ESSENTIAL.)

Tell your story by answering these four questions.

1. WHAT WERE THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT INITIALLY DROVE YOU TO GOD IN PRAYER.

2. WHAT WAS YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD WHEN YOU FIRST CAME TO HIM IN PRAYER ABOUT YOUR SITUATION?

3. HOW DID GOD RESPOND YOUR PRAYERS IN THIS CIRCUMSTANCE?

4. HOW DID YOU GROW FROM THIS EXPERIENCE?

TEACHING NOTES:

CORE CONTENT OUTLINE >>

MISCONCEPTION:

I ONLY TALK TO GOD WHEN I NEED SOMETHING.

And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Matthew 6:7-8

Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few. Ecclesiastes 5:2

ILLUMINATION:

PRAYER IS A CONVERSATION. IT'S MORE THAN JUST TALKING. WE LISTEN TO GOD'S RESPONSES IN HIS WORD.

Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and fo give us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." Matthew 6:9-13

Pray without ceasing, 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6

Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known. Jeremiah 33:3

FOR FURTHER STUDY, CHECK OUT THESE VERSES: 2 KINGS 4:33, ECC. 5:2, PSALM 145:18, LUKE 6:12, ROM. 8:26, PHIL. 4:6

RESPONSE >>

» Invite your students to spend some time in prayer and reflection before you enter into small group time. Encourage them to spend time listening to God rather than coming in with many words.

»

Challenge your students to make prayer a daily habit that is perfected in small increments. Ask them to begin with at least five minutes a day and then add one minute a day over the next ten days. If they already have a regular prayer schedule, challenge them to add five minutes of quiet to their routine.

TEACHING NOTES:

FACILITATION HELP: SINGLED OUT

There may come a time in your group when everyone (including you) might disagree with another student. Maybe they say something that is not true or they come from a faith experience that is different. How you handle this situation is VERY important. Nothing will make a student stop coming to the group like four or five students and a leader ganging up on him or her. We are quick to right wrongs and mistakes but don't really take the time to hear or understand our students. Press the pause button. Take time to understand your students and make sure they are heard.

STUDENT LESSON
VIDEO

How do you think about God when you pray?

DISCIPLES.AWANAYM.ORG/PRAYER

**CORE
CONCEPTS**

Prayer is a conversation based on a loving relationship with our heavenly Father!

ESSENTIALS QUESTION: HOW WOULD YOUR PRAYER TIME CHANGE IF YOU INVITED YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER INTO A CONVERSATION ABOUT YOUR NEEDS AND DESIRES?

STUDENT DISCUSSION 1:

WHAT DOES ABBA MEAN AND HOW DOES IT CHANGE YOUR PERSPECTIVE ABOUT GOD?

Allow students to answer the question before helping them out. Abba is the Hebrew word for *Father*. Students may have a myriad of perspectives of the word or meaning of father. Allow them to talk this out, but lead them to the conclusion that God is perfect, holy and loving, therefore, He is the most gracious and compassionate father.

If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! Matthew 7:11

STUDENT DISCUSSION 2:

IN YOUR MIND, WHICH THREE PRAYERS IN THE BIBLE BEST DEMONSTRATE THE KIND OF BOLDNESS AND PERSEVERANCE THAT JESUS IS REFERRING TO IN THIS PASSAGE?

Possible answers may include Nehemiah's prayer in Nehemiah 1, King David asking for God's guidance in Psalm 51, or Paul's appeal on behalf of believers in Philippians 1. There are dozens of powerful prayers in the Bible. Be ready to explain your selection.

STUDENT DISCUSSION 3:

HOW DOES GOD SPEAK TO PEOPLE TODAY?

DROP THE MIC >>**CONCLUDE YOUR DISCUSSION WITH:**

- » **ACTION PLAN:** *How do you plan to think and act differently?*
- » **FINAL REFLECTION:** *God isn't a genie who is there to do your bidding. He has opinions and wants to have a conversation.*
- » **FINAL QUESTION:** *Is there anything in your life that you might need to ask God's opinion about?*

