



Younger IK Groups- PreK- 1st grade

April 23, 2025

Bible Story: Prayer- Matthew 7:7-11

Big Idea: God hears our prayers.

The Win: Kids who can identify and take their next step of discipleship by embracing a preschooler's physical needs or engaging an elementary kid in things that interest them.

Wednesday Share:

Tonight during Impact Kids, we looked at Matthew 7:7-11 In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says to keep on asking, seeking, and knocking in prayer. When we pray, God will give us good gifts, just as a father gives good gifts to provide for his children. Treasure the earnest prayers of your kids and their desire to pray about anything and everything. Continue to help your kids hold onto the earnest desire to go to God in prayer whenever they need something—or just to talk with their friend!

Leader Devo:

<https://parkwaychurch.tv/blog/2025/04/16/apr-23>

Dig In to Prayer:

Ask God to show your kids how eager he is to be their friend—to talk to them and to hear from them.

Quick Tip:

Your ministry is a place to model what prayer is! Don't worry about sounding polished; just talk with God like you'd talk with a friend. Don't forget to allow space for listening, include thanksgiving and praise, and provide times for confession. By modeling these different types of prayer in a very authentic, natural way, kids will learn how to talk with God.

Wednesday Group Schedule

Leaders Arrive: 6:15 PM

Family Dinner: 6:30 PM – 6:50 PM

K-3rd Outside Play: 6:50 PM- 7:20 PM

4th & 5th Small Group: 6:50 PM- 7:30 PM

K-3rd Small Group: 7:25 PM- 8:00 PM

4th & 5th Outside Play: 7:30 PM- 8:00 PM

Dismiss: 8:00 PM- 8:05 PM

Low Energy Game:

Talk About Welcoming

Say: When people come to our home, we want them to feel welcome. Share an example of how you make people feel welcome in your home. You might show them a place to sit, bring them something to drink, or tell them you're glad they're there.

Ask: • What can you do to help a friend feel welcome? Kids may say they can shake hands, smile at them, or give them a hug.

Say: Let's practice welcoming our friends with a game!

Play a Welcoming Game

- Form leader-led groups. Direct leaders to stand on one side of the room while their groups stand on the other.
- Leaders will call kids from their group over to them, one at a time, with the following rhyme. Have leaders take turns calling their kids so everyone can hear.
Run over, run over
Welcome [child's name] right over.
- Encourage kids to run to their leader for a big hug when their names are called.
- Kids who've already been called over can stay with their leader and help give each new child a group hug as he or she comes over.
- Continue until every child has been called over for a hug. If time allows, have leaders move to the other side of the room and repeat the game.

Say: It was fun to feel welcomed by our friends today. God welcomes us into a friendship, too. God hears our prayers. He welcomes us to come and talk to him and be his friend!

Talk About Video:

Discuss and Watch "The Power of Prayer"

Say: We're learning that God hears our prayers! How do we know that? Well...let's watch a bunch of examples of how God heard prayers in the Bible. As we do, you'll get a turn to pray in different ways.

Watch "The Power of Prayer."

Ask: • Which example of God hearing prayers was the most impressive to you? Why?

• What's something you prayed about or thought about during this video?

• What's something else you pray about often?

• Why do you or don't you think God hears people today like he did in the Bible?

Say: All throughout the Bible, God heard people's prayers. Over thousands of years that the Bible covered, God always listened. And God hears our prayers today, too.

Deeper Bible:

Supplies

- Bible
- upbeat music
- music player

Talk to Our Friends

Say: When we want to get to know people better as friends, we can talk to them. Let's play a game to help us get to know our friends better.

- Separate the class into two groups. Have one group form a circle, and then help the second group form a circle around the outside of the first group.
- Turn on music for about 30 seconds, and encourage the kids in the inner circle to remain in place and clap while the kids in the outer circle walk clockwise around them.
- Stop the music, and encourage each child to pair up with the closest child in the opposite circle.
- **Say:** Take a minute to get to know your partner better. Ask your friend what he or she most loves to eat. Take turns so you both get to share.
- Give kids a minute or so to share with their partners. Then turn on the music again, this time letting the inner circle move while the outer circle stands and claps. Have adult or teen helpers circulate and ensure kids understand what to do.
- Stop the music, and encourage each child to pair up with the closest child in the opposite circle.
- **Say:** Take a minute to get to know your new partner better. Ask your friend what his or her favorite animal is. Take turns so you both get to share.
- Give kids a minute or so to share with their partners. Then repeat having one circle move, alternating each time, so kids have a new partner for each of the following questions:
 - What's your favorite show or movie?
 - Tell your new friend something you like about him or her. Kids may say they like the friend's smile, clothing, or kindness.
 - What do you like best: a hug, a fist pump, or a high-five? Encourage kids to give their new friends one of those.
 - What's your favorite thing to do outside?
- Continue as time allows, repeating questions or coming up with your own.

Talk to God

Say: In our game, we learned some new things about our friends. Talking to them and listening to them helped us be better friends. Today we're learning that God hears our prayers. When we pray, we're talking with God because he's our friend. Listen to this! **Read aloud Romans 5:11.**

Say: Praying helps us get to know God better as a friend. We can talk with him about anything. He loves to hear us. We can even ask God questions. Share a question you would like to ask God. Maybe you'd like to know why he made mosquitos or what it was like to walk on water.

Ask: • What question would you like to ask God? Kids may want to know what dinosaurs were like, what he did when he was a kid, or why their grandma got sick.

Say: When we ask God a question, we don't usually hear the answer with our ears. Sometimes God helps us think of the answer or see the answer around us. Sometimes we have to wait until we get to heaven to hear the answer. But even if we don't hear an answer, we know God always hears our prayers.

Form leader-led groups, and encourage kids to ask God their questions.

Close your prayer time by thanking God that he hears our prayers.

Life Application:

Learn Motions

Have kids sit in a circle. Say: Today we learned God hears our prayers.

Cup your hands around your mouth like a megaphone. We can ask him when we need help. Have kids cup their hands over their mouths.

Place your hand against your forehead, as if looking into the distance.

Say: We can seek God when we want to know more about him and the world. Have kids place their hands against their foreheads. Make a knocking motion with your fist. Say: We can knock and God will open his door and welcome us into a friendship. Have kids make a knocking motion. Thank God

Say: Let's thank God that he wants us to ask, seek, and knock. Have kids cup their hands over their mouths, and lead them in a prayer thanking God that we can ask him when we need his help and he'll hear us. Have kids place their hands against their foreheads, and lead them in a prayer thanking God that we can seek him and he'll hear us and help us understand him more.

Have kids make a knocking motion, and lead kids in a prayer thanking God that he wants us to be his friend.

Say: Thanks for coming today! This week, remember you can talk to God and he hears our prayers! I hope to see you next week!

Activity Page with a Point:

Younger Kids: Color a Coloring Page

Distribute the coloring pages and crayons.

Say: We're learning about a time Jesus stood up on a hill to teach a big crowd of people! He taught that God hears our prayers. He said God is like a father who gives good gifts to his children, like fish and bread when they're hungry. Let's color a dad giving his daughter food.

Allow time for kids to color.

Older Kids: Do an Activity Page

Say: In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught that God hears our prayers. He said to keep on praying, like you'd keep knocking until someone opened the door!

Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Kids will pair up. One partner will choose a door, and the other will ask yes-or-no questions to figure out which door.

Then partners can trade roles.

Ask: • How did you know when you were done asking questions?

• Why didn't you give up before then?

• You kept asking questions until you found the right door. How does that remind you of praying?

Say: God doesn't always answer our prayers the way we want or when we want. But we can keep on asking, because God hears our prayers.