



## Older IK Groups- 2nd - 5th Grades

**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:

### Play a Game Like Telephone

**Say:** We're talking today about how God hears our prayers. Let's see how well we hear each other!

- Have kids sit in circles of four or five.
- Explain that kids will pass along a message as if they're playing the classic Telephone game but with this exception: They'll hum the message. The person receiving the message will hum it into the ear of the next person in the circle until the last person reveals what he or she heard.
- If you have just a few circles, whisper the message in the ears of the kids who'll start humming the message in their circles. Lots of circles? Call the kids to you so you can share the message with all of them at once.
- Before you launch a message, have kids practice humming this phrase together: "Have a great day!" (To hum, simply say the phrase aloud while not opening your mouth.)
- Here are some phrases to use: "Merry Christmas!" "Happy birthday!" "Where's the bathroom?" "I feel sick." Or make up your own hummable phrase! You'll say the actual words, but kids will only hum them.

### Talk About It

**Say:** Nice job! You kept that game humming right along!

**Ask:** • On a scale of 1 to 10, how easy was it for you to understand what you were told? Why?

• Do you ever feel like your prayers aren't very clear or like God doesn't understand them? Talk about that.

**Say:** Sometimes it's hard to hear others. They don't speak clearly, or we aren't sure they make sense. Some people may think it's hard to hear us. But there's someone who always hears us, and that's God. God hears our prayers, even when we aren't sure what to say. God knows our hearts!

## 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

- Bibles

**Tip:** Your kids will have a range of things they're praying for. Some kids may be asking God for new video games or other things that reveal selfish motives. Other kids may have prayed for heavy things, like a cure for a terminally ill loved one, for their divorcing parents to get back together, or about their fear of a school shooting. This Deeper Bible will bring up those heavy topics, along with the less "intense" prayers. We've tried to address both ends of the spectrum, but be prepared for the kids who are heartbroken over very emotional prayer requests.

### Set It Up

**Say:** Today we've been learning that Jesus said if we ask God, we will receive. And listen to this verse.

**Read Psalm 37:4.**

**Ask:** • What does this verse mean to you?

**Say:** So if the Bible says God will give us what our hearts desire, the things that matter most to us, why doesn't God always give us what we ask for? Let's dig in to that.

### Dig Deeper

**Ask:** • Share about a time God didn't give you what you asked for in prayer. Share your own example first.

**Say:** There are several possible reasons God doesn't always say yes to our prayers. One reason could be our hearts.

**Read James 4:3.**

**Ask:** • Give an example of a prayer that would be selfish.

**Say:** If we ask for a million dollars or a brand-new video game, that could be a selfish prayer. But a lot of times we pray about more serious things, like people who are dying or parents who are divorcing. Those aren't selfish prayers! And God still doesn't do what we ask. What's up with that?

**Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.**

**Ask:** • Why did God say no to Paul's prayer?

**Say:** Sometimes our prayers aren't selfish, and they reflect a good heart, but God still says no. Just like Paul, we don't always know why God says no—but we can still look for his strength and goodness. And just because God doesn't always say yes doesn't mean we should give up on praying. It just might mean we think differently about prayer.

## Deeper Bible:

### Ask for Stuff

Have kids form pairs. Say: Let's try something. You'll have a conversation with your partner. Whichever partner is older will keep asking the younger partner for various snacks you'd like to eat. Don't say anything else...just keep asking for snacks. Younger partner, you'll ask questions that help you get to know your partner, such as "What plans do you have this week?" or "What do you like to do in your free time?" Allow about a minute or so for partners to converse.

**Ask:** • How did you feel during this conversation?

• What do you wish your partner had done differently?

**Say:** If you kept asking for snacks, maybe you were disappointed your partner didn't give you what you were asking for. But you were also missing the point of the conversation! You missed out on getting to know your partner because you were focused on asking for things. Imagine if you had a friend who never said anything to you except to ask you for stuff!

**Ask:** • What would you think about that friend?

**Say:** We often think of prayer as asking God for what we want. And that's a part of prayer. But if that's all we do, we're missing the point: growing a friendship with God. Prayer is a chance for us to listen to God, not just talk. It's a chance to tell God about our day, to ask him questions, and to tell him what we like about him. God hears our prayers because he's our friend who wants to grow even closer with us.

**Ask:** • What are some things you'd talk to a friend about that you never thought to pray about?

• How would it feel to talk with God about those things?

### Dig Even Deeper

**Say:** The Bible talks about prayer as a conversation with our friend that goes both ways.

#### Read Psalm 5:3.

**Ask:** • What do you think of "waiting expectantly" as a part of prayer?

Read Isaiah 50:4.

**Ask:** • How could this verse connect to listening as a part of prayer?

**Say:** The closer we get to God by talking with him as a friend, the more we'll trust that God hears our prayers—and the more God will change our hearts to show us what we need to pray for. In fact, let's re-read the verse we started this part of the lesson with, but let's think about it differently. This time, consider that "give you your heart's desires" might mean "help your heart desire the things God wants."

#### Read Psalm 37:4.

**Ask:** • What changes about your perspective when you hear the verse that way?

**Say:** God is our friend, so we talk with him like we'd talk with a friend. Sometimes we ask him for things we want or need, and other times we talk about other things or listen to him. No matter what, God hears our prayers. He loves us, and prayer can help us grow to be closer friends with God.

## Life Application:

### Share Prayer Requests

**Say:** God hears our prayers. Let's pray together now.

- Have kids share prayer requests. After each request, pray for that child (rather than waiting until everyone has shared). Or if you have kids who want to pray, let them do so.
- **Pray:** God, thank you that you heard all these prayers. We know you'll give us good gifts if we ask, seek, and knock. In Jesus' name, amen.
- Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back 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.