



CHILDREN AND PRAYER

Objective: To understand that teaching a child to directly communicate to God is necessary.

Introduction

When you teach child to pray, it is actually giving the child a fishing rod that will be very handy for the rest of his or her life. If you always pray and ask a child to repeat after you, it somehow tells the child that only you can pray.

Here are some creative ideas to help children pray both individually as well as in groups.

Prayer for children around the world

Always Use the Bible when you are teaching about prayer.

Key Verses: Jeremiah 33:3; Philippians 4:6; Psalm 91:15

What are some basic principles about prayer?

Prayer is very important for children to learn, prayer is a two way communication process.

Prayer is talking & listening to God, our heavenly Father.

Who can pray? Anyone can pray

Whose prayer does God promise to answer?

God promises to answer the prayers of those who have received Jesus as their Saviour from sin. He is God, so He can answer any prayer He chooses.

When can you and should you pray? You can pray anytime. You should pray often when you feel the need to talk to God. You can pray when you are happy, sad, afraid & lonely.





Where should you pray? You can pray anywhere (playing, in school, walking, in bed)

You do not always need to kneel down or close your eyes.

Why are prayers hindered? Un-confessed sin hinders prayers (Psalm 66:18; 1 John 1:9)

How do you pray? Pray according to God's will (1 John 5:14-15)

Pray in Christ's name (John 14:13-14; 16:23-24)

Pray in faith (Mark 11:24; James 1:6-7)

What should you pray for? *Praise* God for who He is are great and powerful..."



("You

Thank God for what He has done ("Thank you for...")

Confess sin ("I did That was wrong.")

Pray for *others* with specific requests ("Please, help...")

Pray for *yourself* ("Please, I need...")

Teach the child how God answers prayers

He always answers prayers and it's always what is best for us. He answers in three main ways:

- If it is according to His will, He will answer **"YES"** (1 Kings 18:37-38; Judges 6:36-40; Genesis 24:14,18)
- If it would not be good for us to receive, God graciously answers **"NO"** (2 Corinthians 12:8-9)
- If it is not God's perfect time yet, He will answer **"WAIT"** (An example is the Israelites and their deliverance from Egypt)

God sometimes answers by giving us more than we asked for (Ephesians 3:20).

God sometimes answers even before we call or voice the desire (Isaiah 65:24).

God answers prayer to bring glory to Himself (Psalm 50:15).

Some ideas to make prayer more interesting & enjoyable



1. Teach children that prayer is not just asking; it is also listening. This will help children to learn that prayer is not just asking God and it will help them to be open to pray for God to work in their families, country & in their own lives.
2. Let the children pray softly, sometimes you have to lead them in prayer.

Tips to make prayer easy: Visual Aids are very important when teaching on prayer.

A large globe or map of the world is a helpful tool for this activity (prayer for Missionaries).

Ask children if they know anyone living or working overseas including children. They may know missionary families or people. Ask children what they know about children overseas. They may have seen programmes, read articles in newspapers or heard stories about children in need.



Have children come to the front one at a time, place their fingers on one of the parts of the world which have been talked about. Together pray for the needs of children in that place.

The children might like to pray aloud otherwise the leader should pray and provide some way for the children to respond eg *Lord hear our prayer; Lord look after these children.*

Praying for the five (5) finger methods

1. Thumb: Family and friends
2. Pointing finger: Leaders and Teachers
3. Middle finger: Government and authority
4. Ring finger: weak or sick people
5. Little finger: myself



Other Prayer Ideas

- Show video clips of Children praying to encourage your children to pray.
- Record Audio & visual your own children praying without them knowing of it so they can be genuine.
- Prayer Walks through neighbourhood (Pray for God to bring healing & Salvation) and prayer hike in the nature (mild hike).
- Boiler Rooms have a room where children can pray in private, paste up request in a box.
- Prayer record book, record all prayer requests & answered prayers.
- Children can write poem, act their own songs based on Our Father. Be creative!

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DISCUSS

1. What could be the blockage for children to express themselves in prayers?
2. Share some children's prayers that God has answered to encourage others.

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Children
are not things
to be moulded,
but people
to be unfolded.

- Jess Lair