

### OVERVIEW

There is no better way to start off the new year than to turn to God and submit to Him in worshipful prayer. Jesus gives us a model for how we are to pray in Matthew 6. Use this Guide and Family Devotion to lead your family in purposeful prayer and worship this week.

### BIG TRUTH: JESUS TEACHES US HOW TO PRAY

Matthew 6:6-7, 9:38; Romans 8:26; Mark 14:38; Luke 5:16, 10:2, 18:1; Acts 8:22; 1 Thessalonians 5:17

### BIBLE VERSE: MATTHEW 6:9

*“Pray then like this: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.’”*

### BIG IDEAS

- We pray to adore God.
- We pray to submit to God.
- We pray to confess our sins to God.
- We pray to seek provision and protection from God.

### BIBLE STORY: MATTHEW 6:9-13

Jesus gives His disciples a model of how they should pray. We don't pray so that we will be seen by other people or because we expect God to grant our wishes like a “magic genie.” We pray to worship and praise Him because He is holy.

### BIG AIMS



#### Every child should know that:

- Prayer is a way we can continually worship God.



#### Every child should feel:

- Thankful that God has given us access to Himself through prayer.



#### Every child should:

- Practice praying personal prayers to God together with their family.



#### Every child should want:

- To grow and become more comfortable in prayer.

**PRAY THEN LIKE THIS**

God our Father knows our every need. We can have confidence in Him when we pray, and He gives us an example for how we can pursue Him through worshipful prayer.

**DISCOVER IT:** *(Use the passage to illustrate the Big Truth.)*

Matthew 6:5-13

**THINK ABOUT IT:** *(Use the commentary to reinforce the Big Truth.)*

In Matthew 6, Jesus is preaching on prayer and other types of worship. He tells His followers to guard against the temptation to pray just so other people will see them or so they will appear more spiritual. Jesus reminds us that our Father knows our every need, and so we can trust Him when we come to Him in prayer. He gives us an example that we can follow in prayer. It begins with praising God for who He is. We submit our lives to Him, His kingdom, and His plans. We ask Him to give us all that we need for each day, and we ask Him to forgive us of our sins and to protect us from further temptation. When we bring all of these requests to God in worshipful prayer, we honor Him and are able to spend time with Him.

**TALK ABOUT IT:** *(Use the questions to discuss the Big Truth)*

- Why does Jesus give us the Lord's prayer? (Jesus gives us the Lord's Prayer to teach us how to pray.)
- Why should we pray? (We pray to worship God.)



As a family, memorize the Lord's Prayer. Put the different phrases on pieces of paper and have a scavenger hunt to find them all. Once you have found all of the pieces, put them in the right order and hang them on the wall in a place you will see them every day. Pray the Lord's Prayer every day together as a family.



Set aside one day this week as an "Adoration Day." Every time anyone in your family praises something (ex. "What you did to your friend was really nice!" or "Hot dogs are the best!"), pause to adore God who is good and who gives us every good thing.



Talk about God's protection with your child. Play a game of tag, but set up several different places as "base" or a safe place where they can't be tagged. Tell them they can always go to base to find protection. Talk about how God is the only one who can protect us from evil and deliver us from temptation.



Each night at dinner, highlight a different part of the Lord's Prayer. One night, talk about adoring God. The next night, talk about submitting to God, or confessing our sins, etc. When you pray over your meal, pray for each of these things and then talk about them with your child.

Every night before bed, pray the Lord's Prayer together with your child. Take turns saying different phrases, or build up to your child praying the whole prayer on his or her own on the last night of the week.