



JANUARY THEME

WORK IT OUT

Stick to the Plan

BIBLE STORY

Luke 11:1-14

Living on a Prayer | Model Prayer
Spark Story Bible | pg. 278-281
The Lord's Prayer

BOTTOM LINE

Practice praying to God

MEMORY VERSE

"Training the body has some value.
But being godly has value in every
way. It promises help for the life you
are now living and the life to come."
1 Timothy 4:8, NIV

LIFE APP

Commitment | Making a plan and
putting it into practice

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: the connection between **COMMITMENT** and God's character, as shown through God's big story.

Key Question: How do you pray to God? Kids are just starting to discover that they can pray more than before meals and at bedtime. We hope the kids and their families learn that they can pray to God whenever they feel like praying with whatever words come to mind. God is always there to listen.

In **Luke 11:1-4**, we find Jesus's disciples asking him how to pray. Jesus responds with a prayer that serves as the perfect model for how we can talk to God. We can pray with gratitude and honesty, pray for our needs, and for forgiveness. It's a comfort to know that we can pray knowing that God knows us and wants to hear from us.

Bottom Line: Practice praying to God. They can pray anytime, anywhere because God is always listening. We hope families will understand more about the faith skill, **PRAY**, and find that talking to God is an important part of growing in their faith.

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Thank God for the opportunity to help guide the kids into a growing faith relationship. Ask that God would help these kids understand that God wants to hear from them.

•• JUST FOR FUN

Made to Connect | *An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding*

What You Need: Copy paper, pens

What You Do:

- Give kids a piece of paper and a pen.
- Shout out a word and instruct students to write the first word that comes to their mind that is the opposite of the word you said.
—For example: If you said, "Dog," the kids might say, "Cat."
- Start with words that have obvious opposites: on, day, sun, wet, sleep, etc.
- Then provide words with less obvious opposites, such as pizza, blue, car, etc.
- Kids score a point for every person who said the same word they did.
- Play several rounds. The winner is the kid with the most points.
- To make this more challenging, instead of naming opposites, just do the first word that pops into your head. The challenge will be for students to think of words that are general enough for multiple students to think of!



●● GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME

Made to Move | An activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: “Secret Word” cards

What You Do:

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Each team picks one kid to be the first “guesser.”
- Shuffle the “Secret Words” cards.
- Choose one team to go first.
 - That team selects a card and works together to produce a one-word clue to give to the “guesser.”
 - After the one-word clue, the “guesser” guesses what the word is.
 - If the guesser doesn’t guess the word correctly, the other team gets a chance to give a different one-word clue.
 - Play continues back and forth until one team’s guesser gets the word right.
 - The team to guess the word gets one point.

NOTE: You can hint to the students that they should pay attention to the other team’s clues and not focus only on their own for 2 reasons: the guesser can use a combination of the other team’s clues as well as their own team’s in order to figure out the secret word. Also, teams can’t repeat each other’s clues; otherwise, they forfeit their turn.

- Play another round with a new “guesser” for each team.
- Play enough rounds so everyone gets a turn at being the “guesser.”
- The team with the most points wins.

What You Say: “You had to be very intentional about the words you chose to use in this game, and communication was very important. [Transition] Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship we’ll hear/we heard how we can communicate with God.”

[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Children’s Ministry Worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

●● TAKE A SNAPSHOT [Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: “Questions?” activity cards, pens

What You Do:

- Give each kid a “Question” from the activity cards and a pen.
- When you say, “GO,” each kid writes as much as she can to answer the question on her page.
- When you say, “PASS,” the kids stop writing (*even if they are in the middle of a sentence*) and pass their papers to the kid on their right.
- Kids read what is on the paper passed to them and...
 - Write an “!” if they agree with the comments written by other kids
 - Write a “?” if they are confused by a comment
 - Write short additional thoughts they have related to the question at the top of the page
- Continue until each kid has her original page. Be sure to vary the amount of time kids have each paper to keep interest high and to



keep them motivated to move quickly.

- Briefly discuss the answers:
 - What did you notice?
 - What did people agree with?
 - Was there more than one answer for the questions? Why do you think some of the questions had more than one answer?
 - What was confusing? Why was it confusing?

•• BIBLE STORY EXTENSION [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Reflect | An activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: Bible, copy paper, pens

What You Do:

- Ask kids to brainstorm situations they should share with God. Examples could be:
 - How I am feeling
 - Difficulties I am having with friends
 - Questions I have about God
 - What I am grateful for
 - Bad thoughts
 - Good thoughts
 - When I struggle to forgive someone who has been mean at school
 - Asking for help in sports tryouts
 - Praising God for good things
 - Asking God for help with difficult things
- Read Luke 11:1-4.
- Encourage kids to select one of the situations and write a prayer to God.
 - They can work alone or in groups.
 - Encourage them to use Luke 11:1-4 as a model for their prayer.
 - Allow them to be creative; perhaps their prayer is a song or a poem or even a rap ballad!
- Explain that some prayers are only between you and God. Other times, we pray to God out loud as a group.
- Ask kids if anyone wants to volunteer to share their prayer with the group.

•• DISCUSSION QUESTIONS [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: No additional supplies needed

What You Do:

NOTE: Refer back to the questions and papers from “Take a Snapshot” and use them to start a more in-depth conversation with kids about prayer. If they have questions or you have kids who are new to church and/or new to faith, allow some time for them to ask and discuss their questions. Make sure they know that no question is a “dumb” question, and if they ask something you don’t know the answer to, tell them you’ll look into it and get back to them. *(If they ask something that’s “unknowable” by our human hearts and minds, talk to them about that!)*

- Ask:
 - What are things you tell God when you pray?
 - When is it hard to pray? What can you do if you don’t feel like praying?
 - What can you do if don’t know what to say to God?

•• VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Reflect | An activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



What You Need: Bible, copy paper, pens

What You Do:

• Ask:

- Could you get to know the new kid at school by only saying hi in the hall? What would you need to do to really get to know him?
- Who is one of your friends? (*Give kids a chance to shout out a name.*)
- How often this week did you talk to your friend? (*Give them time to count the number of times they talked to their friends.*) Was it more than once a day?
- What would happen to your relationship if you only talked once a week or once a month? Would you feel more or less connected to your friend?

• Read 1 Thessalonians 5:17 and ask:

- How often does God want to hear from you?
- Why do you think God asks you to pray so often?
- If you didn't talk to God for a week or a month, what would happen with your relationship with God?

• Give kids a piece of copy paper and encourage them to create a list of 7 conversation starters or prayer starters, one for each day of the week.

• They can work together or on their own.

• If they are struggling, refer them to Luke 11:1-4 as a model. Examples could be:

- Lord, you are . . .
- Lord, forgive me for . . .
- Lord, help me to forgive . . .
- Lord, thank you for . . .
- Lord, please help . . . (*asking for help for others*)
- Lord, today I am feeling . . . because . . .
- Lord, guide me to be . . .
- Lord, I need help with . . .
- Lord, help me focus on you especially when . . .
- Lord, help me to trust you when . . .

• Challenge kids to pray continuously and, if they are struggling with what to say, to use the list they created to help get them started.

Pro-Tip: Explain that how we talk to God depends on how God created us. Some of us love to write and may journal our thoughts to God, and some of us are singers and we may sing our prayers to God. Some of us are comfortable talking out loud to God, and others are not, so we talk to God in our heads. However it is you pray, emphasize that the important thing is to pray continuously, to talk to God often and stay connected to God.

PRAY AND SEND [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect | An activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: Bible, papers from the “Verses to Take with You” activity

What You Do:

- Pray as a group, giving each kid an opportunity to use a “prayer starters” from the previous activity.
- Close by reading Luke 11:2-4.

“Dear God, you know us so well, and you know we need your Word to teach us, to remind us how incredible you are. Thank you for reminding us to pray to you always and all ways, to stay connected to you. Even when we can't think of words and don't know what to say, you are still there waiting to hear from us. Thank you for giving us instruction for how to pray so that even when words fail us, we know we can say: Father, may your name be honored. May your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we also forgive everyone who sins against us. Keep us from falling into sin when we are tempted. (*NirV*) Amen.”

Give each child a **GodTime** card. Sunday leaders, pass out **Parent Cue** cards as adults arrive to pick up.