

THE GREATEST PRAYER

Bible Text: Matthew 6:5-15

Lesson Focus: When we say the prayer Jesus taught us, we connect with God.

Big Question: What's the big deal about the Lord's Prayer?

Key Words: RELATIONSHIP, PETITION, EXAMPLE, ACCESS, HOLY

BIBLE CONNECTION

-] The Lord's Prayer teaches us how to communicate with God.
-] Jesus wasn't a fan of trying to show off by praying in front of others (Matthew 6:5).
-] Prayer doesn't work because we're so great—it works because God is.
-] God hears all prayers; there isn't a wrong way to talk to God.
-] Luther divided the Lord's Prayer into seven sections called "petitions" (plus an introduction and conclusion).
-] This is one of the first times in the Bible that God is referred to as "Father."
-] We have access to God in a special way because God created us out of love.
-] God promises to hear all of our prayers—and answer them in God's own way.
-] There is great power in knowing someone's name.
-] Knowing someone's name gives you access to that person.
-] It is important that the things we do in God's name give people the right idea of who God is.

CARTOON CONNECTION

-] What do you think of your own name?
-] How does it feel when someone gets your name wrong, especially if they say it wrong on purpose?
-] What are some ways we act as if God's name is not holy?



STUDENT BOOK CONNECTION

Here We Stand Student Book page 188: How to Tell the Difference between the Law and the Gospel

-] Consider the introduction to the Lord's Prayer—"Our Father." Is this law or gospel . . . or both? (Remember, Jesus called God "Abba"—which means "Daddy.") Pretty radical.

Here We Stand Student Book page 193: How to Pray

-] Do certain prayer postures help you focus more on praying? Which ones?

LIFE CONNECTION

Make a list of things that you'd like to tell God. These could be things you're grateful for, things that scare you, or questions you have. Share this list with God by praying.

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True/False Quiz

Answer the following statements with “True” or “False.”

1. Jesus taught the disciples the Lord’s Prayer so they would teach it to others. **T or F**
2. When we pray the Lord’s Prayer, we are joined to Christians throughout the world. **T or F**
3. Luther reminded us that prayer is a mandate from God. **T or F**
4. God’s name isn’t holy unless we make it holy. **T or F**
5. Some people misuse God’s name without realizing it. **T or F**
6. The first petition of the Lord’s Prayer has a lot in common with the Second Commandment. **T or F**
7. Acts of kindness, service, and love are ways to make God’s name holy. **T or F**
8. When we talk about the petitions of the Lord’s Prayer, the word *petition* means “a written statement of protest.” **T or F**

Answers: 1. True 2. True 3. True 4. True 5. True 6. True 7. True 8. False