

Teaching Kids to Pray

14 mini-segments

The following features 14 mini-segments that can be combined with any lessons or curriculum. These mini-segments will use the Lord's Prayer. Having a poster where kids can see and read it with you will help greatly. Also, challenge your parents to say the Lord's Prayer with their kids each night before bed.

PRAYER PART #1

SAY: Everybody bow your heads and close your eyes. I'm going to call out a few of the prayer requests that we had in this morning and as I do, I want you to ask Jesus to help these situations.

Pray specifically for your students to know and follow Jesus. Thank the Lord that He answers prayer and that what is impossible for us is possible for Him...Amen.

SAY: I need your help. I have a missing word. *(Hold up the blank side of the piece of cardstock paper—Don't let them see the side that says, "Pray.")* You see, the disciples came to Jesus and they said, "Teach us to...blank."

ASK: What do you think goes in the blank? *(Don't take answers. Instead you're going to have kids raise their hands.)*

SAY: Raise your hand if you think the disciples ask Jesus: "Teach us to Heal" "Teach us to Give" "Teach us to Teach" "Teach us to do Miracles" "Teach us to Pray"

SAY: After being with Jesus, the disciples wanted to know how to pray, so this is how Jesus taught them.

Choose 2 volunteers to hold the "Lord's Prayer" sign. Ask your kids to say it with you.

SAY: This is how Jesus taught them to pray and it is our example too. I want to encourage you to ask your parents to say this prayer with you each night before you go to bed and in the weeks to come, we'll be learning more about prayer too.

PRAYER PART #2

SAY: Everybody bow your heads and close your eyes. I'm going to call out a few of the prayer requests that were turned in this morning and as I do, I want you to ask Jesus to help these situations. Then throughout the week, when you remember any of these requests, keep praying for them.

SAY: I need your help. I have a missing word. (*Hold up the blank side of the piece of cardstock paper—Don't let them see the side that says, "Pray."*) You see, LAST WEEK we learned that the disciples came to Jesus and they said, "Teach us to...blank."

ASK: **What did we discover goes in the blank?** (*Don't take answers. Instead you're going to have kids raise their hands.*)

SAY: Raise your hand if you think the disciples ask Jesus: "Teach us to Heal"
"Teach us to Give" "Teach us to Teach" "Teach us to do Miracles" "Teach us to Pray"

SAY: After being with Jesus, the disciples wanted to know how to pray. They probably saw that everything Jesus did was connected to His time with His Father—that prayer was at the heart of it all. So this is how Jesus taught them to pray.

Choose 2 volunteers to hold the "Lord's Prayer" sign. Ask your kids to say it with you.

SAY: This is how Jesus taught them to pray and it is our example too. I want to encourage you to ask your parents to say this prayer with you each night before you go to bed and in the weeks to come, we'll be learning more about prayer too.

Pray specifically for your students to trust Jesus and have His peace. Thank the Lord that He answers prayer and that what is impossible for us is possible for Him....

PRAYER PART #3

Choose 2 volunteers to hold the "Lord's Prayer" sign. Ask your kids to say it with you.

ASK: **After being with Jesus, what did the disciples ask Jesus to teach them?** (To pray) SAY: This is how Jesus taught them to pray and it is our example too. I want to encourage you to ask your parents to say this prayer with you each night before you go to bed.

SAY: But right now, I want to show you something more about prayer.

Read Matthew 18:19-20 from your Bible.

ASK: **What did that verse just tell us about when two or more people pray together?**

SAY: There is power in prayer when we pray together. So here's our challenge for you this week—Look for someone you can pray with: If a another student gets hurt at school pray, with them; If you see your mom or dad is upset or having a bad day, ask if you can pray with them; Then ask your family if you can start praying together at meals but also before you go to bed.

ASK if anyone wants to pray for your class to thank God that we get to come together and learn about Him.

SAY: Everybody bow your heads and close your eyes. Now with your heads bowed and your eyes closed, before we pray together, I want you to tell God your favorite thing about church. (Pause) Now while (*name of your volunteer*) prays, we can agree with him in prayer and talk with Jesus quietly about what he says. (*Instruct your volunteer to pray.*)

PRAYER PART #4

Choose 2 volunteers to hold the “Lord’s Prayer” sign. Ask your kids to say it with you.

ASK: After being with Jesus, what did the disciples ask Jesus to teach them? (To pray)

SAY: This is how Jesus taught them to pray and it is our example too. I want to encourage you to ask your parents to say this prayer with you each night before you go to bed and in the weeks to come, we’ll be learning more about prayer too.

SAY: But right now, I want to show you something more about prayer.

Choose 1 volunteer

TELL your volunteer that you are going to throw a bean bag to him and you want him to catch it and throw it back. Do this several times.

ASK: What does it mean to “cast” something? (“Casting” is another way of saying “throwing”...kind of like “casting” a fishing line to try to catch fish—You’re “throwing” it out into the lake.)

SAY: We are going to read about something that God wants us to throw or “cast” His way.

Read 1 Peter 5:7 from your Bible.

ASK: What does God want you to “cast” or “put” on Him? (Your cares.)

ASK: What kind of “cares” or “burdens” do you think God wants you to put on Him: Some of your cares; A few of your cares; Just your really big cares; Or all of your cares? (All your cares.)

ASK: Why can you cast all your cares on God? (Because He cares for you.)

TOSS the item back and forth with your volunteer again, but each time you throw it, say a care or worry that someone might have—Here are some examples below...

-”Let’s say you get scared in the middle of the night. You can cast that care on God.” (*Throw the bean bag. Ask your volunteer to throw it back.*)

-”Let’s say someone in your family gets really sick and you’re worried about them... You can cast that care on God.” (*Throw the bean bag. Ask your volunteer to throw it back.*)

-”Let’s say someone in your family goes on a business trip and you’re afraid something bad might happen to them... You can cast that care on God.” (*Throw the bean bag. Ask your volunteer to throw it back.*)

-”Let’s say someone at school is bullying you... You can cast that care on God...and you also need to tell your parents.” (*Throw the bean bag. Ask your volunteer to throw it back*).

SAY: Casting your cares on God means talking to him about the things in your life that bother you, worry you, or burden you. It means giving your concerns and cares to Him.

ASK: **What are some cares or worries that you have?**

SAY: Everybody bow your heads and close your eyes. First, I want you to “cast your cares on God.” Right now just tell Jesus what is on your heart and mind...(*pause for a few seconds*)... I’m also going to call out a few of the prayer requests that were turned in this morning and as I do, I want you to ask Jesus to help these situations. Then keep praying for these cares anytime you think about them this week.

Conclude by praying specifically for your students to trust Jesus and have His peace. Thank the Lord that He answers prayer and that what is impossible for us is possible for Him....

PRAYER PART #5

Choose 2 volunteers to hold the “Lord’s Prayer” sign. Ask your kids to say it with you.

SAY: Today I’m going to give you a Quiet Quiz—In other words, I’m going to make a statement and in your head I want you to quietly decide whether the statement is true or false. Then I’ll call on one person to give me an answer.

Question #1—God only hears your prayers when you’re at church. (False. God hears you wherever you are.)

Question #2—The Bible says to bow your head when you pray. (False. In the Bible we find people praying in all sorts of positions—kneeling, lying on the floor, standing and raising their hands, etc. You can pray in whatever position you are.)

Question #3—You can pray with your eyes open. (True. The reason we close our eyes is to keep things from distracting us while we pray, but God hears you with your eyes open just as he does with your eyes closed.)

Question #4—You can pray quietly without saying a word and God will hear you. (True. God hears your thoughts and knows what you think. You don’t have to pray aloud. You can pray quietly too.)

Question #5—You can talk to God about anything and everything. (True. Many people, however, only talk to God once or twice a day and only about making requests or about big situations. You can talk with God throughout your day about anything and everything.)

Prayer Requests

SAY: Now I want us to bow our heads and close our eyes. I’m going to call out a few of the prayer requests that were turned in this morning and as I do, I want you to ask Jesus to help these situations. Then keep praying for these anytime you think about them this week.

Conclude by praying specifically for your students to trust Jesus as their Lord and Savior when the time is right. Thank the Lord that He answers prayer and is even greater than death.

PRAYER PART #6 —“Our Father”

Choose 2 volunteers to hold the “Lord’s Prayer” sign.

SAY: We’ve been saying the “Lord’s Prayer” each week because we want you to learn it and in a few weeks we’re going to try to say it without using the posters.

Ask your kids to say it with you.

SAY: But right now, I want you to think about how Jesus started this prayer. ASK: *What are the first two words in it? (Our Father.)*

SAY: Did you know that in Jesus’ time, almost nobody referred to God as their Father. The idea of God being our “Father” is amazing. Listen to what the Bible says about how God compares to earthly dads.

Read Matthew 7:9-11 from your Bible

SAY: If you have given your life to Jesus, then God is your Heavenly Father and you can talk to Him about anything and everything.

SAY: If earthly dads can give good things to their children, how much more can God give good things to those who follow Him.

KEY: With God’s Word as your guard and God as your Father, you can overcome temptation and live for Jesus everyday.

PRAY

SAY: Everybody bow your heads and close your eyes. Now with your heads bowed and your eyes closed, before we pray together, I want you to thank God for listening to our prayers. Then I’m going to call out some of today’s prayer requests and as I do, I want you to pray silently for them. *(Pause...Call out some of the prayer requests and then pray.)*

PRAYER PART #7 —“Who is in Heaven”

Choose 2 volunteers to hold the “Lord’s Prayer” sign. Ask your kids to say it with you.

SAY: We’ve been saying the “Lord’s Prayer” each week because we want you to learn it and in a few weeks we’re going to try to say it without using the posters.

SAY: But right now, I want you to think about how Jesus started this prayer.

ASK: *What are the first two words in it? (Our Father.)*

SAY: Last week we learn how if earthly fathers can give good things to their children, how much more can our Heavenly Father give good things to those who ask.

ASK: **But what is the next part of the prayer?** (Who is in Heaven.)

ASK: Where is God?

ASK: Is God in this room?

SAY: Yes, God is everywhere. When this prayer says, “Our Father who is in Heaven,” it’s not saying that God is way over there and not right here. He is not only a “Father” but a “Heavenly Father,” unlike any earthly father. This “Father” has a throne in Heaven where He is worshipped forever.

KEY: Everywhere you go, God is already there and because He is always there and knows everything, even your most secret thoughts, you will never say a prayer that He doesn’t hear.

PRAY

SAY: Everybody bow your heads and close your eyes. Now with your heads bowed and your eyes closed, before we pray together, I want you to tell God something you’re scared of. Then I’m going to call out some of today’s prayer requests and as I do, I want you to pray silently for them. *(Pause...Call out some of the prayer requests and then pray.)*

PRAYER PART #8 —“Hallowed Be Your Name”

Choose 2 volunteers to hold the “Lord’s Prayer” sign. Ask your kids to say it with you.

SAY: We’ve been saying the “Lord’s Prayer” each week because we want you to learn it. Next weeks we’re going to try to say it without using the posters.

ASK: What does “Hallowed” mean? (Holy)

ASK: What does it mean that God’s name is holy?

SAY: Holy means that something is set apart—It’s not common, but set apart for God. In the Bible, there were certain items in the Temple that the Bible refers to as holy—The items weren’t good or bad, but they were set apart for God’s purpose. Likewise, God’s name is holy—It is set apart and should not be misused or defiled.

ASK: How can a person misuse God’s name? *(By cursing with it or using it in vain. Here’s a great standard to know if you’re using God’s name in vain: If you’re not talking to Him or about Him, then you’re misusing His name—Saying it in surprise or anger or just because it’s a habit isn’t keeping His name Holy—Instead of it being set apart, you’re just tossing it around like every other common name.)*

KEY: God is holy and God has called us to be holy too—To live lives that are set apart for His purpose.

SAY: Our key verse today said, “Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking lies” (Psalm 34:13). Using God’s name correctly is one way to keep your tongue from evil.

PRAY

SAY: Everybody bow your heads and close your eyes. Now with your heads bowed and your eyes closed, before we pray together, I want you to tell God if there’s anything that you’ve been

doing that is not holy. Is there anything that you've been doing that is wrong like telling lies or saying words you know you shouldn't—that goes against the purpose for which God has set you apart. If so, ask God to forgive you and make you clean again. Then stop doing what you know is wrong.

SAY: I'm also going to call out some of today's prayer requests and as I do, I want you to pray silently for them. *(Pause...Call out some of the prayer requests and then pray.)*

PRAYER PART #9 —“Your kingdom come...Your will be done”

SAY: We've been saying the “Lord's Prayer” each week using posters but today we're going to try to say it without using the posters. As I say it, I want you to try to say it with me.

Say the Lord's Prayer together *(Hide the posters!)*

ASK: What do you think this sample prayer means when it says, “Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”?

SAY: A common prayer among the Jews in Jesus' day was for God's kingdom to reign and His Messiah to come. John the Baptist preached, “The kingdom of heaven is at hand.” And God's kingdom did come when He poured out His Holy Spirit to those who believed after Jesus died and rose again.

ASK: What people does God want to be in His kingdom? Some people, rich people, smart people...all people? *(God wants ALL people to be saved. The Bible is very clear that He doesn't want any to perish.)*

SAY: Our prayer today should be that that the kingdom of this world should become Christ's kingdom and all people be brought to Him and become obedient to His will.

SAY: Doing God's will simply means that you're doing what He wants.

ASK: Do all people who come to Christ live for Christ and do God's will? *(It's sad but not everyone who comes to Christ always lives for Him but God wants all who are in His kingdom to live obediently to Him.)*

KEY: God is holy and God has called us to be holy too—To live lives that are set apart for His purpose, so much so that we continue to do God's will even if every one else is doing what is wrong.

PRAY

SAY: Everybody bow your heads and close your eyes. Now with your heads bowed and your eyes closed, before we pray together, I want you to tell God some specific ways that you want to do God's will—to do what God wants.

SAY: Now I'm going to call out some of today's prayer requests and as I do, I want you to pray silently for them. *(Pause...Call out some of the prayer requests and then pray.)*

PRAYER PART #10 —“Give us this day, our daily bread”

Choose 2 volunteers to hold the “Lord’s Prayer” sign. Ask your kids to say it with you.

SAY: We’ve been saying the “Lord’s Prayer” each week using posters but today we’re going to say two times—Once with the posters and once without the posters.

Say the Lord’s Prayer together looking at the posters. Then hide the posters by having your volunteers turn around.

ASK: What do you think this sample prayer means when it says, “Give us this day, our daily bread”?

SAY: “Daily bread” is talking about the things we need everyday to stay alive—We all need food and water. In this sample prayer that Jesus gave us, He shows us to ask to God provide our daily needs.

PRAY

SAY: Everybody bow your heads and close your eyes. Now with your heads bowed and your eyes closed. I’m going to call out some of today’s prayer requests and as I do, I want you to pray silently for them. *(Pause...Call out some of the prayer requests and then pray.)*

PRAYER PART #11 —“And forgive our debts”

Choose 2 volunteers to hold the “Lord’s Prayer” sign. Ask your kids to say it with you.

SAY: We’ve been saying the “Lord’s Prayer” each week using posters but today we’re going to say two times—Once with the posters and once without the posters.

Say the Lord’s Prayer together looking at the posters. Then hide the posters by having your volunteers turn around.

ASK: What do you think this sample prayer means when it says, “And forgive our debts”?

ASK: What debts do we owe to God? (This is talking about our sins—Every day we need to ask God to remove any sin from our lives and to forgive us for anything wrong we have done.)

ASK: What is sin?

ASK: What are some examples of sins?

SAY: We have all done wrong things—that’s the reason we all need a Savior and when Jesus died He took the punishment for our sins. Because Jesus died and rose again, He made a way to take our sins away.

OLDER STUDENTS

ASK: When you give your life to Jesus, that's the moment you are saved and your sins are forgiven. From that moment on you can know for sure that you're going to Heaven. **But when a person sins after giving his life to Jesus, is he still going to Heaven?** (Yes, the Bible is very clear that no one can take you out of His hands.)

ASK: **So why do we ask for forgiveness after we're saved?**

SAY: Doing something wrong after you're saved doesn't "lose your salvation" but it does mean that you're not right with God. If you sin and are saved, you're still going to Heaven, but you're not walking in a right relationship with the Lord. That's the reason we ask for forgiveness even after we're saved—to stay in a right relationship with God.

Illustration

Choose 1 volunteer...

Let's say you and I are brothers. One day I'm walking down the hall and out of nowhere, you jump from the woodwork and punch me in the nose. Are we still brothers? Of course. Just because you did something wrong didn't change our family. The same is true with God. When you trusted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you became a part of God's family. Now if you do something wrong, like the brothers, are you still a part of the same family? Of course. But, if we were brothers and you punched me in the nose, would we be right with each other? No. So what would you need to do for us to get right? Say you're sorry. It's similar with God and us. As a Christian, when you do something wrong, you still ask God to forgive you. You're asking Him to forgive you, NOT to go to Heaven—you're already going there; NOT to be saved—you're already saved; you're already a part of His family, but so you can be in a right relationship with Him. God didn't just save you to go to Heaven; God saved you to walk with you here and now.

YOUNGER STUDENTS

SAY: This sample prayer that Jesus gave his disciples showed them how to pray and teaches us to ask God to forgive our sins.

PRAY

SAY: Everybody bow your heads and close your eyes. Now with your heads bowed and your eyes closed. I'm going to call out some of today's prayer requests and as I do, I want you to pray silently for them. *(Pause...Call out some of the prayer requests and then pray.)*

PRAYER PART #12 —“As we also have forgiven our debtors”

Choose 2 volunteers to hold the “Lord’s Prayer” sign. Ask your kids to say it with you.

SAY: We've been saying the “Lord's Prayer” each week using posters but today we're going to say two times—Once with the posters and once without the posters.

Say the Lord's Prayer together looking at the posters. Then hide the posters by having your volunteers turn around.

ASK: What do you think this sample prayer means when it says, “As we also have forgiven our debtors”?

SAY: The “debtors” here is talking about people who have wronged you.

Raise your hand if anyone has ever hurt you. Raise your hand if it was easy to forgive them. Raise your hand if it was hard to forgive them.

ASK: But what do you do if they don’t deserve to be forgiven—I mean, they did something really wrong and it really hurt you?

SAY: The Bible says to forgive in the same way that we’re forgiven. Do we deserve God’s forgiveness? No. None of us do but God gives it to us. And if God forgives our sins, how much more quickly should we choose to forgive those who have sinned against us.

SAY: Forgiveness isn’t telling someone that what they did was okay—Far from it, it’s saying that what they did was wrong—they know, you know and God knows it, but you’re not God to bring judgment on them, so you give them into God’s hands for Him to deal with them. You release them to Him.

PRAY

SAY: Everybody bow your heads and close your eyes. If there is someone who has hurt you and you have a grudge against them, what is stopping you from right now forgiving them? Now with your heads bowed and your eyes closed. I’m going to call out some of today’s prayer requests and as I do, I want you to pray silently for them. *(Pause...Call out some of the prayer requests and then pray.)*

PRAYER PART #13—“But deliver us from evil”

Choose 2 volunteers to hold the “Lord’s Prayer” sign. Ask your kids to say it with you.

SAY: We’ve been saying the “Lord’s Prayer” each week using posters and again today we’re going to say it two times—Once with the posters and once without the posters.

Say the Lord’s Prayer together looking at the posters. Then hide the posters by having your volunteers turn around.

ASK: How can God deliver us from evil? (Take a few answers.)

SAY: God can deliver us from evil in many ways and they all come back to the fact that God sent His Son, Jesus, to be the Savior of the world.

SAY: Before we pray I want you to know that God protects us from evil in ways that we will never know. He is a shield for those who belong to Him and follow Him.

PRAY

SAY: Everybody bow your heads and close your eyes. Now with your heads bowed and your eyes closed, I'm going to call out some of today's prayer requests and as I do, I want you to pray silently for them. *(Pause...Call out some of the prayer requests and then pray.)*

PRAYER PART #14 —“*For yours is the kingdom, glory, power forever. Amen*”

Choose 2 volunteers to hold the “Lord’s Prayer” sign. Ask your kids to say it with you.

SAY: We’ve been saying the “Lord’s Prayer” each week using posters and again today we’re going to say it two times—Once with the posters and once without the posters.

Say the Lord’s Prayer together looking at the posters. Then hide the posters by having your volunteers turn around.

ASK: What do you think the very last part means— *For yours is the kingdom, glory, power forever. Amen?* (Take a few answers.)

SAY: We can rejoice because we have a Savior whose kingdom and glory and power will NEVER go away and those of us who have given our lives to Jesus get to be with Him forever.