

INTRODUCTION

Materials:

Worksheet & Pens for each group

GETTING STARTED

Leader will share video clip from Meet the Parents – being unsure of how to pray

DIG DEEPER:

Read Luke 11:1-4

Compare the disciples to us today

(they were comparing their prayer lives to Jesus' prayer life and struggled/unsure of how to pray)

What do we notice about Jesus' prayer?

NOW WHAT?

Explain the stations and the puzzle pieces.

You may go in any order.

If you finish a station and the group ahead of you is not quite ready, you may come back to the center area as a home base waiting area.

Take about 6-7 minutes at each station

STATION ONE

OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE THY NAME

*(Pick someone to read and ask the following question.
Pause after each question and give time to answer. Everyone gets to share!)*

GETTING STARTED:

Pass out slips of paper, one to each person.

What are the first three words that come into your head when you think about your dad? Write them down, but know that you won't have to share them with anyone else.

DIG DEEPER:

The Lord's Prayer starts with the words, "Our Father, Who art in heaven" because God considers us his children, and wants to have a relationship with us. It's a very personal way of addressing God. And because of that, our own memories or feelings of our earthly dads often have an influence on the way we view God.

If you are really close to your father, then you might imagine God as someone who wants to go out in the backyard and play catch with you. But if your dad has not been a big part of your life, or your relationship with him is hard, then it might be easy to think of God as distant and uncaring. But the truth, God is a good father... better than any possibly earthly father we could imagine.

God loves us very much and wants the best for us... and wants to be in a relationship with us! So even if you have a hard time identifying with the image of God as your Father right now, hear these verses that tell us a bit more about who God is.

Pick one (or more) of the bible verses to read together:

Psalm 68:5

Luke 11:11-13

Psalm 103:13

NOW WHAT?

How would you rewrite the beginning of the Lord's Prayer?
"Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed* by Thy name"

**What does hallowed mean???*

*Holy! Greatly to be praised! Honored! Consecrated!
A good way to remember it might be a "halo"*

STATION TWO

THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE, ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

*(Pick someone to read and ask the following question.
Pause after each question and give time to answer. Everyone gets to share!)*

GETTING STARTED:

If the world were just as you think God would want it, what would the world be like?
How would it be similar to our world today? How would it be different?

Think about that as you take time to draw a picture of what you think God would want our world to be like on the tablecloth.

DIG DEEPER:

What do you think stands in the way of the world being just as God wants it to be? Why?

The Lord's Prayer says, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."
What does "the kingdom" refer to?

God truly rules the entire universe. But, Scriptures speaks of a special "kingdom of God" in which people follow God's way of living completely, where faith, love, and justice are the ways that people naturally act. We are praying that this kingdom would become more and more part of our lives.

Read:

Matthew 5:1-12 (Beatitudes)

NOW WHAT?

How would you re-translate this part of the Lord's Prayer?
"Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven"

STATION THREE

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

*(Pick someone to read and ask the following question.
Pause after each question and give time to answer. Everyone gets to share!)*

GETTING STARTED:

Cut a slice of bread for each person. Enjoy eating it!

Have you ever had the experience of having one of your prayers answered? Do you think it's easy or hard to ask God for the things you need? What about the things you want?

DIG DEEPER:

The Lord's Prayer says, "Give us this day our daily bread."

What do you think that means?

What is our daily bread?

(Stuck? Literally... we need food every day to make it through the day... we're not asking for cake, but bread. Metaphorically... what is our "daily bread" in a spiritual sense? Could it be that we need patience or strength to get through the day just as much as we need food in our bellies?)

Do you believe God gives you what you need?

Look up **2 Peter 1:3** and read it together.

What does it say about God giving us what we need?

NOW WHAT?

How would you rewrite the phrase,
"Give us this day our daily bread"?

STATION FOUR

FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES, AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US

*(Pick someone to read and ask the following question.
Pause after each question and give time to answer. Everyone gets to share!)*

GETTING STARTED:

Gather around the display of chairs.

Ask: "What does it mean to trespass onto someone's property?"
"How do you know whether or not you're trespassing?"

The Lord's prayer contains the phrase, "Forgive us our trespasses." What do you think that means? [Other translations mention debts or sins. Trespass is a good word because it implies that we've crossed a line or boundary... we've gone too far... etc. Sometimes we cross the limits God gives us; other times, we cross the line with another person.]

DIG DEEPER:

Have everyone cross over/under/around the barricade, onto the other side.
There you will find a welcome sign.

The truth is, we all cross the line sometimes... even when we're not trying to.
And other people cross our lines too – they trespass against us.

Close your eyes for a second, and think about some of the ways that you have NOT done what God wants you to do, and confess those sins to God in silence.

[Pause... give a time for prayer of confession]

Hear the good news: Jesus forgives you!

NOW WHAT?

How would you rewrite this part of the prayer:
"Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."

Return this sheet to by where you came in

STATION FIVE

LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL

*(Pick someone to read and ask the following question.
Pause after each question and give time to answer. Everyone gets to share!)*

GETTING STARTED:

Temptation... and evil... come in all forms, big and small.

Temptation could happen for you if someone has said something mean and hurtful to you, and you're angry, and you really want to get back at them.

Or, maybe when your alarm goes off on Sunday morning, you start to wonder if it really matters whether you skip church this time; after all, you need your sleep!

Temptation is about facing choices, when the thing you really want to do is not what God wants you to do.

Take a slip of paper and write down some of the temptations that you've face in the alst week, as well as some of the temptations that you think you might face in the week ahead. No one else will see them so be honest. When you are finished, fold your paper in half.

DIG DEEPER::

Jesus faced temptation too! He spent 40 days in the desert without eating, and the very first things that Satan asked him to do was to turn a rock into a loaf of bread that he could eat. It must have been so difficult for him to say "NO" to that.

During Lent we burn ashes as a sign of repentance (Turning away from the things that get in the way of our relationship with God.). So right NOW, we're going to burn our temptation sheets and turn them into ash.

(Burn each person's paper)

LET'S PRAY: God, we need your help to make the right decisions when we are faced with temptation. Today we commit ourselves to your plan and purpose as we try to live into our faith. Amen.

NOW WHAT?

How would you rewrite
"Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil"?

STATION SIX

FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, POWER, AND GLORY FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN.

*(Pick someone to read and ask the following question.
Pause after each question and give time to answer. Everyone gets to share!)*

GETTING STARTED:

Hit "PLAY" and listen to the song "Doxology"

DIG DEEPER:

When we say the Lord's Prayer in church we usually add a section at the end called the doxology that's not found in the original Scripture. The word doxology means "hymn of praise", and early Christians added the words "For thine is the kingdom, power, and glory forever and ever. Amen" to the end of the prayer that Jesus gave them, so that they could take a minute and remember, honor, adore, and admire God.

NOW WHAT?

"For Thine is the kingdom, power, and glory forever and ever. Amen."

On a piece of paper write down your own doxology of praise to God.