

Children's Prayer Lessons

#1 - What is Prayer?

"Prayer is the opening the of the heart to God as to a friend." Steps to Christ, p. 93

Memory Text

"Then you will call to me and go and pray to Me and I will listen to you." Jeremiah 29:12
NKJV

Story

"Mother, What Are You Waiting For?" p. 50-55 in [Guide's Greatest Prayer Stories, edited by Helen Lee](#)

Teaching

Key Thought: Prayer is simply talking to God as a friend.

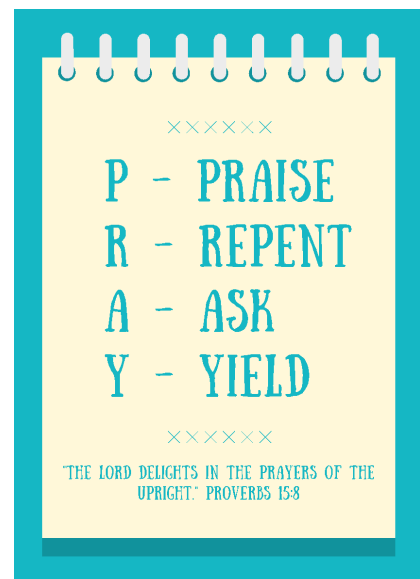
What is it like when you talk to your friend? *(Take answers from the children and discuss them. If possible, write their answers up on a whiteboard. Then, compare them to what it is like to talk with God.)*

- It is knowing He listens to you and cares about you.
- It is trusting that He will do what is best for you.
- It is telling Him all about what is on your mind - what happened today, what you're happy about, what you're troubled about.
- It is listening to Him - through the Bible and other people.

Introduce and explain the P.R.A.Y. acronym that we will be using throughout. *(Use [P.R.A.Y. poster](#) to introduce and explain the acronym and the parts of prayer it illustrates.)*

The P.R.A.Y. acronym stands for: *(We will be doing a full lesson on each element of the acronym. So, simply introduce the concepts now.)*

- **Praise:** We praise and adore God for who He is and thank



Him for all He does for us.

- **Repent:** We ask God to forgive our sins and help us turn away from them.
- **Ask:** We tell God about our needs and wants.
- **Yield:** We trust God to do the best for us and surrender our own wishes to Him.

Prayer Time

Bag of Bits Prayer, p. 15 in [100 Creative Prayer Ideas for Kids by Karen Holford](#)

Fill a bag with items that help kids understand what they can talk to God about. Possible things to include:

- Pictures of families - pray for family and friends.
- Toys - the things that make you happy.
- Bible - what you read in the Bible.
- Bandaid - the things that hurt you.
- Food - what we need and thank Him for it.

Discuss what we can pray about for each item and invite a different child to pray about each item. Help them pray if they do not know how to pray. Close with a simple prayer for the children from an adult (or yourself).

Prayer Activity

Begin [Prayer Box](#)

Over the course of these prayer lessons, you will be helping each child build a prayer box. The purpose of this box is to help give each child a tangible prayer guide that they can use in their daily devotions.

Instructions:

- Give each child a box that they can decorate. This should be approximately the size of a shoe box. You can reuse boxes you have on hand, or order some like these [white gift boxes](#) available on Amazon.
- Supply a variety of decorations the children can use to personalize their prayer boxes. Possibilities include:



- Markers
 - Washi Tape
 - Stickers
 - Wrapping Paper
 - Colored Paper
 - Ribbon
 - Paints
 - Picture of each child
- Have the children decorate their boxes, but don't send them home with the kids until the end of the meetings. They will be adding new items to the boxes during each lesson.