

Second Grade: Lesson 5: Prayer and Sacred Scripture

Lesson Objective:

After encountering Christ and committing to a friendship with Him, this lesson aims to teach the children that prayer is essential to maintaining their friendship with Jesus. Just as we nourish human friendship by talking, listening, and spending time together, the same is true with Christ. Children should be encouraged to speak to Jesus in their own words when they pray and be reminded to listen to what Jesus wants to say back to them. In this lesson, children will also learn how to pray with the Bible. The Bible should be a familiar companion and children should be comfortable listening to God's voice as they read and pray with Bible stories.

Learning Outcomes: Students will ...

- Understand that God speaks to us through the Bible stories and they are used for personal prayer.
- Demonstrate spontaneous prayer.
- Listen to God in meditation on Sacred Scripture and other prayer resources (CCC 2705 -2708).
- Define prayer as talking and listening to God.
- Participation in liturgical season activities, including Stations of the Cross and May crowning.

Materials needed: Prayer space, pencils, crayons, several Bibles for students to share; copies of prayer starters, hole punch, one binder ring for each child, copies of the Stations of the Cross for each student.

As Students Enter Class:

- Consider having a blank piece of paper and ask students to draw or write what comes to mind when they hear the word, prayer. What do they pray for? Who do they pray to? Why do we pray?

Beginning of Class:

- Invite students to your prayer space. Remind students that when we pray, we are listening and talking to God. Explain that a spontaneous prayer is a prayer that we make up, rather than recite (such as the Our Father and The Hail Mary). Begin a spontaneous prayer and invite students to add to this prayer with their own intentions.

Lesson Order	Implementation
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<p>Lesson 5 Video</p>	<p>The opening video is 4:11 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: In our last class, we learned that Jesus loves us so much that he sacrificed his life so we can go to Heaven. When we spend time in prayer, we get to know Jesus better, which allows us to share Jesus' love with others. That is how we can be Disciples. By spending time with Jesus, we get to know him better – just like we do when we make a new friend. But how do we get to know Jesus better? 1) Prayer 2) Reading the Bible 3) Saying formal prayers 4) Saying spontaneous prayers which means we are talking to God from our heart.</p> <p>A spontaneous prayer is modeled on the video. One great question to ask when you are spontaneously praying is: Lord, what do you want me to do? Just like we do with our friends, we need to talk and then listen to Jesus. We listen by being silent. You can write in your prayer journal what you hear or feel during your prayer time. Praying at least 5 minutes each day is a great way to deepen your relationship with God.</p>
<p>4 Parts of Prayer</p>	<p>In this video, a young girl explains the 4 parts of prayer. This is done very well with good graphics.</p> <p>Highlights: Remember the acronym ACTS:</p> <p>A for Adoration – spending quiet time with God at church during a special time called Adoration.</p> <p>C for Contrition – telling God you are sorry for your sins.</p> <p>T is for Thanksgiving – Showing gratitude for your blessings.</p> <p>S is for Supplication – asking God for his help.</p>
<p>Prayer Journal</p> <p>Prayer Journal Continued</p>	<p>This is a good time for a movement break. Ask students to stand or even sit in a circle on the floor. Review all the good things we have learned so far in this lesson. Consider using the ACTS to lead a discussion as to how second graders can demonstrate the 4 parts of praying.</p>

	<p>Invite students back to their table to complete a Prayer Journal page. Depending on the independent level of your students, you can do this activity all together (writing the same things) or individually, while you and your aide provide support.</p> <p>When everyone is done, ask for volunteers to share one part of their prayer journal.</p>
<p>Prayer as a Song (Ava Maria)</p>	<p>A song is a type of prayer. This song is a Gregorian Chant (very old). Young children are singing the Ava Maria. This video is very good and has pictures of Mary. Consider dimming the lights and encourage children to sit comfortably and listen to this song. Afterwards, invite students to share what they thought or felt during this song.</p>
<p>The Bible</p>	<p>Another way to pray is to read the Bible. This video is 8:35 in length. It explains how the Bible is set up and contains a very good picture that is used as a visual to explain the different books, along with the Old and New Testaments.</p> <p>Highlights: The Bible is one book, with a library of books inside. We have two main sections, the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament was written 3,000 years ago and contains four sections. The Old Testament is inherited from our Jewish brothers and sisters in faith.</p> <p>Torah – The first 5 books that explain the covenant relationship with God.</p> <p>Historical Books – Contain the story of the history of the Jewish people.</p> <p>Wisdom Books – Share the knowledge of what it means to live a good life.</p> <p>Prophetic Books – explains how the Jewish people use these books to guide their lives. The prophetic books are kept on scrolls in a safe place in order to protect them.</p> <p>New Testament: Is written after Jesus lived on our Earth. It has 4 Gospels that are the foundational text of our Catholic faith and explains the covenant Jesus opened for us.</p>

	<p>1 Historical Book – Acts – which explains how the Apostles and early Disciples of Christ shared the good news of Christianity.</p> <p>Letters – also called epistles – is how the earliest Christians shared Christ’s word and provided advice on how to follow Jesus.</p> <p>The last book in the New Testament is called the Book of Revelation and that explains in symbols what the kingdom of God will look like when our Earthly world comes to a close.</p>
Intro to Prayer Starter Activity	This is intended for home study and you will not need to show this video.
Prayer Starter Activity	<p>Explain that Prayer starters help us begin praying. Read the 8 prayer starters out loud and then have students cut the rectangles out; you and your aide will hole punch the prayer starters and have students place them on a binder clip.</p> <p>Once everyone is done, consider asking students to volunteer to model a prayer using each prayer starter.</p>
Stations of the Cross	This lesson has many activities and you may or may not have time for Stations of the Cross this week. If you do, consider walking students into the church and show them where the stations of the cross are and how they depict Jesus’ death. Then you can return to class and begin reading through the Stations of the Cross, while students color them. This may be an activity that you work on over a few class sessions.
Closing Prayer	End class by modeling a spontaneous prayer.