

"TEACH US TO PRAY"

LESSON 1

"OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN"

MAIN FOCUS

God is our perfect Father in Heaven!

POWER VERSE

*"Our Father, which art in Heaven,
hallowed be thy name."
- Mathew 6:9*

BIG IDEA

"God, Our Father, Is Perrrrfect!"

Leader's Info

Many children have a different sort of view of God than what we find in the Bible. Sometimes children think that God is a super-powerful being in the sky who is watching to see whether or not we mess up.

In the first line of The Lord's Prayer, we see that God is not just a being, He is our Father! He created us and loves us. He lives in Heaven and is watching over us.

In today's lesson, the children will focus on the loving, holy, and perfect Heavenly Father we all have. They will learn how they can talk to God, and He will talk to them. After all, God loves us and wants to spend time with us.

★ INTRO VIDEO

"OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN"

★ CHARACTER SKIT

"PATTY PRAYMORE"

★ OFFERING TIME

★ PRAISE SONGS

★ GAME TIME

"WHO PRAYED WHAT?"

★ POWER VERSE VIDEO

*"OUR FATHER, WHICH ART IN HEAVEN,
HALLOWED BE THY NAME."
- MATTHEW 6:9*

★ WORSHIP SONGS

★ ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE

"OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN"

★ "RAP IT UP" VIDEO

★ REVIEW QUESTIONS

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"RAP IT UP" VIDEO

REVIEW QUESTIONS

ORDER OF SERVICE

1. _____
by _____
2. _____
by _____
3. _____
by _____
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by _____
17. _____
by _____

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CHARACTER SKIT

Character: Patty Praymore *(Patty Praymore is a sweet little old lady that teaches Sunday school. She's quick witted and always has something ready to say. She can seem crabby at times, but she means well.)*

(Play Patty's theme music—the chorus of "Pray" by M.C. Hammer—found on i-Tunes)

Patty: Well God bless and good mornin', boys and girls!

Leader: Excuse me ma'am, are you lost?

Patty: Bless you, child, for worrying about an old woman, but NO I am NOT lost, I'm exactly where the good Lord told me to be! My name is Patty Praymore and I hear you folks are talkin' about prayer!

Leader: That's right! Our series is called "Teach Us to Pray" and –

Patty: *(interrupts)* Oh well isn't that sweet. Little Mr. Smarty-britches is gonna teach the boys and girls all about prayer. Bless your heart; are you qualified to teach these little angels?

Leader: Well...I mean, I guess I am...

Patty: Guessing is for math, dearie, if you're gonna be talkin' about PRAYER you're gonna need an expert, which means me!

Leader: You're an expert in prayer?

Patty: Does a grasshopper like trampolines?

Leader: Ummmm...

Patty: That was supposed to be a "yes," dearie, try and keep up. Yes, I am an expert in prayer! I've been teaching Sunday school for the past 50 years. I know exactly how to pray. I started teaching people how to pray when Noah's boat was just a canoe. *(laughs at her own joke)*

Leader: Um...okay. How exactly are we supposed to pray?

Patty: It's very simple. Just follow my instructions and soon you'll be yakking right into God's eardrum!

(As Patty goes through these steps, the leader tries to copy her)

Patty: First, you put your hands together. Second, you bow your head and close your eyes real tight. Next, you must hop like a bunny three times. Then, stick out your left foot and turn it 18

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CHARACTER SKIT (CONTINUED)

degrees counter-clockwise. Shout out your favorite fruit while spinning in a circle (*spins in a circle*) PINEAPPLES!! Then, finally make a noise like choo-choo train...

Leader: Are you almost done?

Patty: Oh yes. This is only the first stage. There are 37 more.

Leader: WHAT?! Patty this is ridiculous!

Patty: (*slaps the leader's bottom with a ruler she's carrying in her pocket*) Mind your manners!

Leader: OW! I'm just trying to tell you that prayer doesn't have to be complicated at all! That's what this entire series is about!

Patty: What do you mean?

Leader: Prayer doesn't have to be complicated! It's just talking to God and letting Him talk back to you! That's what the Lord's Prayer is all about! Jesus taught it to his disciples as a guide for them to follow to make it easier for them to talk to God! There weren't any big huge steps involved!

Patty: Well, that's what I was gonna say! Now that you've done all your talkin I gotta go! I've got a potluck to go attend and my casserole's gonna burn! I'll see you later my little angels, God bless and good mornin'!

(*she gives the leader one final whack with her ruler on her way out*)

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GAME TIME

"WHO PRAYED WHAT?"

Items Needed For Game: The Data CD (*Lesson One slideshow, beginning with title slide "Who Prayed That?"*)



How To Play: Choose three boys and three girls to compete. Each slide has a question listed along with several options of answers. Each question has to do with things people prayed for in the Bible. The first one to "buzz in" and get the answer correct gets a point. If a contestant buzzes in first, but gets it wrong, the other team gets a point. The team to earn the most points during the game wins.

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ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE

"OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN"

Materials Needed: The Data CD; a cell phone; a bullhorn

Preparation: Open the PowerPoint presentation on the Data CD titled "Lesson One," begin with the slide titled "Our Father In Heaven"; familiarize yourself with the Bible Story found in **Matthew 6**

The Message: *(title slide)*



Prayer is a very important part of a Christian's life. Prayer is where we talk to God and He talks to us. You might be thinking, "I can talk to God? How?" Well, you don't need one of these (*hold up the bullhorn to your mouth and begin aiming it to Heaven*). "Hey God! Are you up there? Can you hear me?" You also don't need one of these to talk to God. (*hold up the cell phone*) "Hello, can you give me God's cell phone number, please?"

Nope. You don't need any tools at all to talk to God. You just talk—and He hears you. Isn't that awesome? But, there are many people who feel like they just don't have what it takes to pray. They think prayer is something really hard to do—or at least to do "the right way."

The disciples struggled with this same issue. They felt like they didn't really know how to pray. So, they said to Jesus one day in Matthew chapter 6, "Lord, teach us to pray." That's exactly what Jesus did! He gave them a sample prayer to show them how easy it was to pray to God. We call it "The Lord's Prayer."

In this series, "Teach Us To Pray", we are going to walk through The Lord's Prayer line by line, piece by piece, so we can understand the different parts of it. By doing so, it will help us see the different things we can pray about when spending time with God in prayer.

The very first line in The Lord's Prayer says, "Our Father, which art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name." We are going to look at each part of this sentence to help us understand it better. In doing so, we will learn some important things about God to remember when we pray.

1) God Is Our Heavenly Father *(slide)*



The first two words of the Lord's Prayer says, "Our Father." God is our Father. You might be thinking, "Well, if God is my Father, then who is that guy living in my house who says he's my father." Well, that is your EARTHLY Father. God is our HEAVENLY Father.

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ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE

(CONTINUED)

Fathers are very important in our lives. Fathers are supposed to protect us, provide for us, and love us. Our Heavenly Father does all those things and much more! Maybe you grew up in a home, or live in a home, without a Dad. Well, God is the Dad you've always had and always WILL have. He will never leave, He will never turn His back on you, and He will never fail you. He is your Heavenly Father.

So, The Lord's Prayer says, "Our Father, which art in Heaven..." This means...

2) God Is In Heaven—Above All Things *(slide)*



The Bible teaches us that God is in Heaven. We don't know exactly WHERE Heaven is, but we do know that it is not here on Earth. But, even though God is in Heaven, the Bible teaches us that He sees everything that happens here on Earth, He knows every single detail about everything on Earth, and He is greater and more powerful than anything on Earth.

God is in Heaven—above all things. His power is above all powers. He knows the future. He knows everything that has happened in the past. He is wiser, stronger, and higher than anyone on Earth. Why is that important? Because when I am in trouble or I need an answer, I can depend on God because He is above all things—all sicknesses, all enemies, all demons, all powers. He's in Heaven—above all things!

So, we have learned, "Our Father, which art in Heaven..." The next part says, "Hallowed be thy name." You probably have never used the word "hallowed" before. This simply means...

3) God Is Holy—Perfect In Every Way *(slide)*



We are to honor God and His name because He is holy. Holy means "without sin or defect; perfect." God is holy. He is perfect. He has no flaws. He makes no mistakes. We can trust Him because He will never "leave us or forsake us." He is perfect.

The Lord's Prayer gives us a guide as to how we should pray. We should always begin our prayer honoring God for being our holy, Heavenly Father. We should honor and worship Him for who He is. He is holy. He is perfect. He is our amazing Heavenly Father, which art in Heaven.

ALTAR RESPONSE: *(play soft music)*

Lead the children in a prayer of honoring God. Thank Him for being our Heavenly Father. Thank Him for being perfect in every way. Honor and worship Him in prayer.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What was today's Big Idea?
Answer: *"God, Our Father, Is Perfect!"*
2. What was the name of the old lady who visited us today?
Answer: *Patty Praymore*
3. What do we call the sample prayer that Jesus gave us?
Answer: *The Lord's Prayer*
4. The first words in The Lord's Prayer that we learned today are _____.
Answer: *"Our Father, which art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name."*
5. The first thing we learned in our lesson today was "God Is Our _____."
Answer: *Heavenly Father*
6. According to our lesson today, "God Is In Heaven, _____ All Things."
Answer: *above*
7. According to our lesson today, "God Is Holy - _____ In Every Way."
Answer: *perfect*
8. The word "hallowed" means "_____."
Answer: *holy*
9. What is the name of the girl who is hosting our Intro Videos?
Answer: *Ashton*
10. Where was our Power Verse found?
Answer: *Matthew 6:9*