

Jesus Can Forgive Anyone

The Gospel Project: Unit 33 Session 3

2 Corinthians 5

Midweek Bible Class

Week of June 1st, 2025

Christ Connection: Jesus can forgive anyone. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and invites us into His family. He calls us to tell others about Him so they might believe in Jesus and be saved.

Memory Verse: PS: God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to save people. John 3:17; Elem: For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. John 3:17

Spiritual Discipline: Prayer

Leader Bible Study: We are talking this week about the question: “How do we pray?” To answer this question, we will be going to Matthew 6:9-13 and learning from the Lord’s Prayer. The Lord’s Prayer is part of a bigger narrative called The Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus taught a large crowd from a mountainside. This teaching includes many important topics, such as loving our enemies, how to give, and how to react when someone wrongs us.

Right before Jesus presents the example of the Lord’s Prayer, He gives some practical advice for what prayer should and shouldn’t look like. For example, we shouldn’t seek the attention of others through our prayers (Matthew 6:5-6) and we don’t need to “babble” (Matthew 6:7) by using many words when praying.

While we won’t go specifically into these two points within this week’s Bible time, you may want to point them out to your group, if time allows. Many kids feel uncomfortable or nervous to pray aloud. Knowing that they can pray just as they might have a conversation

with a friend or teacher might encourage them in their practice of corporate prayer.

Jesus then gives the listeners an example of a prayer they might pray. This prayer is short, but filled with several different types of prayer, such as praise, supplication, and a request for forgiveness. As we teach this prayer to kids, it's important that we help them understand that this is an example, which means it is prayer that we can include in our practice of this discipline, but it is by no means the only way in which God expects us to pray.

God wants us to bring all of our thoughts, feelings, frustrations, celebrations, joys, and pains to Him through prayer. In some instances, when we can't come up with the words to pray, the prayers in Scripture are a wonderful tool to use. And other times we simply need to come to God with the very words that have settled on our heart. As we help kids answer the question of how to pray, let's make a point to show them that we can "pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request..." (Ephesians 6:18).

Welcome

Sing Songs

Prayer Acrostic

Materials: paper and markers

Show the kids how to write PRAYER vertically down the left side of the paper. Challenge them to think of a prayer request that starts with each letter of the word *prayer* and write or draw the requests next to the corresponding letters.

Prayer Bubbles

Materials: bubble solution

Provide liquid bubble solution, either in a bucket for the kids to share or in small cups for each individual kid. Give each kid a bubble wand. Explain that they will blow a bubble and praise God and then thank God for hearing them when the bubble pops. They will then blow another bubble and ask a request of God, and then when the bubble pops, thank Him for hearing them. Encourage them to alternate between praise and requests as they blow bubbles.

Pass the Picture

Materials: paper, pencils, basket, sticky notes

Prior to the session, write spiritual disciplines on slips of paper. Create one for each kid in your group. Spiritual disciplines include prayer, fasting, service, Bible study, celebration, fellowship, evangelism, rest, and generosity. Put the papers in a basket or bag. Lead the kids to form groups of five and sit in a circle. Pass the basket around so each kid can draw a piece of paper. (Make sure they don't share the word they drew.) Give each kid five sticky notes and something to draw with. On the first sticky note, instruct them to draw a picture that reminds them of that spiritual discipline. After a minute, the kids will pass their stacks of sticky notes to the kid on their left. That kid will look at the drawing and decipher which spiritual discipline they think it represents. They will then move the sticky note with the drawing to the bottom of the stack and write their guess on the sticky note that's now on top. They will again pass their stack of sticky notes to the kid on their left, who will read the word, move that sticky note to the bottom of the stack and then draw a picture that reminds them of that word on the top sticky note. Continue this pattern until kids receive their original stack of sticky notes. Groups can then go through the drawings and see how similar or different the end result is from the original spiritual discipline.

Reverse Charades

Materials: paper, basket, pencil

Prior to the session, write various spiritual disciplines on pieces of paper and put them in a basket. Choose one kid to be *It* and ask him to step outside the room. Draw a discipline out of the basket and share it with the remaining kids. Bring *It* back into the room and explain that the group will act out the spiritual discipline while *It* watches and tries to guess the discipline are acting out. Once he guesses, he can choose the next kid to be *It*.

[Learn About Prayer](#)

Review Spiritual Disciplines

Materials: none

Say, ***“During this time each week, we come together to learn about and practice spiritual disciplines.”***

Ask, ***“What is a spiritual discipline?”***

Say, ***“A spiritual discipline is a practice, or repeated action, that we do to help us grow in love for God and godliness.”***

Ask, ***“Why is it important to make spiritual disciplines a part of our life?”***

Say, ***“Spiritual disciplines are habits that help us connect with and follow God. He made us, and He knows the best way to live life- that includes these disciplines.”***

Review the Discipline of Prayer

Materials: none

Say, ***“This week we are focusing on the spiritual discipline of prayer. Prayer is the act of talking with God and allowing Him to change and transform you.”***

Ask, ***“What can you tell me about prayer?”***

Say, ***“Prayer is communicating with God. We can pray for ourselves and others and today we are going to ask the question: ‘How do we pray?’ Let’s play a game to get started!”***

Group Game: Mixed-Up Emotions

Materials: 10 different Emojis printed, cut apart, and placed in a bag

Invite a kid to come to the front. Whisper a simple sentence in her ear, such as *My ice cream cone fell on the ground* or *I heard a funny joke*. She will then draw an emoji out of the bag and repeat the sentence using the emotion represented by the emoji. The idea is that the statement won’t match the emotion being shown. The rest of the group will try to determine which emoji she drew out of the bag. Whoever correctly guesses gets to be the next volunteer.

Ask, ***“Why did those sentences sound so silly?”***

Say, ***“When we speak, we don’t just communicate through our words, we also use facial expressions, hand motions, and the tone and volume of our voice to get our message across. So, it sounded silly when our volunteers were saying a happy sentence with a sad voice or a funny sentence with an angry face.”***

Much like we have different ways of communicating our words to people, we can use different ways of praying to express different emotions and parts of our heart. When we are happy,

we praise God. When something good happens in our life, we give God thanks. When we are sad, hurting, or in need, we can ask God to comfort us. And while we don't always need to pray based on our emotions, it is encouraging to know that we can pray in every situation. Today, we are asking the question: 'How do we pray?' Let's keep that question in mind as we continue learning.'

Read the Bible

Materials: Bibles

Say, ***"Today we are asking 'How do we pray?' Where do you think we might go to find that answer?"***

The Bible not only tells us how to pray, but Jesus actually gives us an example of a prayer we can pray. Let's open our Bibles to Matthew 6:9-13 and read it together. Jesus spoke to His disciplines in this passage. If we have chosen to follow Jesus, then we are also His disciples. Jesus gave this prayer as an example or model of how to pray. Notice that verse 9 says 'you should pray like this,' and not 'you should pray this.' This passage is often called the Lord's Prayer, but through verse 9, we see that it is not the only way to talk to God. Let's read the passage verse by verse and see if we can notice the different parts of prayer.'

Read verse 9.

Say, ***"This verse is praising God by telling Him how wonderful and holy He is. We can praise God through prayer by saying how great He is, by listing His characteristics, or by celebrating the goodness He shows through His creation."***

Read verses 10-11.

Ask, ***“What is happening in these verses?”***

Say, ***“The prayer is asking for God’s will to be done on earth and for Him to provide what we need each day. God wants us to ask for what we need, and even what we want. But that’s only a part of prayer, not the entire thing. Prayer is a way that we show our reliance on Him.”***

Read verses 12-13.

Say, ***“The prayer finishes by asking for forgiveness from God. God has already offered forgiveness for our sins through Jesus’ death on the cross. But how wonderful that we have a loving God we can bring everything to, the good and the bad. He wants us to come to Him and ask Him for forgiveness when we sin, and we can trust that He will be ready to forgive.***

There are lots of other ways we can pray, such as prayers of gratitude where we tell God what we are thankful for. We can also pray Scripture. In fact, many of the psalms are prayers. Our prayers don’t have to always be long: we can say short prayers throughout the day as we focus on God: ‘Thank you, God; You are good,’ or ‘Jesus, help.’ Prayer might feel difficult sometimes because we’re not used to being quiet or still. But there are so many different ways to pray; it doesn’t have to feel boring! The most important truth to remember about prayer is that God wants to talk to you and hear from you, no matter what’s going on in your life.”

Group Demonstration: Building Blocks

Materials: Legos

Invite two volunteers to the front. Give one volunteer a simple brick set complete with instructions to build a specific creation. Give the

second volunteer a bucket of Legos. Give them a few minutes to build, with the first volunteer building according to the instructions and the second building whatever he would like.

Say, ***“Our volunteers did a great job, didn’t they? What was the different between their two creations?”***

Say, ***“One volunteer followed an example while he was building and the other built more freely. Is either way wrong?”***

Say, ***“No, those are both great ways to build! And there’s a time and a place for both approaches. For example, if you are feeling especially creative that day, you may not want to follow someone else’s instructions. But if you are looking for some inspiration or direction, you might appreciate using the kit. This can remind us of prayer. Today, we learned about the Lord’s Prayer, which is an example or guide to prayer. Sometimes, it might be helpful for us to pray the words someone else has written in the Bible, such as a psalm or the Lord’s Prayer. We might use this approach when we feel too sad or too tired to pray our own words. Or maybe we are so amazed by God and someone else’s words help us express our amazement to Him. But other times, we may want to pray what is on our heart, what we are excited or sad about. Neither way is wrong and there is a time and place for each way of prayer.”***

Christ Connection

Materials: none

Say, ***“God loved us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to live a perfect life and then die on the cross as a payment for our sins. While Jesus was on earth, He spent time teaching people about how to know God and grow closer to God. One of the best ways***

we can grow closer to God is through prayer. Jesus shared the Lord's Prayer as a way to show us how to pray."

Love God by Practicing Prayer

Prayer Bookmark

Materials: cardstock strips, hole punch, markers, ribbon, scissors, stickers

Give each kid a strip of cardstock. Provide a hole punch so kids can punch a hole at the top of their bookmark. Provide markers and stickers and encourage them to draw pictures or write words that help them remember the different parts of prayer (praise, request, confession). They can also write or illustrate the Lord's Prayer on their bookmark. Once they are finished decorating their bookmarks, give each kid a piece of ribbon to tie through the hole. Encourage the kids to place their bookmarks in their Bibles to help them remember how to pray.

The Lord's Prayer Mural

Materials: long piece of craft paper and markers or crayons

Lay out a long piece of paper and provide markers or crayons. Assign individual verses from Matthew 6:9-13 to different kids to illustrate. After several minutes, allow the kids to share their drawings with the group.

Close in Prayer

Materials: none

Use the scripted prayer, pray in your own words, or ask a student to pray.

Say, ***“God, thank You for the gift of prayer. You are holy and wonderful, and we are humbled to speak to You through prayer. We confess that sometimes we forget that we can come to You through prayer. We ask that You help us draw close to You through prayer this week. Amen.”***