Lesson 7
Be Prayerful

Objective
Learn that Jesus' path to happiness includes being prayerful. Matthew 6:5-15.

Supplies
Teachers and/or Coordinators ensure supplies are ready prior to each class.

Print From the Site:
- Be Prayerful Activity Sheet (one per student)
- Take Home Sheet (one per student)
- Bibles
- Pens/Pencils/Crayons/Pencil Crayons
- Stickers (for attendance)
- Attendance Chart
- Jesus' Teachings Song Sheet – one set for every two students

Optional Supplies
Print From the Site:
- Prayer Tree Craft (one per student print in color)
- Prayer Tree Sample (one for teacher to show students)
- Snack: Pretzels – enough to share
- Memory Verse Reward Treats
- Glue sticks to share
- Scissors to share

Teacher Tips
★ See Lesson 1 for ideas

1) Introduction to Lesson

As students enter, welcome them. Thank them for coming. Take attendance.

So far we have learned that Jesus' pathway to happiness includes being loving – even to our enemies, to be willing to give: to God and to everyone, and today we will see that when we talk to God it leads to happiness as well.

We are going to sing "When We Pray for Each Other" to remind us that prayer is powerful when we are following Jesus' path to happiness.

Hand out song sheets. Sing a few times through. You can hear it here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xq7Gdchz-3g or go to the Sunday School Bible Lessons for Kids website and click on the Kids Songs Tab to hear it.

When We Pray for Each Other
Tune: The More We Get Together

When we pray for each other,
each other, each other,
When we pray for each other,
The stronger we'll be.

'Cause your prayers
And my prayers,
Together make great prayers,

When we pray for each other,
The stronger we'll be.

The more we love each other,
each other, each other,
The more we love each other,
The happier we'll be.

'Cause your love
And my love,
Together is God's love,

The more we love each other,
The happier we'll be.

2) Class Time – Be Prayerful 10 minutes

Hand out Bibles and say: **Jesus tells us how we should pray. Prayer is when we talk to God and reading in the Bible is how God talks to us! So both of these are very important.**

Have you ever had a friend or sibling who stopped talking to you? Or have you watched a show where one of the people were not talking to the other? How does that feel? Let students answer – feel rejected, lonely, angry, don't want to talk to them anymore either, the friendship stops, etc.

That is how God feels when we don't talk to Him! God feels sad, rejected, and the relationship stops when we don't talk to God. He loves us very much and just like your grandma or grandpa can't wait to talk to you on the phone and see you, that is how God is. He can't wait to hear about your day, what problems you are having, and being there to listen and help you through them. So it is very important that we take the time to talk to God and build our relationship with Him. He loves you!

Jesus explains HOW we should pray to God. This is not a rule, this is a general idea to help us. Not all our prayers will be like this, sometimes we are so sad, we just cry to God. Sometimes we are so happy, we just give thanks to God. Sometimes our prayers might be short or long. But this helps us know what are some good things we should remember. Things that we can talk to God about when we pray to Him.

Read **Matthew 6:5-8**.
Have volunteers take turns, or read yourself. Explain definitions of words as needed.

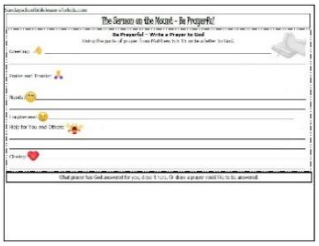
Jesus was saying some people were praying in front of others just to get noticed. As we learned before, our motive matters. Just like when we give, when we pray we should not do it for attention but because we really want to talk to God.

What does Jesus say God will do for those who pray sincerely and not for attention in verse 6? God will reward you!

Did Jesus say we should repeat the same words over and over again just to make sure God can hear us or is it best to say what we need knowing God heard and will answer? We don't need to repeat; God hears the first time.

We only need to say it once during the prayer – God doesn't forget and always listens so doesn't need to be called as if He was busy doing something else. He doesn't forget so doesn't need to be told over and over again. Jesus says God knows what we need before we even ask! Wow – that is powerful.

3) Be Prayerful Activity Sheet 15-20 minutes



Hand out one activity sheet BUT DO NOT GIVE PENCILS YET. Just let them look at the Writing a Prayer page while you read the Bible verses in Matthew.

Let's read Matthew 6:9-15
Just like our sheet, the first thing Jesus says is we need to:

1. Greet God:
What emoji do you see first? Hand wave!
Notice Jesus first started with a greeting, just like we do when we send a letter or email. We say Dear person. Jesus says when we talk to God we need to greet Him. Jesus used the example: Our Father in Heaven. So the first step is we need to remember to Greet God.

2. Give Him Praise and Thanks:
What emoji represents praise and thanks? Praying hands!
Some versions say, "Hallowed by your name." That means – may God's name be held as holy and special because He is God.
We need to remember to praise God for who He is and thank Him for what He does. We could say, "God, You are wonderful!" or "Father, thank You for Your help."

3. Share Needs:
What emoji represents needs? Sad, expecting face.
Jesus then says, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven". The word for kingdom here means "rule, authority". Jesus is acknowledging and telling us we need to remember Who has the authority

and is the true Ruler – God! We need to ask that His rule be done on earth, just like it is already done in heaven. God rules heaven and we want Him to help us on earth as we live our lives as well. We want Him to rule and take care of us. God's will is for all of us to follow Jesus and love God and one another. Jesus is saying it is good when we pray to ask that God help us do what He asks and that others learn to do the same.

Next Jesus says we need to ask for our daily bread. This doesn't mean that we only eat bread or only pray when we are eating bread. But back then, bread represented any food or meal. So Jesus is saying we need to understand that it is God who provides our food and things we need to survive and we need to be humble enough to ask God for it and thankful when He gives it.

4. Ask Forgiveness:
What emoji represents forgiveness here? Sad face with tear.
Forgiveness comes from God and even if I have hurt someone else, I also hurt God by my sin. I need to ask God for forgiveness as I remember the things I have done that would make God sad. I don't have to keep a list, but I need to be mindful that I do wrong and it is only thanks to God and Jesus that I can be truly forgiven.
Jesus says we also first need to forgive those who sin against us! Wow! I can't ask God to forgive me of the things I do, if I am not willing to forgive others for the things they do. We need to ask God for forgiveness as we forgive others as well.

5. Request Help for You and Others:
What emoji represents help? The emoji screaming for help in a life buoy on the water.
God is the one that can help us. He might help us through nature, doctors, family, church, or people in our lives, but the help we get all comes from Him. We need God to help us overcome things that are tempting for us, that is things that are bad but we want to do them anyway. Maybe it is pride, wanting money more than God, lying, watching bad shows, doing things your parents don't want you to do, being mean, etc. We need to ask God to keep us from evil and being tempted to do wrong. He can help us and is wanting to.

6. Close: In Jesus' Name
What emoji is represented here: Heart meaning love
Now let's go to the John 14:13-14. Jesus tells us that when we pray, we need to ask in the name of Jesus. That means by His authority. So whatever we ask, we need to ask only if Jesus would approve and give His authority to do so. Just like when we sign our name for something, we give our name showing that by writing my name I authorize the cheque to be paid, the service to be done, my agreement to the contract. When we say, "In Jesus' name", we are asking Jesus to put His name to my prayer, it is like asking Him to sign the contract. So when we pray, it must be things we know Jesus would be happy to "sign" His name to.

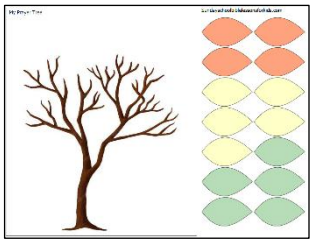
Let's read John 14:13-14
This doesn't mean ask ANYTHING! Like ask for something selfish, or for something bad. It means if you are asking things that Jesus would approve of, ask in His name when you pray.
And we say Amen because it means truly, so be it, let it be so. And many passages in the Bible include this statement.

Does anyone have any questions? Answer from the Bible and if you need help, you can write to Sundayschoolbiblelessonsforkids@protonmail.com and get back to the student next time.

Hand out a pencil to each student. Have them write their name. Go through the activities together reading aloud, letting students write, draw and color as instructed. Help as needed.

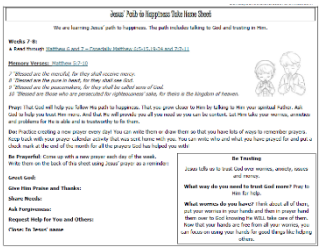
*If you want, ask which students want to do the Prayer Tree Craft instead, let them do the craft while the others do the Activity Sheets. For those who did the craft they can take the activity sheet home so they can fill in the prayer calendar on their own time. If a student finishes everything and there is still time, they can work on the other activity either craft or activity sheet until class is over.

4) Optional Craft – Prayer Tree 15 minutes



Show students the sample craft tree they will make. Hand out one Prayer Tree Sheet to each student. Tell them to write something they are thankful for on each leaf. Cut them out then glue them on the tree to make a prayer tree. Remind them to thank God for these things, choosing different things to thank Him for each day. There are 14 leaves so 2 different things to thank God for each day of the week!

5) Take Home Sheet 2 minutes



Hand out one sheet to each student. Tell them that: **This sheet is to stay at your home to help you study Jesus' Path to Happiness.**

6) Optional Snack – Pretzels 5-10 minutes

Prep

Get pretzels and put in paper cups or on napkins – a handful per student.

Snack

We've been learning about Jesus' path to happiness and that it includes prayer. Many years ago a man made pretzels to remind us to pray. They look like you have folded your arms in prayer. He made these to reward students who memorized the Lord's Prayer from Matthew 6. Pretzel in Latin means "little reward". Let's enjoy our little rewards as we talk about today's lesson on prayer!

While students are snacking ask some questions:
What was the most interesting thing you learned today? Why?
What is the hardest thing to pray for? Why?
When do you pray?
How does prayer bring us closer to God?
Any thoughts or questions about today's lesson?
Clean up before moving on.

7) Optional Activity – Memory Verses 5 minutes

Go to **Matthew 5** in their Bibles and read the verses aloud as a class 2 times. If desired, have a few reward treats for those who can memorize the Bible verses.

Matthew 5:7-10
7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Other options include:

- You saying a phrase and have students repeat a few times before working on the next phrase.
- Have students repeat after each other.
- Ask students to think of hand gestures for each section of the verse.
- Show visual aid to help with learning

8) Closing Prayer

**Before the prayer, make sure the activities/snacks have been cleaned up.
Tell students that: **Today we are all going to practice a prayer to God. I will start with the greeting and then we will go around the room, each of you adding something you are thankful for. Then we will go around the room each of you adding something you need, then we all take a turn again asking something God can do to help someone you know. Then we will all close in Jesus' name, amen.** (Prompt students at each point, reminding them what comes next and start by example first.)

9) Things to Remember

Thank the students for coming.
Encourage them to share what they learned with their family.
Take their activity sheets home.
Make sure students leave with a responsible person.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!