

Preschool Fall
Lesson 6:
The Bible Tells Us to Pray

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Understand that God wants us to pray to Him and to say thank you
- 2) Learn the story of Daniel and that he prayed to God three times a day
- 3) Recognize that we need to pray to God at Sunday worship but also everyday

Accommodations: How will I accommodate individual needs of students?

- See Lesson 1 for Ideas

Supplies: Check with coordinator to ensure supplies are ready.

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Pens/Pencils
- Bible (please bring your own)
- Crayons/Pencil Crayons
- Attendance Sheets – Parking Lot from previous class – one per student
- Cars for attendance – make sure each child has 5 cars
- Tape to share
- Prayer Clock Template with Stickers – printed on white cardstock or construction paper one page per student and cut out before class
- Paper Fastener (Brads) – one per student
- Glue to share
- Stop and Pray Sign – printed on white construction or cardstock paper and cut out before class – one per class for the teacher and/or one for each student to hold during story time and for game
- Popsicle stick(s) – one for each Stop and Pray sign you make
- Tape to attach Stop and Pray Sign to Popsicle stick
- Book – The Bible teaches us To Worship (the one you made from previous lessons)

Depending on time choose some optional activities to do and gather supplies

- “Thank You Bag” - one plastic or paper bag
- Thank You Bag pictures – print and cut out before class or gather small plastic doll, toy, food and bed or blanket to stick in bag to do thank you bag activity (see below)
- Time to Pray Match Activity Sheet – one per student
- Glue to share
- Scissors to share (for those too young to cut – precut the squares on the Time to Pray Sheet)
- Daniel Prayed Color Page – one set per student – 2 sets on a page. Cut page in half before class
- Dolls of family members – enough for each child to get some to play with
- Church building template – the one from lesson 4 pre-made so children’s doll families have a place to go for worship
- Bibles – one per child
- Books or Visual Aids on Prayer – example: I Can Pray - A Happy Day Book
- Snack – Piece of bread or something that can be folded – to remind students of folding hands in Prayer. Enough for each child along with a napkin and a glass of water

1) Introduction to lesson:

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance (using attendance charts from previous class). Let each child put a car in their attendance parking lot for this week. For students who have come already 5 times in a row – let them remove their cars from the lot and start putting their cars one at a time in the parking lot again. Have them sit on the floor when finished (on mats if available) close together. Tell them, **“Today we are going to continue to learn what the Bible teaches about worshipping God! Worship means to give honor, praise and obedience to God because we love Him and because He deserves it.**

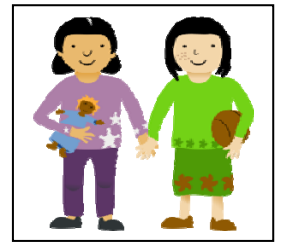
God loves us and we need to obey His Word – the Bible! And the Bible teaches us that we should pray to God and say ‘thank you’ to Him. (Hold up a Bible.)

*Optional: Thank You Bag Activity:

Before class: gather a bag and print the thank you bag template and cut out the pictures or gather plastic items like food, friends, toys, bed, etc. and place in the bag.

During class say: **Would you like to pick something from my thank-you bag _____** (insert name of student who is sitting quietly and listening)? Let student choose an item and then say: **Let’s say thank-you to God for the item.**

Let’s fold our hands and bow our heads and pray. Pray: **Dear God thank you for _____ (item) In Jesus’ name amen.** Go through remaining students allowing them to pick an item from the bag, talk about what it is and that we should say thank you and give a prayer of thanks for that item. (If you have more students than items in the bag – put the items back in the bag after they have all been chosen so the remaining students can choose something from the bag and give a prayer of thanksgiving too.



Say: **Praying is when we talk to God.**

How many of you pray to God with your family – raise your hand? Let students respond

How many of you pray at Sunday church services – raise your hand? Let students respond

We learned last week that we make God happy by singing.

Let’s sing some songs to get us started for our class today!

God’s Word

Tune: She’ll Be Coming Around the Mountain

I am big enough to see God’s Word.

(With my eyes!)

I am big enough to hear God’s Word. (With my ears!)

I am big enough to pray. I am big enough to sing.

I am big enough to pray and sing God’s Words.

(With my mouth!)

Bible Time

Tune: London Bridge

Gather ‘round, it’s Bible time,
Bible time, Bible time.

Gather ‘round it’s Bible time;
come and listen.

Hand out one Bible to each child. Say to students. **Last time we learned that the Bible is VERY special. Do you know why? Because it is God’s! God made the Bible for us and the Bible has all of God’s Words in it for us to obey. Isn’t that wonderful? God made the Bible for each and every one of us! God loves us very much and wanted each one of us to have a Bible to read, to use and to study His**

wonderful words. God loves us and expects us to obey Him. Today we are going to learn that the Bible teaches that we need to worship God and that includes praying to God at church services and at home every day.

Call each child by name and say: _____ is very good. She/he came to church services today and prayed a thank you prayer to God – she/he obeyed God! Good job _____!

Let's all say "Thank you God for our Bibles!" Have students say it together. Let's all say "Thank you God for our church family!" Good job! Let's sit quietly while I read a book on ways we worship God.

*Read book "The Bible Teaches Us to Worship". Then when done say:

Good job _____ (fill in names of those who sat quietly while you read) **for listening carefully and quietly. That made God happy!**

Now let's quietly go to the table so we can do another fun activity!

2) I Will Pray Like Daniel

10 minutes

*Before class: to get the attention of the students before the following story, print and cut out the "Prayer Stop Sign" using white construction or cardstock paper. Attach a popsicle stick to the end of it. Either make one for you to show class, or you can make one for you and each student so that every time you say the words "pray, prayer, or prayed" the students and/or you will hold up the "Stop and pray" sign.



*During class: Ask students to sit at the table and listen quietly while you read about Daniel. Say: **How many of you say "Thank You!"** (Let students answer) **We should all remember to say thank you when someone does something nice for us. That is polite and makes us and the person happy. It also makes God happy to hear thank you too! What are some things we can thank God for everyday?** Let students answer, if they have trouble getting started mention some things like – **We can thank God for our food, home, pet, friends, church family, mom, dad, brothers, sisters, toys, clothes and all the nice things in the world God made for us! There is lots to thank God for. Today we are going to read about a man named Daniel. Daniel obeyed God and prayed to him three times a day! Can you count to three?** (let children show you how they can count to three) **That is how many times Daniel prayed to God – three times! And it made God happy.** Hand out a stop and pray sign to each child or if you are only using one – hold it up for the students to see explain that every time you say the word "pray" you and/or them will hold up the Stop and Pray sign. Then read the following:

The Bible says that three times (Hold up three fingers each time you say three.) **Three times every day. If it was sunny** (make a round sun over your head). **If it was rainy** (make rainfall with fingers), **if it was snowy** (hug yourself and shiver); **it did not matter. Daniel still prayed** (hold up stop and pray sign) **three times a day. When Daniel woke up** (have students stretch and yawn with you) **he stopped and prayed** (hold sign) **Daniel would thank God and share with God how much He loved God. Before Daniel ate his food** (have students pretend to eat with you) **he stopped and prayed** (hold sign). **Maybe he said, "Thank you God for my food."**

Before Daniel went to bed (have children pretend to lay heads on hands to sleep) **he stopped and prayed** (hold sign). **He probably said, "Thank You God for all the things You have given me today – my clothes, my bed, my room, and my friends. Thank You for taking care of me."**

Daniel was a good worker. The king liked Daniel's work, but he did not like Daniel's praying (hold sign). **The king wanted everyone to pray** (hold sign) **to the king instead of God. But Daniel loved God. Daniel went up to his room and knelt down on his knees right in front of the window and prayed** (hold sign) **to God. Three times a day, every day, Daniel prayed** (hold sign). **Whether it was sunny, or rainy, or snowy** (do actions), **Daniel still prayed** (hold sign). **Even when the king said, "No!" Daniel obeyed God rather than man and prayed** (hold sign) **three times a day! Daniel loved God more than anything and so Daniel always prayed** (hold sign) **to God and that made God happy!**

The Bible says in Daniel 6:10-11

¹⁰ Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

Say each child's name and then say: **You are all big enough to pray like Daniel did!**

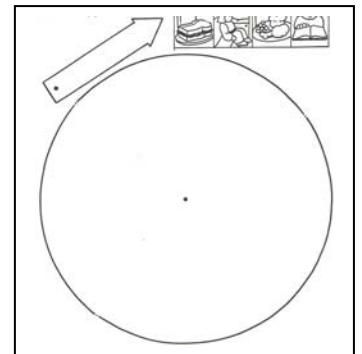
Let's spend some time now making God happy by singing some songs of praise to God! But first we need to gather our signs!

Ask students to hand in their sign before moving on to the next activities.

3) Prayer Clock with Stickers Craft

15 minutes

*Before class print the template of the Prayer Clock on white construction or cardstock paper and cut out the pointer, circle, and stickers. Gather a brad paper fastener, crayons and glue sticks for class.



During class say: **God wants us to pray to Him when we come to Sunday school and church services. God is also happy when we talk to Him in prayer every day! We are going to make a clock to help us remember that anytime is a good time to pray to God. Just like Daniel we can pray three times or more a day too!**

Do you have a clock in your home? Let students answer

We are going to make our own clocks as well! First we need to look at the pictures that will go on our clocks – hand out the first sticker to each student (Start with child yawning and stretching) along with crayons let them color while you ask questions about the sticker.

What is going on in this picture? Child is just waking up and is yawning and stretching.

When do we wake up? In the morning.

I am going to give you each a clock. We are going to glue this sticker in the 7am time of the clock. Point to where 7 would be on the clock. **This is around the time we all wake up in the morning.** Help students glue their wake up sticker in the 7 o'clock space on the clock near the edge of the clocks outer circle.

Good job! Now we are going to color the next picture (Hand out and talk about what is going on in the next picture – use the breakfast picture). Put it at the 8 o'clock space.

Go through remaining stickers and place them around the clock so that when they are done they can move their clock pointer around the clock and see different things they would do at certain times throughout the day. Help students attach the pointer to the circle with the brad fastener and write their name on the back of the clock.

Say: **During all of these times we can remember to pray to God! When we wake up, when we eat, play, go traveling, reading, or getting ready for bed – we can pray to God! That makes God happy when we talk and pray to Him! You are all big enough to pray to God!**

Let's pray to God now – Let's all bow our heads and fold our hands and sit quietly to show respect and love for God while I pray:

Dear God – thank you for letting us talk to You anytime of the day. Thank you for listening to us when we pray. Thank you for loving us. In Jesus' name amen.

Ask students to help clean up before moving on to the next activities. You can sing the Clean Up Song below as you work.

Thank those students who choose to help and praise them for helping to encourage other students to want to help as well.

Clean Up Song

Clean up, clean up
Everybody everywhere!
Clean up, clean up
Everybody do your share!
Repeat

4) Optional: I Can Pray Book – by Happy Days

5 minutes

If you can find the book and are able, gather students around while you read the story "I Can Pray."

5) Action Rhyme and Songs

5 minutes

Let's do some action rhymes about the Bible and sing songs to God!

God's Word

Tune: She'll Be Coming Around the Mountain

I am big enough to see God's Word.

(With my eyes!)

I am big enough to hear God's Word. (With my ears!)

I am big enough to pray. I am big enough to sing.

I am big enough to pray and sing God's Words.
(With my mouth!)

My Bible – Action Phrase

This is my Bible. (Palms together)

I'll open it wide. (Open hands; keep them touching.)

And see what is written inside!

I Have – Action Phrase

I have two eyes to see God's Word.
(Circle eyes)

I have two ears to hear it read.
(Cup ears)

I have one mouth to sing His praise.
(Point to mouth)

I have two hands to fold in prayer.
(Fold hands)

Say, "God speaks to me through the Bible. He tells me to go to church services on Sunday. I want to do what God says. So, I obey! I do not go on Saturday, I do not go on Monday, because God tells me to go worship Him on Sunday. I obey God and that makes God happy and me happy too!"

Did you obey God by coming to church services on Sunday today? Yes you did! Good job – that makes God happy when we obey His Bible!

Are you going to sing when everyone sings? Good job – that makes God happy when we obey His Bible and worship Him.

Are you going to listen when everyone listens? Good job – that makes God happy when we obey His Bible and worship Him.

Are you going to give when everyone gives? Good job – that makes God happy when we obey His Bible and worship Him.

Are you going to pray when everyone prays? Good job – that makes God happy when we obey His Bible and worship Him!

6) Optional: Red Light, Green Light Prayer Action Game

5-10 minutes

Print Stop and Pray Sign and attach it with tape to a Popsicle stick so it will work as a sign that can be held. Have the children line up by a wall making sure that each child has space to move around without hitting a child beside them. Once lined up explain to them:

We are going to play a game to help us remember the importance of prayer. When I say do an action. I want you to do the action. When I hold up the sign that shows a stop sign with a child praying. I want you to stop and fold your hands and bow your head like you are praying? Everyone understand?

Let's be nice and quiet so you can hear me and so you can pay attention and know that when you see the sign you Stop and Pray!



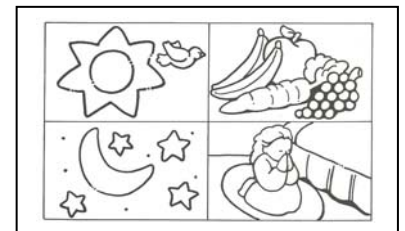
Have students do different activities they would do throughout the day – wake up, eat, walk to breakfast, brush teeth, pet the dog, help mom with dishes, etc. In between, hold up the sign and say "stop and pray!" And have them stop and pray. Then go through more activities a child would do during the day each time in between saying "stop and pray".

7) Optional: Daniel Prayed Activity Color Sheet

10 minutes

Before class cut out one set of 4 pictures for each child.

During class hand out one set of pictures to each student along with crayons. Say: **The man in our Bible story, Daniel, prayed three times a day. Can you find Daniel on your set of pictures? You are big enough to pray three times a day too! Perhaps Daniel prayed in the morning. Can you find a picture that looks like morning? Yes, the one with the big sun! We can pray when the sun is in the sky. We can say, "Thank you God, for this new day!"** Continue this way explaining with each picture. Say: **You are all big enough to show God you love Him by praying to Him every day including at church services on Sunday.**



8) Optional: Time to Pray Activity Color Sheet

10-15 minutes

Hand out one sheet per student along with glue sticks and crayons. For those too young to use scissors cut out the clocks at the bottom of the page before class. For those old enough to cut the squares themselves, hand them safety scissors. Read the instructions on the page and go through each picture with the students talking about what the child in the picture is doing and what time that is during the day. Remind them that during all of these activities we can pray to God! Help students glue the right clock to the right picture and then ask students to help clean up before moving onto the next activity.



9) Optional: Dolls and Bibles – We Can Pretend to Worship

10 minutes

Pass around dolls and Bibles and/or other things that will help children remember what they learned - that the Bible is God's Word and they need to obey it by worshipping God by coming to church services every Sunday and to pray.

Say, **“The Bible is from God. As we pretend with these Bibles and dolls let's remember that God gave us the Bible and in the Bible it says we need to worship Him and obey Him. That is why we are all here today at services - to worship God! Let's share our dolls and Bibles and pretend that our dolls are going to church services to read the Bible and obey and learn about God. Let's practice all the things we do on Sunday using our dolls.** (Pretend they go to Sunday school class. Pretend they go to worship and sit, pray, read their Bibles, give and listen.) Talk about how happy God is when we read from His Word the Bible and obey His Word. Talk about how happy our family is when we come to Sunday school and sit, listen and obey the teacher and read from the Bible. Ask students what things they remember people doing every Sunday when they are at church services.

Then while they play, open your Bible and turn to **Acts 20:7** ask students to look and listen while you read from the Bible this paraphrased version: **On the first day of the week we came together... The Bible says we should come together on the first day of the week – that is today – Sunday! We are all obeying God by being at church services this Sunday! Good job!**

Then say to students, **“The Bible is God's Word!”**
Do the following rhyme with your Bible:

Best Book of All – Rhyme
Books, books, big and small;
What's the very best book of all?
THE BIBLE!

(Repeat several times and hold up the Bible each time)

Let students play with the dolls and books and then clean up.

10) Optional: Snack – Piece of Bread Folded - or something similar 5-10 minutes

Before class take pieces of bread or something similar that can be folded and fold each piece to represent folding hands in prayer.

Say to students: **“You've all done a great job this morning learning about God's Word – the Bible and that we need to worship God by praying when we go to church services every Sunday and at home every day of the week also! To help us remember, we are going to have a snack that reminds us of folding our hands when we pray. Just like we should fold our hands when we pray**

this snack will help us to remember to do that as it is folded as well! Hand out snacks to each child, along with a glass of milk or water to each child.

Ask students while they snack: **What book is from God? The Bible!**

The Bible is God's Word and that is where we read that we need to go to church services every Sunday and give prayers of thanks to God. The Bible is God's special book that He made for each and every one of us. And, we are to obey the Bible. That includes going to church services! Let's think about how we can give, listen, pray, and sing today in worship while we eat our snacks! Enjoy!"

Talk about how we obey the Bible – by going to church services on Sunday, listening to our moms and dads, praying, giving, singing, listening, and reading the Bible. After snack have kids clean up. Then move on to the remaining activities.

11) Sing

5-10 minutes

Have children sing songs with you, you can sing from the Fall Quarter Songs provided.

12) Close in prayer

Tell students that **we are going to pray, to pray we need to put down everything and fold our hands and bow our heads like this** (show students). **This way we can hear and listen to the prayer and when we sit quietly and focus on God – it makes God happy! We learn this in God's Word the Bible and we need to obey God.**

First: Ask if there are prayer requests that kids want to share. Make a list. Then give the list to the assistant or read yourself.

Second: Prayer Preparation Action Rhyme (Optional)

My eyes are little windows (Cup hands around eyes)

And through them I can see

This book, God's book the Bible! (Hold hands out like book)

That He gives you and me (Point to children and then self)

My hands I fold together (Fold hands)

My head I slowly bow (Bow head)

To say to God a "thank you"

As together we pray now....

Third: Pray **Dear God, thank you for listening when we talk to You. Help us to remember to say thank you for all the things You give us every day. Thank God for everyone here today and for those that couldn't be. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

13) Remind students

To take home their creations. Thank them for coming and ask them to help clean up before they leave.

14) Greet Parents at door

Ensure all students go to parents or if some students remain have teacher assistant help you take them to their parents.