

The Greatest Prayer

Bible Text: Matthew 6:5–15

Lesson Focus: When we say the prayer Jesus taught us, we connect with God.

Big Question: What's the big deal about the Lord's Prayer?

Key Words: RELATIONSHIP, PETITION, EXAMPLE, ACCESS, HOLY

BIBLE CONNECTION

Look at the front of the Student Sheet together. Read each bullet point aloud for the group. Talk about the points with students.

- Why does prayer work?
- What can we learn from Jesus teaching this prayer?
- How does it feel to know you have direct access to God?

Turn to this week's activity called "The Greatest Prayer: True/False Quiz." Work through the activity page together. After a few minutes, discuss the answers.

CARTOON CONNECTION

Use the cartoon and questions on the Student Sheet to kick off a conversation.

- What do you think of your own name?

Some people like their names, some people don't. Regardless, our names are how people know us, and are important.

- How does it feel when someone gets your name wrong, especially if they say it wrong on purpose?

There's an old saying: "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never harm me." Is that really true? Names can be used to honor and respect, or to tear down and hurt.

- What are some ways we act as if God's name is not holy?

There is a commandment specifically about this. Look at the Second Commandment in the Small Catechism.

STUDENT BOOK CONNECTION

Student Book page 188: Read through "How to Tell the Difference between the Law and the Gospel" together. What parts sounds more like the Law? Which parts sound more like the Gospel?

Are there parts of the Lord's Prayer that seem like both? Start with the first two words of the prayer: Our Father.

Student Book page 193: After reading "How to Pray" take a moment and together assume three different "prayer postures." Are there certain prayer postures that help you focus more on praying.

Together find some examples of "famous pray-ers'" prayers and quotes about prayer. For example, Meister Eckhart said, "If the only prayer you ever say in your whole life is 'Thank you,' that would suffice." Print these simple quotes and prayers as bookmarks or write them down. Perhaps you find a new dinner prayer, or evening prayer to say together as a family. Or you find one that you would like to keep in your Bibles.

LIFE CONNECTION

God is like a perfect parent who is always there for us. Are there things you can't tell your parents but can tell God? Look at this week's Life Connection on the Student Sheet. Encourage one another to offer these things up to God in prayer. Talk with each other on how prayer, the good the bad and all the in between. How has prayer felt in your life?
