

LEARNER SHEET: THE GREATEST PRAYER

Matthew 6:5-15



THE BIG IDEA

Jesus' prayer connects us with God.

BIG FUN IDEA

Film a short video of the do's and don'ts of prayer, as described by Jesus in Matthew. Heartily dramatize the difference between praying privately and showing off in public! Film the mumbling prayers sixth graders might pray in a restaurant. Arrange to show the video to upper elementary Sunday school learners in your church.

BIG SERVING IDEA

Invite your pastor to attend your serving event at someone's house and bring the most current list of your church's prayer requests. Ask the pastor to share a bit of information about each person on the list, then go around the circle and have each learner pray for one name until the list is complete. Invite the pastor to stick around for pizza afterward.

PRAYER TIME

Remember your partner's prayer needs—record them here.

DISCUSSION TIME

- **Pick one person from a news story and imagine what her or his prayers to God might include. How long has she or he been praying for the same things? How might you imagine God at work in that person's life?**
- **Estimate how long your group can "keep silence" in prayer. Then try it. Refer to Quaker tradition and their ways of silence in worship. Check in with each other about the experience.**
- **Picture an "enemy," someone whom you really wish you never had to deal with. Could you pray for that person? For your relationship?**

LEARNER TAKE-HOME SHEET: THE GREATEST PRAYER

Matthew 6:5-15



Take this sheet home and keep it someplace near the dinner table like on the fridge. At least three times next week at dinner, use Prayer Time and one other family activity to make your confirmation learning come alive!

PRAYER TIME

Dearest Jesus, we give you thanks for providing for us, your children. Thank you for teaching your disciples how to pray. Forgive us when we neglect to make a space for you, even though we constantly exist in the space of your creation. Let the words on our lips and the meditation in our hearts be acceptable to you, gracious Lord. Amen



KEY WORDS

Keep a family white board someplace near the dinner table, and write these words on it. Try writing a family definition for each one during the week.

**RELATIONSHIP
PETITION
EXAMPLE
COMMUNICATION**

TALK TIME

- Have you talked with God today? Write this question in various places in your home—on random calendar dates, on the fridge (with magnetic letters), in the car. Leave a note with the question wrapped around someone's cell phone. Surprise each other with the places you find to put this reminder.
- How does your family pray? Many families keep faithful prayer rituals when children are small. Assess the state of prayer in your family these days. Make a commitment to pray the Lord's Prayer together at the start or close of each day.
- Where is a place in the world right now that could really use your family's prayers? How might God be calling you to add action to your prayers in that situation?
- When do you most feel like praying? Why?



WEB TIME

Search the Internet together for the phrase "Lord's Prayer." Let it be a key to exploring ecumenical sites that enlarge our view of the Christian world. Search "Prayer Groups" along with your town's name, and recognize that people are meeting together to be with God. Check out your congregation's Web site. Is your church communicating that God listens 24/7?

RITUAL TIME

This simple act lifts up our identity as a family that believes in God. When a family member leaves for school or work, mark him or her with the sign of the cross and say, "Remember that God loves you, and so do I." This ritual takes only a second, but it can change the day.