

**What Is The Lord's Prayer?**  
**A Teaching Guide for the Booklet by G.L.Reed**  
**Abingdon Press 0-687-49347-1**

**Before the class arrives:**

- Decide if you will cover this material in one or two sessions.
- Follow the instructions on the next page to make a puzzle for the arrival activity.

**Arrival Activity: (5 minutes)**

- Call each student by name and check in with them. How are things going? (This is the most important part of your lesson).
- Put together the puzzle of the Lord's Prayer
- Pass out the booklets and read the Lord's Prayer together on page 4. Substitute if your congregation uses a different version.

**Use Your Bibles (10 minutes)**

- Work the puzzle on page 6, dividing into three teams if necessary and look up the verses.
- Work the puzzle on pages 8-9, dividing into two teams, if necessary.
- Compare the prayers according to the instructions on page 10.

**Brain Break (5 minutes)**

- Have the group sit in a circle. Ask the first person to say the first word of the prayer "Our" and pass a ball or balloon to the next person. This person says "Father" and passes to the third person. Continue around the circle until the entire prayer is said. Do it again, only this time have the individuals say only a syllable "Our Fa-ther who art in hea-ven" will take eight people. Try it also by passing the ball in the opposite direction. Or have the children reverse the direction at the end of each sentence.

**Examine the Prayer (10 minutes)**

Divide into six groups and assign each group one of the categories listed on page 12.

(If you have less than six students, assign each one a category and let them finish the other categories later.)

Praising God – work the puzzle on page 13.

Accepting God's Authority – work the puzzle on p. 14.

Asking for God's Care – work the puzzle on p. 15.

Asking for God's Forgiveness – work the puzzle on p. 17 (skip 16 for now).

Asking for God's Guidance – work the puzzle on p. 18.

Recognizing God as Ruler of All Things – work the puzzle on p. 19.

Have the students report back to the group what they learned. Turn to page 12 and draw colored lines under each phrase.

*If you are dividing this study into two sessions, this would be a good place to stop. See closing worship for ideas on how to close this session.*

**Our Father, who art in  
heaven, hallowed be thy  
name. Thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven. Give us  
this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our  
trespasses, as we forgive  
those who trespass against  
us. And lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver us  
from evil. For thine is the  
kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever.  
Amen.**

Reproduce this sheet, enlarging it if possible. Then cut it into a puzzle in one of the following ways:

- Use spray adhesive to glue the sheet to poster board or foam board and use an exacto knife to cut into 10 – 20 irregular pieces.
- Reproduce onto magnetic paper (available at an office supply store) and cut each word apart. Place on a cookie sheet and challenge the children to put the words in order. OR put each word on an index card and place a craft magnet on the back of each card.

*If this is the beginning of your second session, repeat the instructions for the arrival activity. Children will not mind repeating the puzzle and may try to “beat” their time of the previous session.*

### **But What Does It Mean? (5 minutes)**

- If you wish, divide into the same six teams for the previous activity and ask each team to paraphrase their section of the prayer. They may use the suggestions on page 21, or come up with their own paraphrase.

### **So What Is Prayer For? (10 minutes)**

- Have the students brainstorm why they might pray to God. Put all of these ideas on a chalkboard, whiteboard, or large piece of paper. Use the list on page 7 to help get things started.

### **Prayer Pantomime (10 minutes)**

- Depending on the maturity of your group use one of the following pantomime activities:
  - Place each phrase of the Lord’s Prayer in a jar, have the children draw one phrase out and pantomime the phrase for the class.
  - Have groups of two or three students pantomime a situation for which they would need prayer. Have the class guess the situation and then suggest an appropriate prayer for the situation.

### **Closing Worship (10 minutes)**

Light a candle as a sign that Christ is present in your classroom.

Ask the students to look at the candle and try to feel Christ’s presence with them.

Tell the students that when we pray for ourselves and others, that we are not simply directing God as to what to do in a situation, but that we are sending our love to the people or situations.

Make a list of prayer concerns.

Have a silent prayer time for each of these concerns.

Close with reciting The Lord’s Prayer

Encourage the students to work the other puzzles in their book at home.

### **For more information see the following resources:**

Teaching the Lord’s Prayer, by Delia Halverson. Examines the Lord’s Prayer and how it relates to questions about worship, sin, and forgiveness. 6 lessons for ages 7-9; includes 12 reproducible pages. Abingdon Press. 0687054303. \$15.00

The Lord’s Prayer, illustrated by Tim Ladwig. The beloved words of the Lord’s Prayer serve as the text of this remarkable book, in which Ladwig illustrates how the ancient prayer remains meaningful today. Eerdmans. 0802851800.

Teaching Prayer in the Classroom: Experiences for Children & Youth, by Delia Halverson. Provides practical advice and guidance on teaching children (preschool to age 12) about prayer, advice on the various elements of prayer, age-appropriate prayers, and information on different types of prayer. Abingdon Press. 0697064252. \$13.00