

The Lord's Prayer

Welcome to the story of The Lord's Prayer! As the caring leader of your small group of kids, you are an important part of their Spark experience. You also support the other Rotation leaders by being a consistent and friendly presence with your group. Use these Small Group Builders, Conversation Sparks, and Transition Tips to generate conversation and build relationships with your kids. Have fun as you grow in faith together!

Small Group Builders

Try these tips to build relationships, trust, and friendship with your small group of kids when you have a few minutes at the beginning of Sunday school or between activities.

- **Prayer Triangle**

The Lord's Prayer has three parts. Celebrate each of the three special parts by gathering your group in the shape of a triangle. As you sit or stand together in this three-sided shape, share a prayer together as a group. Once you're done praying, talk about how your prayer is like or unlike the Lord's Prayer. Did you pray in silence to show honor to God? Did you pray for your needs only today? Did you pray for forgiveness? Remember that God loves for us to pray, no matter how we do it!

- **Bread for the Day**

When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we ask God to give us many things. One of those things is "our daily bread." Talk together about all the times you eat bread each day. What are some favorite meals or snacks that have bread in them? Do different people eat bread in different ways? How is bread eaten or treated differently in different cultures? No matter how we eat it, God promises to give us the bread we need each and every day.

- **Hallowed Names**

Sometimes the words in a prayer, like the Lord's Prayer, can be a little tricky. "Hallowed" means sacred or holy. Take some time to wonder about this word together. How many sacred or holy names for God can your group think of? Count on your fingers and toes as you list God's names. Can you think of one name for each finger and toe on your body?

Conversation Sparks

Spark some faith-filled conversation during time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- Why does Jesus want us to pray alone?
- How do we pray with simple words?
- Why did the people want Jesus to teach them to pray?
- I wonder where you would pray at your home.
- How do we show others that we forgive them?
- When we pray in secret, who hears us? How?

Transition Tips

As your group moves from one place to another, keep things fun and story-focused! Try these tips as you transition.

- **Silent Prayer**

In the story *The Lord's Prayer*, Jesus talks about the importance of praying in groups and alone. Try praying silently with your group as you move to your next activity. Walk together to make the prayer a group prayer, but pray silently in your head to practice praying alone, as well. Palms up, arms out, eyes open—start that prayer!

- **Now and Forever**

In the *Lord's Prayer*, we ask God to take care of us forever and ever. March along to your next activity as you think about the words "forever and ever." Each time your left foot hits the ground say, "forever." Each time your right foot hits the ground, say, "and ever." Keep the marching going until you've reached your next location.

- **Forgiveness Walk**

In the *Lord's Prayer*, we ask God for forgiveness. Just like God forgives each of us, we can all forgive each other. As you walk to the next activity, greet the people you pass. Tell them that God forgives them, then give hugs or high fives to show that you can forgive people, too!

- **Belonging Bounce**

When Jesus taught the *Lord's Prayer*, he taught us that the whole world belongs to God. As you walk to your next activity, put a little bounce in your step. Walk as bouncily as you can and chant, "We belong to God!" as you move. The higher you bounce, the more you believe. Can you touch the ceiling?

Welcome to the story of The Lord's Prayer! As the caring leader of your small group of kids, you are an important part of their Spark experience. You also support the other Rotation leaders by being a consistent and friendly presence with your group. Use these Small Group Builders, Conversation Sparks, and Transition Tips to generate conversation and build relationships with your kids. Have fun as you grow in faith together!

Small Group Builders

Try these tips to build relationships, trust, and friendship with your small group of kids when you have a few minutes at the beginning of Sunday school or between activities.

- **Smaller, Smaller, Best**

Jesus taught that big words aren't the most important part of a prayer. A good prayer doesn't have to be fancy or have difficult words—to pray a good prayer, all we have to do is give our hearts to God. Gather in a circle to practice saying short, simple words. Invite one person in the circle to begin by saying the word "trespasses." Then have each person in the circle try to say a word that is shorter or simpler. Can you think of words as short as one letter to offer to God?

- **Need or Want**

Jesus told us to pray for what we need today instead of worrying about the past or the future. As a group, talk about the difference between wants and needs, then take turns sharing things that God's people need every day. Does God provide those things for everyone?

- **Bread for the World**

In the Lord's Prayer, we ask God for our daily bread—that means just enough bread or food to get us through the day. In our country, that may not seem like a big deal. But in some countries, having enough to eat every day is a big problem, and people go to bed hungry a lot. Share stories about special meals or food that you have shared with the people you love. How would your memories be different if there hadn't been food there? What might it feel like to go to bed hungry?

Conversation Sparks

Spark some faith-filled conversation during time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- How does Jesus say we should pray?
- Why did the disciples need Jesus to teach them to pray?
- I wonder how the disciples prayed before Jesus taught them the Lord's Prayer.
- How can we tell the difference between what we need and what we want?
- How do we know if God's will is being done on Earth?
- Why do we pray the Lord's Prayer in worship?

Transition Tips

As your group moves from one place to another, keep things fun and story-focused! Try these tips as you transition.

- **Wordless Dance**

Jesus said not to heap up words when we pray. Sometimes, we can say a prayer without speaking any words at all! In some places, dancing is a great way to say a prayer. Without speaking, dance your way to the next location. Boogie down, prayerful people!

- **Shut the Doors**

When Jesus taught his disciples to pray, he said that sometimes it's important to shut the door and pray alone. As you walk to your next activity, look for doors in your building. Each time you pass a door, thank God for communities and for alone time.

- **Street Corner Words**

Jesus said not to pray on street corners and brag about your relationship with God. Practice the art of not bragging as you make your way to the next activity. Instead of focusing on your relationship with God, focus on the love that God gives to others. Tell every person you pass, "God loves YOU!" and let them know that everyone has a relationship with our God who loves them.

Welcome to the story of The Lord's Prayer! As the caring leader of your small group of kids, you are an important part of their Spark experience. You also support the other Rotation leaders by being a consistent and friendly presence with your group. Use these Small Group Builders, Conversation Sparks, and Transition Tips to generate conversation and build relationships with your kids. Have fun as you grow in faith together!

Small Group Builders

Try these tips to build relationships, trust, and friendship with your small group of kids when you have a few minutes at the beginning of Sunday school or between activities.

- **How Many Kinds?**

In the Lord's Prayer, we find these words: "Give us this day our daily bread." In Jesus' day, bread was one of the kinds of food that people ate the most. As a group, take turns thinking of the foods that people eat the most today. Each time you name a new kind of food, put it into this piece of the Lord's Prayer. Maybe you'll say, "Give us this day our daily pizza" or "Give us this day our daily green beans." How many kinds of food can you pray for together?

- **Rolling in Forgiveness**

When Jesus taught his disciples about prayer, he talked about forgiveness. As a group, talk about times that you have needed forgiveness, or times that you have needed to forgive others. Then sit in a circle and roll a ball back and forth. Each time you roll the ball, say, "I forgive you," to the person across the circle. When you're done rolling, say the Lord's Prayer together and shout when you get to the part about forgiveness.

- **Best Teacher**

Jesus was a great teacher. The disciples loved being taught by Jesus. Share stories about your favorite teachers. Why are they the best? Have you ever asked a teacher to teach you about something like prayer?

Conversation Sparks

Spark some faith-filled conversation during time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- Are words important in prayers? Why or why not?
- What does it mean to "sin/trespass against" someone or "be a debtor"?
- How do you know if you have everything you need for the day?
- Why is it important to pray alone sometimes?
- Why do we say the Lord's Prayer in worship?
- How would you teach someone to pray?

Transition Tips

As your group moves from one place to another, keep things fun and story focused! Try these tips as you transition.

- **Turn Away and Pray**

Jesus taught the disciples to pray alone, without an audience. As you move along to your next activity, fold your hands and bow your head. Pretend you are in prayer. Each time you pass someone in a hallway, kindly turn away from them and continue to pray alone.

- **1st and 2nd March**

Jesus said that God already knows our needs, even before we ask him for things. March along to your next location, remembering that God is 1st and we are 2nd. Say "first," "second" as you march to remember this important message.

- **Prayer Wave**

Say the Lord's Prayer together. Move in a line with the last person saying a few words of the Lord's Prayer. The person in front of him or her picks up the prayer where it was stopped. Try to say the entire prayer by the time you get to the first person in line. When the prayer has gone to the front like an ocean wave, say, "Amen" together.