

WHAT IS PRAYER?

Prayer is talking to God.

God wants us to talk to Him because He wants to have a relationship with us. Do you enjoy talking to your friends or your mom and dad? God wants us to talk to Him like He is our father. The Bible helps us to know what we should tell God in prayer. God is pleased when we honor His Word by praying the way He has taught us to pray.

We usually bow our heads when we pray, to show respect to the greatness of God. Then, we close our eyes. Normally, when you talk to someone, you look at them. But God is a spirit; we can't see Him, so we close our eyes. We also do this so we won't be distracted.

How should we start our prayer?

We should start by saying who we are praying to. Who are we praying to? We are praying to God. Another name we call Him is "Lord." You can begin your prayer with, "Dear Lord," or "Dear God."

At the end of our prayer, we close by telling God why He should hear our prayers. God should hear our prayers because we are coming to Him using the name of His Son, Jesus Christ. God doesn't hear our prayers because we are good people. We are only sinners, people who have disobeyed God.

We must

1. Tell God we are sorry for our sins
2. Believe that He died for us and rose again
3. Trust in nothing else to save us

Then, we will have a special relationship with God. Jesus said that those who have a relationship with Him can use His name when we pray to the Father.

Finally, when we are finished we say, "Amen."

This means: "Let it be so." It is a way to show God we deeply mean what we are saying.

CLASSROOM PRAYER TIME:

The class will say, "Dear Lord" all together, at the beginning and "In Jesus' name I pray, amen." at the end.

The children will listen while the teacher prays the rest of the prayer.

FAMILY PRAYER TIME:

The children will say, "Dear Lord" all together, at the beginning and "In Jesus' name I pray, Amen." at the end.

Mom or Dad will pray the rest of the prayer while the children listen.

Dear Lord,
...In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.



John 14:13

*Whatever you ask in My name, this I will do,
that the Father may be glorified in the Son.⁺*

God commands us to pray!

But, what should we pray about?

Where should we look to find instructions for how to pray?

God's Word gives us an example prayer that Jesus prayed.

In His prayer, Jesus said,

“Give us this day our daily bread.”

What did Jesus mean? Are we only to ask for bread and nothing else?

What about rice? Can we ask for rice? Yes!

This example prayer is only giving us an idea of the kinds of things we can ask for in prayer. When Jesus asked for daily bread He was talking about anything we need. This could be clothes, shoes, food, or even a house.

What other things do we need?

What things do you need right now?

CLASSROOM PRAYER TIME:

1. Have children raise their hands and tell about their needs.
2. Write them on the board.
3. Divide up the requests and let chosen kids stand one at a time and pray out loud for those needs.

FAMILY PRAYER TIME:

Talk about different things your family needs right now. Mom or Dad should pray first so that the child can hear an example prayer. Before the child prays, remind him to start with “Dear Lord,” and end with “In Jesus’ name I pray, amen.”

Dear Lord,

Please provide food for me and for my family today.

Please provide the clothes I need for school and for church.

Please help me to remember to ask You for all the things I need every day because You can provide them for me.

In Jesus’ name I pray, amen.

The most important decision anyone ever makes is to choose to be a child of God.

Jesus Christ, God's Son, came to earth to pay the punishment for our sins. When someone repents of their sins and believes Christ died for them, this begins their relationship with God. God always wants people to be saved and you should feel the same way. We should bring the names of unsaved people before God every day. We can ask Him to give unsaved people understanding, because being saved is the most important step a person can take.

CLASSROOM PRAYER TIME:

List names of unsaved loved ones on the board. Choose children to stand and pray out loud one at a time.

FAMILY PRAYER TIME:

Talk about who in your immediate and extended family is still unsaved. What about your neighbors and friends? Assign who will pray for specific names.

Dear God,

Please open the minds of my family members and friends so that they will see their need for You to save them. Open my own understanding if I am not saved yet. Thank You for the Christians I know who can tell me how to be saved. Help me to pray for others and tell them about Christ.

In Jesus' name I pray, amen.