

Junior Soldiers

Unit 8 : Lesson 3

Living out the Lord's Prayer!



PURPOSE : For the children to explore and understand the prayer that Jesus gave us and how each section can impact what we think, say and do.

'This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name..."

Matthew 6:9 (NIV)

Consider & Prepare

Read:

Matthew 6:9–13

Luke 11:1–4

This lesson is a continuation of Lesson 2 in this unit, titled 'Pray like Jesus'. You might like to invite the Big Buds to come along and participate during this week's lesson. The creative prayer activity will help children on the Bronze Award.

Before the lesson, write out the Lord's prayer in your own words. Sharing this with the children could be a worthwhile activity; they might even like to share some versions of the prayer that they put together with their families as a response to the last lesson. For an example of this check out <http://globalministries.org/eap/missionaries/the-lords-prayer-australian-1.html>

This lesson will be one where the children will continue to explore and understand the prayer that Jesus gave us and how each section can impact how they live every day: in the things that they think, say and do.

Opportunity is given for the children to express the Lord's prayer in their own words or in another creative way that they can share with others.

What you will need:

For 'Connecting In'

- The eight pieces of paper/card which were used in Lesson 2.
- Print out the attached Lord's prayer and cut it into the outlined sections. (Print a different colour for each team.)
- Blu-Tack
- Cardboard or a wall (to stick cards to)
- Bibles
- Take home copies of the Lord's prayer for each child.

For 'The Main Thing'

- Bibles
- The eight pieces of paper/card which were used in Lesson 2.
- Resources for creative expression, e.g. canvas, paints, cameras, laptops/ computer access, sketch paper and pencils etc. You decide what activities you can provide resources for.

For 'Tying In'

- Eight cards with the sections of the Lord's prayer (see template). Extra sets of cards for larger groups.

For 'Home & Beyond'

- Print off the Home & Beyond cards for each child.



Connecting In

What fits...

For this activity you will need to put up around the room the eight pages/sections that the group created last lesson. Below are some examples of some statements you can read out to the children. They then need to choose where the statement best fits in regard to the sections around the wall—they need to go and stand next to the sheet that they have decided that the statement best fits with. There is no right or wrong answer and some statements may fit in more than one place.

- Help me not to be tempted to pretend I didn't hear mum when she asked me to do something.
- Protect me from the bullies at school.
- Forgive me for yelling at my sister.
- Father God you are so awesome!
- Help me to behave like I would in heaven!
- I forgive my friend for not sharing with me...she was just tired.
- I know that Jesus is coming back.
- I know you have heard this and will help me out, so thanks!
- Please help my mum get enough money to go to the dentist!
- You are powerful, God, and I love you!
- Keep me safe!
- Thank you for our food.
- Help me not to swear.
- I'm sorry for not putting you first, God.

Link...

We have had some fun connecting back in with the key sections of the Lord's prayer from last time, it really does cover so many areas of our day-to-day life that we can talk to God about. Today we are going to explore a little more about how these key sections of the prayer can make a difference in what we think, say and do.

The Lord's Prayer Super Sleuths

For this activity you will need to print out the attached copy of the Lord's prayer and cut it into the outlined sections. Divide the group into at least two teams (or more if you have a larger group of children). You will need a copy of the prayer for each team and this should be printed out on a different colour paper/card so that they will know if it is their card that they have found.

Before the session you will need to spread out/hide the cards in a designated space.

- Divide children into groups and tell them which colour paper/card they will be looking for.
- Children are to search for and gather all the cards for their group/colour. Make sure to tell them how many cards they need to find.
- Give children clear instructions about the boundaries of the search area.
- When all the cards have been located they can return to sort them into order.
- Groups will need to look up Matthew 6:9–13. The passage will act as a guide to help put the prayer in the correct order.
- Use Blu-Tack to stick the cards (in order) to a sheet of card, or to a wall.
- Start to memorise the prayer by reading it through together.
- As the group gets to know it, take some of the cards away.
- You might want to allow a time limit on this activity and stop and see how well they can share the prayer.



Link...

We have had some fun connecting back in with the Lord's prayer that we explored in our last session together. Remembering this passage and the key sections of the prayer will help us to remember some of the things that we can pray about from our day to day lives. Today we are going to explore a little more about how these key sections of the prayer can make a difference in what we think, say and do.



The Main Thing

Think, Say & Do...

Remind the children about their Junior Soldier promise. You might like to say the promise together or have one of the children read it to the group—you might even have children that can say the promise off by heart.

As a group look up and read the Lord's prayer in Matthew 6:9–13.

- I wonder how praying the Lord's prayer might help you to keep your JS promise.
- Do you think that the Lord's prayer can impact what we think, say and do?
- What parts of the prayer most affects the way you think? Why? How?
- What parts of the prayer most affects the way you speak, what you say and the kind of words you use? Why? How?
- What parts of the prayer most affects the way you act, the things you do and how you behave? Why? How?

Using the eight sections from last week and thinking about your answers to the above questions:

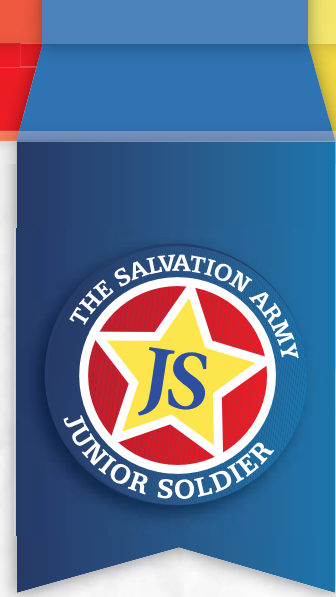
- How does the Lord's prayer impact your thoughts, words and deeds?

You have the opportunity to creatively express your ideas about the above question with any of the suggestions listed below. *(It would be great if the Big Buds were available for this section to help work with the children on how they want to respond to their feelings about the Lord's prayer and its impact on their daily lives.)*

- As you work on this activity, spend some time talking to God about how these verses impact you.

Some ideas to get you started are:

- Paint on a canvas
- Take photos based on the eight sections of the prayer we have been looking at and make a PowerPoint presentation.
- Create a song, rap, chant or poem.
- Draw a picture or series of pictures or a cartoon strip.
- Develop a dramatic representation (this could be done in a group).
- Make a personal prayer book based on the eight sections of the prayer we have been looking at.
- Create a puppet show.
- Make something out of clay, paper magiclay or from a range of craft supplies, perhaps a collage.
- You might have another great idea for this section—be creative!



Tying In

Time to pray...

Prayer- using prompting cards.

For this activity you will need one of the sets of cards from the 'Connecting in' activity. If you have a larger group, you may like to use two or three sets of the cards and divide into smaller groups for a prayer time.

During this prayer time you will need to help and support the children as they have a go at personalising the prayer. It would be good if everyone in the group could have a couple of goes so that they can continue doing this at home and beyond the session.

- Place the cards face down on the table or floor.
- Each child and leader takes a card.
- Take turns to pray according to the card selected. For example: If the child turns over, '...as we forgive those who sin against us,' he could say, 'I forgive my friend for not sharing.'



Home & Beyond

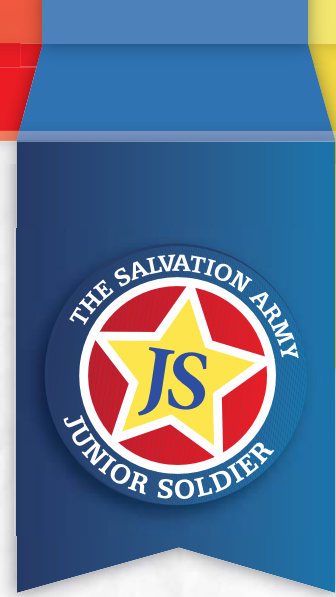
Print off the 'Home & Beyond' cards attached. The children might like to keep these in their journals or notebook where they could write or stick the challenges, reflect, answer questions or complete activities each week.

You should pray like this:


- Our Father in heaven,
- Help us to honour your name.
- Come and set up your kingdom, so that everyone on Earth will obey you, as you are obeyed in heaven.
- Give us our food for today.
- Forgive us for doing wrong, as we forgive others.
- Keep us from being tempted
- And protect us from evil.

This week, choose some of the sections above, find an item that represents this section, place it on the table and pray as a family when sharing dinner together.

This needs to be a page divided into eight, with the words from the Lord's prayer in each section. We suggest that you make up your own cards so that you use the translation of the Bible the children are reading in your group. Below is an example of the CEV translations.




| | |
|--|--|
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| Come and set up your kingdom, so that everyone on earth will obey you, as you are obeyed in heaven. | Give us our food for today |
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