

date: **6/11/17****Bible Passage: Matthew 6:5–13; Luke 11:1–13**
(Prayer)

God Listens

REMEMBER VERSE

**Your Father knows what you need
before you ask him.**

Matthew 6:8b

Inspire

Shares personal stories from fellow ministry leaders about how God has worked in their lives

A while back, a friend and I were talking about prayer. She stopped midsentence and said, “I have to tell you this story. I know I’m supposed to share this with you right now.” She proceeded to recount a conversation she had with a little girl she was mentoring. Earlier this summer, the girl shared how her family had been going through a very rough time. Her parents were fighting all the time, and she was afraid and didn’t know what to do. My friend told her, “Whenever you are afraid, or your parents are fighting, go into your room and kneel at the foot of your bed. When you do, pray and talk with Jesus. He will meet you there.”

Shortly after their talk, the child came back and reported to my friend that she had done just as she said. This time when her parents were fighting, she went into her room, knelt down by her bed, and began to talk to Jesus. She said, “Jesus talked to me.” My friend was thrilled, and she smiled as the girl continued, “He told me that my whole family was going to be blessed.” My friend didn’t know the meaning of these words, but it didn’t matter. The child who met with Jesus knew, and her heart was filled with hope and comfort. Her God met her in the middle of her circumstance and gave her exactly what she needed. God wants us to talk with Him.

Cristi Thomas

Tru Team

Equip

Offers perspective and context to the lesson’s Bible passage

Before looking at the account of the Lord’s Prayer in Matthew chapter 6, we find in the preceding chapter Jesus teaching His disciples through the Beatitudes. He teaches them by laying out the foundation of the kingdom of God—

contrasting it with the kingdom of this world. Jesus' statements beginning with, "You have heard it said ..." and ending with, "But I tell you ..." paint the picture of what is required of all who choose to be in God's kingdom.

"Lord, teach us to pray ..." (Luke 11:1–13). Jesus answered this request by teaching the disciples—and us—how to pray. He begins to frame and model prayer for us by establishing how we're to approach God the Father: "Our Father in heaven ..." (Matthew 6:9). The word Jesus uses for Father in Aramaic is the informal word *Abba*—translated to mean "daddy." "Hallowed be your name" establishes who God is and retains the authority of the I AM. "Your kingdom come, your will be done ..." (verse 10). We're to ask our heavenly Father to usher in His coming kingdom—which Jesus had just outlined with the Beatitudes. When we pray for His coming kingdom, our hearts can begin to desire the things that are important to Him—and get to know the heart of our Daddy. "Give us today our daily bread ..." (verse 11). The Father cares for our needs, for He is our provider and will give us what we need in each day. "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" (verse 12). Jesus offers us forgiveness of sins. For as we've been forgiven, by the same measure we must forgive others who hurt or sin against us—in forgiveness is freedom. "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one" (verse 13). As we journey through this world, we'll be face to face with decisions that will affect our lives, and often, the lives of others. We need the guidance and covering of the Lord to go before us.

Jesus is the way to the kingdom of God. He came to fulfill the law, and His words bring hope. In light of this truth, as we pray, we can pray expectantly as we ask God to usher the ways of His kingdom into this world and our lives.

Support

Provides reflection and assessment through encouragement, prayer, and time in God's Word

As we pray, we can choose to turn the posture of our heart toward the things the Father desires. Jesus showed us how to approach the Father with confidence and the familiarity of Him as our Daddy. What a beautiful gift. Our heavenly Father, the God of all creation, the Lord Almighty, says that you can call Him Daddy. You've been adopted into His eternal family and are His child. He provides for all your needs—and hears all your joys, sorrows, and questions. He not only hears, but He answers.

Each day this week, spend time in prayer with your Abba Father, using the format Jesus has given to you in the Lord's Prayer. As you begin, ask God to align your heart with His. If you enjoy journaling, consider writing your prayer. Place yourself in the surroundings that best help your heart and soul connect with God. After you spend some time talking with God, allow some silence to listen to what He may choose to say to you.

May the peace of God guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus now and forever (Philippians 4:7, paraphrase).

EXPLORE:: 10 min.

Small Group Leaders

Children engage in fun, creative activities designed to pique their curiosity about the day's portion of The Big God Story.

We Can Speak in Many Ways

In today's part of The Big God Story, the disciples ask Jesus to teach them to pray. This activity will help children start

to think about the many ways we communicate with each other.

SUPPLIES (per small group)

- Props or pictures of the following: cell phone, piece of mail, computer, book, DVD, newspaper, Braille sample, etc.

SET UP

Lay out the props and/or pictures on the table.

RELATE

Welcome children and invite them to look at the different items on the table. **This may look like just a bunch of different items I've set out for you, but they're all alike in some way. Can you guess how they're alike?** Interact with responses. **Those are all good guesses! These are all ways we can talk to or communicate with another person!** Pick up the cell phone. **How can you use this to talk to someone?** Interact with responses. Pick up the piece of mail. **How can you use this to communicate with someone?** Interact with responses. Continue dialoguing about each prop.

After you've discussed all the props, ask: **What are some other things we can use or ways we can communicate with other people?** (Examples: art, sign language, dance, acting, body language, etc.) **Which way do you think is the easiest way to get someone's attention when you need to tell them something? Which way is the fastest?**

Developmentally Speaking

A preschooler understands that rules exist, and he may not be shy about letting you know when another child has broken a rule. While children should feel free and secure in coming to you when they see something is wrong, preschoolers are also at an appropriate age where they can begin to navigate some problems with their peers on their own. When tattling occurs, assess the situation for any real danger, talk the child through some possible solutions, and then encourage the child to use her words to work through the situation. Stay close to offer help as needed, but feel free to step back to allow children the opportunity to apply these skills.

EXPLORE::: 10 min.**Small Group Leaders**

Children engage in fun, creative activities designed to pique their curiosity about the day's portion of The Big God Story.

Ponder Point**God Listens****Chloe's Rules****Host/Worship Leader****SUPPLIES**

- [Chloe's Rules videos](#)
- Worship music (suggestions: "I Can Sing" and "I Am Listening to You," TruWorship *Sincerely Yours*)

RELATE

Welcome children as they're entering the large group meeting area. *Tech: Cue Chloe's Rules video.* The theme song will play as the Worship Leader/Host enters and makes his way up front, welcoming and greeting children along the way. This should be a high-energy entrance. *Tech: Cue preschool program theme song.* Choose and play two upbeat worship songs of your choice from a worship album that complements the theme and focus of the lesson.

Mail Time

Host/Worship Leader**SUPPLIES**

- [Remember Verse image \(see Resources\)](#)
- Envelope (large)
- Bibles (your personal and large children's)
- Mailbox

RELATE

Choose one volunteer to hide the mail and another to find the mail. Have the "Seeker" close her eyes while the "Hider" finds a good place to hide the Remember Verse. Once the mail has been hidden, the Seeker will begin to look for the mail while children give clues to its whereabouts by calling out "hot" and "cold."

Once the Seeker finds the mail, the Host invites her to pull out the enclosed Remember Verse. Next, the Host should find the Remember Verse in his Bible and read the words aloud. Talk about the meaning of the verse while interacting with children.

Lead children in reciting the Remember Verse several times together using a variety of engaging methods. Hand motions, different voices, various speeds, and character integration are all great ways to help commit the Scripture to memory. For longer verses, approach the verse one section at a time, increasing what the children repeat back each week.

REMEMBER VERSE

**Your Father knows what you need
before you ask him.**

Matthew 6:8b

REMEMBER VERSE MOTIONS

Your Father: Bring thumb and index finger together, all other fingers straight and pointing upward.

knows what: Tap forehead.

you need: Open hands in front of you, palms up.

before you ask him: Bring both hands in front of chest in prayer posture.

Wardrobe of Wonder

Storyteller/Host/Worship Leader**SUPPLIES**

- [What'sIt: Telephone \(see optional image in Resources\)](#)
- Wardrobe of Wonder

- Small stools or chairs (2)

What's It: Telephone

Oftentimes our calls go directly to voice mail, where we're forced to await a return call at some later time. However, with God we have direct access at all times. We're never put through to voice mail—He always wants to communicate with us.

Remember that no matter where we are, what time it is, or what's happening in the world, God always has time for us and listens to us.

RELATE

Invite a child volunteer to “spy” on the What's It by peeking into the wardrobe. Each time the wardrobe door opens, *cue the Wardrobe of Wonder sound effect*. Have him whisper the identity of the What's It in your ear to ensure he knows what it is.

Invite your assistant to sit on the stools with you. Then lead the group in asking the assistant yes-or-no questions about the What's It. Once the children have guessed correctly, ask your assistant to retrieve the What's It from the wardrobe and bring it to you. Thank your volunteer and encourage him to sit with his small group.

ASK

(Volunteer's name), **what did you find in the Wardrobe of Wonder? A telephone? Friends, why would there be a telephone in the wardrobe?** Interact with responses. **What do we do with telephones?** Children answer. **Are there any telephones in the Bible? Then how is this a clue to The Big God Story? I think it's time we find out, don't you? Well, it's time for ...**

The Big God Story

Matthew 6:5–13; Luke 11:1–13

God Listens

Storytelling Technique: Audience Participation

SUPPLIES

- [Ringing Telephone sound effect \(see Resources\)](#)
- Construction paper (6 sheets; 12" x 18")
- Marker

PREPARE AHEAD

Write the following paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer from Luke 11:2–4 by sections onto six different sheets of construction paper: 1) Father, may Your name be kept holy. 2) May Your kingdom come soon. 3) Give us each day the food we need. 4) Forgive us our sins, 5) as we forgive those who sin against us. 6) And keep us from wanting to do things that are bad for us and others.

SET UP

Preselect six volunteers to hold up the posters during storytelling.

RELATE

Hello, friends, it's good to be here with you today! I'm so excited to learn with you from The Big God Story. Will you pray with me? Let's ask God to take away anything that might distract us as He speaks to us and we learn from His Word. Lead children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.

What did you find today in the Wardrobe of Wonder? Tech: Cue Ringing Telephone sound effect. Did you hear that? What's making that noise? Look around to find location of sound. Ask children for directions. **Here it is** (hold up phone). **What's this?** Children answer. **That's right, it's a telephone. When do you use a telephone?** Children respond. **When you want to talk with someone.** (Use relevant example from own life, or use following "conversation with my dad" as an example.) **So, if I want to talk to my dad right now, all I have to do is dial his phone number and call him. Then, when he answers, we would talk and listen to each other, right?**

I enjoy talking with my dad because he loves me so much, and I know he loves me. Whenever I call him, he wants to know how I'm doing. Another reason I like phone calls with my dad is that I like to listen to what he's saying. He knows about a lot of things I don't. He tells me things that help me learn and grow. Do you ever talk on the phone with your dad, mom, or grandparents? Children answer. **What do you do when you're on the phone with them? You talk and you listen, don't you? Yes!**

You know what? There's someone who loves us more than anyone in the whole wide world. He made us, and He is always with us. Whom am I talking about? Pause for responses. **God! That's right! God tells us in His Word that He wants us to talk to Him. When we pray, we're talking to and listening to God. You know what else? We can talk with Him anytime, anywhere. We don't even need a phone because He is always with us. God listens and hears everything we say. Every prayer we pray is a chance for us to thank God for what He's given to us and to pray for the people in our lives.**

Jesus prayed to God the Father in heaven all the time. He prayed and thanked God for the food God gave Him. And God listened to Him! Sometimes Jesus needed to go to a quiet place to talk with God, so Jesus would go spend time alone talking to God. Jesus talked with God the Father about everything. And He listened to the things God told Him.

Invite six volunteers to come up. **One day Jesus was praying, and when He finished, one of His disciples asked Him to teach them to pray. Jesus said, "This is how you should pray."** Invite a volunteer to hold up first poster. **"Father, may Your name be kept holy."** God is our Father in heaven. Next child holds up poster. **"May Your kingdom come soon."** One day Jesus will return to earth and set up God's kingdom here. Third child holds up poster. **"Give us each day the food we need."** God gives us everything we have, and we can ask Him to provide for us. Next child holds up poster. **"Forgive us our sins."** When we do wrong things, God is sad and wants us to ask Him for forgiveness. Next child holds up poster. **"As we forgive those who sin against us."** Sometimes other people hurt us, and we can ask God to help us to forgive them. Last child holds up poster. **"And keep us from wanting to do things that are bad for us and others."** We can ask Him to help us make good choices.

I'm going to read this prayer again, and this time we're going to say it together. I'll say a part of the prayer, and then you can say the same part I said—like an echo. "Father, may Your name be kept holy (children repeat). May Your kingdom come soon (children repeat). Give us each day the food we need (children repeat). And forgive us our sins (children repeat), as we forgive those who sin against us (children repeat). And keep us from wanting to do things that are bad for us and others (children repeat)." We can follow the example God gave to His disciples of how to pray. We can talk to God about anything, anywhere, because God loves us and He always listens.

RESPOND:: 20 min.

Wonder Questions

Small Group Enhancements, coloring pages, and discussion questions help your group go deeper into today's portion of The Big God Story.

SUPPLIES (per small group)

- [Wonder Questions coloring pages \(see Resources\)](#)
- [TruWonder Small Group Enhancements timeline and images \(see Resources\)](#)
- Scissors
- Crayons

RELATE

Today in The Big God Story, Jesus teaches us about praying to God His Father. No matter where we are, or what we're doing, we can always talk with God. God loves us and He wants us to talk with Him.

- I wonder ... What do I want to say to God?
- I wonder ... What do I think God might want to say to me?
- I wonder ... How does God talk to me?

BLESS:: 5 min.

Small Group Leaders

Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing may be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

SUPPLIES (per small group)

- [Remember Verse cards \(see Resources\)](#)
- [HomeFront Weekly: Lesson 3 \(see Resources\)](#)

RELATE

Today I want to bless you with the Lord's Prayer that Jesus taught His disciples. I'm going to lead us in saying the prayer together. Have children place their hands out in front of themselves, palms up. Pause for them to repeat the sections of the Lord's Prayer as you say it.

- Father, may Your name be kept holy** (children repeat).
- May Your kingdom come soon** (children repeat).
- Give us each day the food we need** (children repeat).
- And forgive us our sins** (children repeat),
- as we forgive those who sin against us** (children repeat).
- And keep us from wanting to do things that are bad for us and others** (children repeat).

Children, may you spend time talking to God and remember that He listens to you.