

Jesus Teaches Us to Pray

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 143,
the Family + Faith page.

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Define prayer as talking and listening to God
- Become more aware of the need to pray to get close to God
- Learn that the Lord's Prayer is the prayer that Jesus taught his followers to pray to God the Father

Read the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

Parents, Consider This: Memorization, or learning by heart, is one of the first prayer skills children learn. Committing short traditional prayers and liturgical responses to memory helps children feel part of the worshipping community, and gives them models for their own spontaneous or self-composed prayers. Your child's comprehension of memorized prayers will mature as your child matures. This is a wonderful age to help your child memorize some prayers.

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the lesson.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



Let's Sing: These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- The Lord's Prayer
- Jesus, Please Hear Our Prayer

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 135,
Jesus Teaches Us to Pray

After gathering the supplies that you will need, find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



Let Us Pray Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Explain that God hears all of our prayers.

Say: Sometimes we might think that God does not hear us because our prayer is not answered the way we would like it to be. But God does hear us. Let's listen to what Jesus says about praying.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God's Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God's Word in the Parchment Paper box on the page.
- Maintain several moments of silence.
- Ask: What did you hear God say to you today?

Invite your child to respond and also share what you heard.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: When we pray, we are talking with God about what we think we want or need, but sometimes God has a different answer for us.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Prompt what else they might wonder about God answering our prayers or the importance of prayer.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 136,
Stay Close to God

Read aloud the opening question and text.

Ask your child to think about how happy they are when talking with family and friends. Tell your child that talking with God helps to keep you close to God.

Explain that prayer is the way to have a friendship with God.

Direct your child to the Catholic Faith Words box and read the word **prayer** and its definition.



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: To help your child understand what a blessing is, teach your child the words of this traditional blessing at meals: "Bless us O Lord, and these your gifts which we are about to receive from your goodness through Christ our Lord. Amen." It is a wonderful practice to say this prayer before meals. Explain that, in this blessing, we thank God for the food he has given us from the generous store of gifts he gives us.

Turn to Page 137,
Pray Anywhere

Read aloud the text.

Have your child make an index card with the word "yes" on one side and "no" on the other side. Call out places, such as, "in church," "on you bike," "on a bus," or "at a playground." Tell your child to hold up the side with the word "yes" if the place is a place to pray, and the side with the word "no" if it isn't. (The "yes" side should be held toward you each time. This reinforces the concept that prayer can take place anywhere.)

Activity

Have your child complete the Share Your Faith activity.

Turn to Page 138,
Learn to Pray

Read aloud the opening question and the two paragraphs.

Explain that every generation of Catholics learns certain prayers. We also learn certain songs that are sung in church on Sundays.



Read the Scripture to your child.



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: *This part of the letter to the Ephesians instructs Christian converts on how to live as followers of Christ. The writer stresses that convert's lives should be filled with prayer. They should pray together and sing as a group, but they should pray individually, in their hearts. Remind your child that Jesus called on God the Father, and asked us to do so, too.*

Turn to Page 139,
The Lord's Prayer

Read aloud the introductory paragraph and then read the definition for the Catholic Faith Word, **Lord's Prayer**.

Ask: Have you heard of the Lord's Prayer?

Explain that the Lord, Jesus, taught the first Christians this prayer.

Read aloud the Lord's Prayer. Tell your child that since he or she is a friend of Jesus, the Lord's Prayer is for them. Explain that, at every Mass, the Church family stands and prays this prayer aloud. Help your child understand the words by suggesting synonyms for any words they don't understand.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Explain to your child the difficult words in the first part of the prayer: "who art" means you who are (addressed to God), "hallowed" means called or treated as holy, "thy kingdom" means God's rule on Earth, "thy will" means what God wants people to do.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 140,
Our Catholic Life

Read aloud the first paragraph and the chart as your child follows along.

Turn to Page 141,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Saint Ephrem the Hymnist.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about some ways you can tell others how much God loves you.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Turn to Page 143,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Hail Mary (see Page 317), during your night prayer this week.*



To access and send an eAssessment to your child, go to the Student and Family section of aliveinchrist.osv.com.