

YOUTH

LEADER GUIDE

JESUS TEACHES US TO PRAY

AFTER THIS MANNER
THEREFORE PRAY YE

JOHN—I AM SAYINGS

SEE JESUS AS THE I AM

THE SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES

THE FRUIT AND GIFTS
OF THE SPIRIT

GOD'S WORD




FOR LIFE

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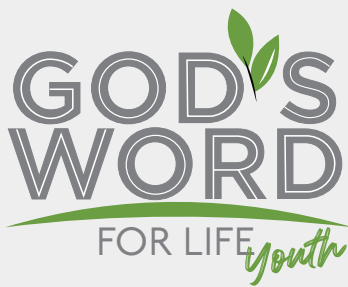
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 God's Word for Life

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Youth Leader Guide
Summer 2024

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Youth Leader Guide

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All Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version unless otherwise noted.

YOUTH LEADER GUIDE SUMMER 2024

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HOW TO USE THIS LESSON GUIDE

God's Word for Life marks a new chapter in both youth and church-wide curriculum. With this new chapter comes a fresh vision for curriculum's focus, content, and visual display. Below you'll find various highlights of the new features and what to expect as you start to prepare for the quarter ahead.

GETTING STARTED

The first page of each lesson provides the overarching information you can use to plan your class.

PRETEEN TRANSITION

The idea behind the preteen transition is simple: there will always be an influx of preteens joining the youth class, and these options help make students in transition feel comfortable moving from one classroom dynamic to the next. The Preteen Transition offers a quick activity that often highlights more physical action or activity—something that tends to be more common in children's classrooms.

JUNE 2, 2024

SERIES 1: JESUS TEACHES US TO PRAY

11

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus teaches us to

TRUTH ABOUT GOD ///
God invites us to pray.

SERIES BIG IDEA
Jesus invites us to pray, and He even shares a prayer request of His own: pray for laborers. In His compassion, He invites those laborers to come unto Him and rest. He ultimately prays for all of us—even with our personality differences—to be one.

BIBLICAL PASSAGE
Matthew 6:5-18

THE TRUTH FOR MY LIFE
I will follow Jesus' pattern for prayer.

PRETEEN TRANSITION (5 MIN)

WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?

1. Have students sit or stand in a circle.
2. Go around the circle with students introducing themselves with their first name and the name of something they like that starts with the same letter as their name. On their turn, students say the name and word of every person before them before introducing themselves.
 - a. Example: My name is Kate KitKat.
 - b. Her name is Kate KitKat. My name is Bobby Baseball.
 - c. Her name is Kate KitKat. His name is Bobby Baseball. My name is Callie Cocoa Puffs.
 - d. Continue around the circle until everyone is introduced.
3. Knowing the name and something about the person we are talking to helps the conversation. When we pray, which is talking with God, it helps to know about Him.

Daily Devotional Check-In ///

Last week we discussed the necessity of obedience in our spiritual lifestyle. Obedience can be hard, even on our best days. We want to do what we want to do, and obedience often means fighting against our own desires. What chore are you asked to do, but you find it difficult to do?

WHERE DO WE BEGIN?

Every lesson will begin with a narrative to reinforce the themes and ideas of the subject matter, grabbing students' attention in a unique way with a new narrative or scenario every week.

ENGAGE AND RELEASE ACTIVITIES

God's Word for Life offers two options at the beginning and end of each lesson to ensure teachers have a variety of ways to engage students. These options feature physical activities, object lessons, discussion, learning scenarios, and short stories to add variety as well as reinforce the themes and ideas of the material.

LESSON 11

God invites us to pray.

WHERE DO WE BEGIN?/// (5 MIN)

He had a daunting task. His father was a beloved king. His father's subjects sang songs about him before he even took the throne. "Saul has slain thousands, but David has slain ten thousands." He could still hear his father's chorus ringing in his own ears. He did not have a legacy yet. He did not have the reverence and admiration of the people; in fact, he barely even had a throne.

One day he would be world-renowned. People would travel from far and wide just to see his majesty on full display. They would tell tales of his tremendous judgments, yet upon meeting him, dignitaries would marvel that the half had not been told. His gardens would be regarded as a wonder of the ancient world. His name would become synonymous with "wisdom" itself.

HE WAS JUST A MAN—A MAN WITH A TREMENDOUS BURDEN OF TRYING TO WALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF A MAN GOD HIMSELF DECLARED TO BE AFTER HIS OWN HEART.

However, that was not the case yet. He was just a man—a man with a tremendous burden of trying to walk in the footsteps of a man God Himself declared to be after his own heart. That same God visited with him and asked, "Solomon, what do you want from Me?" Solomon could have asked for anything. He could have asked for riches, fame, military might, or power. Instead, he prayed, "God, grant me Your wisdom." God honored Solomon's request and granted Solomon far more as well.

Hundreds of years later, twelve men stood before the same God. In unison they asked for something that seemed simple, yet it exceeded even Solomon's wisdom: "Lord, teach us to pray."


ENGAGE/// (10 MIN)

OPTION 1

- For this activity you will need large, blank puzzle pieces and an assortment of markers. Use the puzzle pieces provided in the Resource Kit, use pieces from a purchased puzzle, or cut out pieces from paper or posterboard.
- Give each student a puzzle piece and markers.
- Allow about five minutes for students to decorate one side of the puzzle piece with something that represents them and include their name.
- Later in this lesson, students will add a prayer request to the back.
- After the prayer requests are added, hang the puzzle pieces art in the classroom or place it on a surface for display. Let students decide which side of their puzzle piece they want visible.
 - When problems come in life, we may feel confused or puzzled and not know how things will work out. We may feel separated from others.
 - Prayer binds us together so we know we are not alone.
 - We trust God to know the whole picture, and we believe someday we may understand how it all fits together.

OPTION 2

- This game is called "Two Truths and a Lie." Choose three creative students who are able to persuade other students.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

I will follow Jesus' pattern for prayer.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?/// (25 MIN)


A. The Posture of Prayer

- Prayer is one of the most important things we do. Consider how often we are called upon to pray when we gather together to worship. Perhaps your Sunday morning looks similar to this:
 - You arrive early to church for pre-service prayer.
 - Your Sunday school teacher takes prayer requests and opens the lesson in prayer.
 - Someone closes the lesson in prayer.
 - A minister opens the main service in prayer.
 - During the service, those who are sick are called to the front for prayer.
 - Someone prays over the offering.
 - The preacher prays prior to beginning the sermon.
 - An altar call follows the preaching to give people an opportunity to pray about what they've just heard and felt.
 - After altar call, someone closes the service in prayer.
- It is easy to see how important prayer is to our relationship with Jesus. With so many opportunities for public prayer, we may misunderstand the purpose of prayer. This misunderstanding is nothing new; people in Jesus' day struggled to understand why we pray.

Read Matthew 6:5-8.

And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

- Jesus' intention was not to say we should never pray in public; rather, Jesus was addressing the heart of prayer. He was reminding His followers that prayer is not a public demonstration. It is a private conversation.
- Prayer is an opportunity for us individually and collectively to connect with our holy God.
 - We talk to God, but we can also expect Him to talk to us.
 - We do not serve a God who is unresponsive to us. He hears and answers our prayers.



PRAYER IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS WE DO.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Alongside offerings of multiple options for opening and closing activities God's Word for Life offers foundational biblical teaching in a simple and concise outline for teachers to use. Whether you plan to use this as a basis for your weekly study or plan to expand on the points provided, this section lays out the basis of the story each week. When we can fully grasp the main points of each story, we can better express how we apply the story to students' lives in the following sections.

HOW TO USE THIS LESSON GUIDE

JR. HIGH AND SR. HIGH BREAKOUTS

God's Word for Life offers a completely new approach to curriculum through a single Youth level that features breakout content tailored for different age levels. These Jr. High and Sr. High Breakouts will be displayed as a spread in the middle of each lesson and will offer unique activities and discussion points. Breakouts will also provide a tailored application of the content discussed in the first half of each lesson.

LESSON 11

JR. HIGH BREAKOUT

- For this activity use the Mad Lib sheet provided in the Resource Kit. Mad Libs are also available for free on various websites if you would like to use one of your own choosing.
- As you work through the sheet, ask students for words to fill in the blanks, without providing any context.
- When the words are all filled in, read the story aloud.
 - Sometimes the conversations you have with God will not make sense to anyone else except you and Him.
 - It is good to have an order for your prayer time to help you stay focused.

- Have you ever tried to get your parents' attention, but it seemed as if they did not hear you?
 - Perhaps your mom was busy working when you tried to ask her something. "Mom... Mom... MOM!"
 - She abruptly looks up at you with a scowl on her face. "I heard you the first time," she says. "I am thinking about how I want to answer you."
- In most of our relationships, we discover we do not always get an immediate answer to questions we ask. Sometimes people choose to answer when they are ready rather than when we want them to answer.
- With Jesus it is the same.
 - He does not always answer us right away.
 - Sometimes we must wait until He is ready to answer.
 - During that waiting period, we may feel as if He did not hear us or He is not concerned about our lives.
 - We may see the time between when we ask and when God answers as evidence He does not care. That is far from the truth, though.

Read Hebrews 4:15-16.
For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like to us, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Daily Devotional Insight //

This week we will talk about what it means to follow a pattern of prayer in our own lives. The Lord's Prayer gives us a literal pattern to follow, but it goes beyond the order in which we say the words. Every day should be an opportunity for us to talk with God and lay our worship and our needs at His feet.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SR. HIGH BREAKOUT

- For this activity use the "Will He, Won't He" discussion slips from the Resource Kit. Cut apart and fold the slips. For each group, place several slips into a bag.
- Form small groups. Give each group a bag with several discussion slips.
- In each group, students take turns pulling a slip of paper from their bag. The student then reads the slip out loud to the group.
- Groups discuss the prayer and decide if God will or will not answer the prayer, giving their reasoning for coming to their conclusion. Continue until all slips have been discussed, with groups dividing their slips into two stacks: He will and He is not.
- When all slips have been discussed in the small groups, come together and discuss your answers as a class.
 - Prayer is not a way to convince God to do what we want; it is a conversation.
 - God can do everything we ask of Him, but that does not mean He will.
 - Some things are a result of our poor choices, like burned dinner. God may provide another source of food, but He might not answer the first batch.
 - God is not a magic genie. He is a loving and wise God who supplies all our needs.

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- God may not answer with a bright light, a booming voice, or a lightning strike the moment we say amen; but before we even pray the prayer, God is at work on our behalf for the very things we need.
 - Even if His answer does not come right away, He hears us. His answer may not look like or sound like the answer we imagined, but He still hears and cares.
 - God's decisions over our prayers come about by His perfect love and wisdom in everything. If we are praying for someone to be harmed for making fun of us, we should not expect God to get back to us on that one.
- When God does answer our prayer, if it is His will, we will know without a doubt He is responsible for what came about.
 - It is important for us always to pray in faith and with expectation that God has heard us and will work through our prayers.

Daily Devotional Insight //

This week we will talk about what it means to follow a pattern of prayer in our own lives. Our lives are defined by our habits, so if prayer does not take place every day, it probably says something about the way we are living. Not everyone's pattern will look the same, so figure out what works for you. Just make sure you are taking time to talk with God every day.

Read Philippians 4:6-7.
Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

13

DEVOTIONAL TIE-IN

Each lesson will feature three areas in which teachers will be prompted to ask about or discuss devotional content from both the previous week and the week of devotionals ahead. This will help to reinforce the need for devotional time each day and push students to engage with the at-home **Daily Devotional Guide**.



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PRETEEN TRANSITION (12-14)

TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God invites us to pray.

WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?

- Most students do not realize it is God.
- Go around the circle with students introducing themselves with their first name and the name of something they love to do with the same Bible as their names. On their turn, students say the name and sport of every person before them before introducing themselves.
 - Example: My name is Kate Kitch.
 - My name is Kate Kitch. My name is Bobby Baseball.
- My name is Kate Kitch. My name is Bobby Baseball. My name is Camie Cakes Cakes.
- Continue around the circle until everyone is introduced.

Introducing the name and something about the person we are talking to helps the conversation when we pray, which is talking with God. It helps to know what He's teaching us!

Daily Devotional Check-in //

Last week we discussed the necessity of obedience in our spiritual lives. Obedience can be hard even on our best days. We want to do what we want to do, and obedience often means fighting against our own desires which often are added to but not better than a selfish to do!

EQUIP YOUR STUDENTS FOR DAILY STUDY OF GOD'S WORD

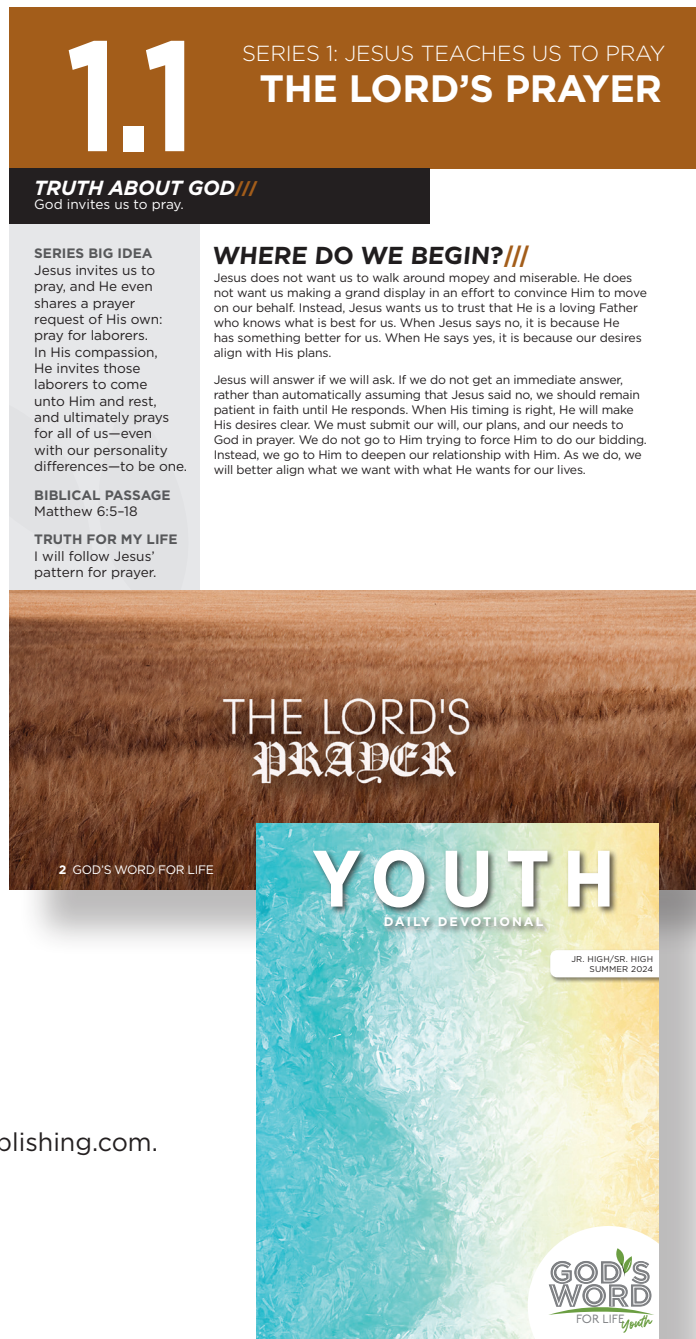
Guiding your students in becoming lifelong Apostolic disciples is an enormous task to accomplish in just an hour on Sunday or Wednesday. Now you can expand your ministry with a tool that guides students in Bible study every day of the week.

This guide provides a daily Bible passage connected to the week's lesson and a corresponding devotion. Each day ends with a final challenge to apply the message of God's Word with both junior high and senior high options.

Make your teaching complete with this student resource by incorporating student feedback into class time. (Prompts are provided in this Leader Guide to help.) Additionally you can calendar the materials to coincide one of two ways:

1. Instruct students to complete the accompanying devotional material during the week to reinforce the Bible passages already taught in the lesson at church.
2. Teach one week behind the suggested schedule in this Leader Guide so students interact with the Bible passages for the lesson during the week at home before the lesson. This option would allow for additional discussion since students will have already reviewed lesson content in advance.

In either scenario, this tool equips students to dig into God's Word every day!



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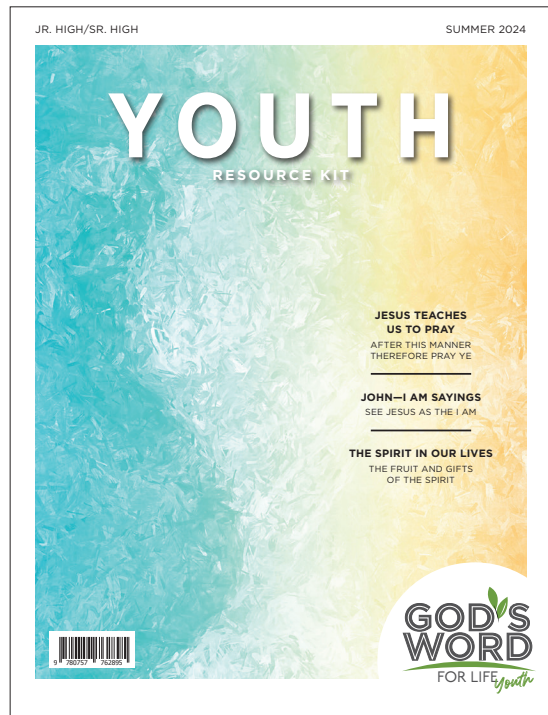
ENLIVEN YOUR LESSONS WITH VIDEOS AND RESOURCES

RESOURCE KIT

Take advantage of the Youth Resource Kit for a robust collection of teaching tools to make each week exciting and engaging.

Contents:

1. A video for each lesson
2. A poster for each of the three series
3. A supplement for adapting each lesson to minister to students affected by disabilities
4. Excerpts from Word Aflame Press books for additional research
5. Social medial calendar and suggested practices
6. Graphics package



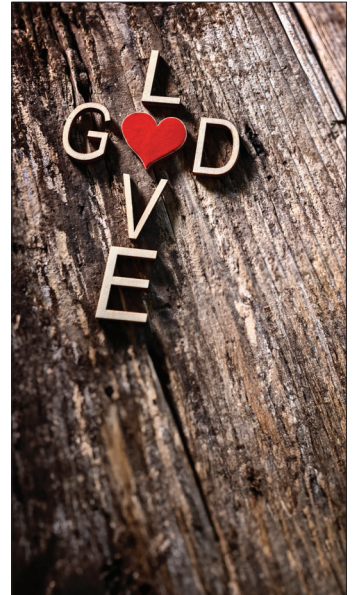
VIDEO CONTENT

Each lesson's opening story will be available as a video within the Resource Kit as a way of engaging students through a visual medium. The Resource Kit will also include contextual videos about the biblical passage as well as training videos to help you in the preparation process.

ONLY \$24.99

Order your copy today at www.pentecostalpublishing.com.





SERIES 1: SALVATION IN ACTS

Walk through four key passages in the Book of Acts where Luke reported the spread of salvation from Jerusalem all the way to the end of the earth. As we learn what God did in their day, we will understand better what He wants to do in our day.

SERIES 2: JESUS, OUR SAVIOR

From John 11-13, follow Jesus' Spirit-led footsteps as He set His face toward Calvary during His final week. He raised the dead, welcomed worship, and rode into Jerusalem to the cheers of *Hosanna*. He was clearly not just Jesus the carpenter or even the prophet: He was and is Jesus, our Savior.

SERIES 3: ROMANS

The Book of Romans is one of the richest books in all sixty-six books that comprise the Bible. Pull up your chair and feast your soul on Paul's writings in Romans and how those inspired words apply to your life today.

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"Pentecostal Publishing House" on Audible.com



THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 - We trust God to know the whole picture, and we believe someday we may understand how it all fits together.

OPTION 2

1. This game is called "Two Truths and a Lie." Choose three creative students who are able to persuade other students.
2. Pull students aside individually to explain the rules.
3. Each student will share information about themselves that includes two truths and one lie.
4. The chosen students will take turns stating two truths and a lie.
5. The class should then guess which is the lie.
6. Continue until all three lies have been revealed.
 - Although we may be able to get away with lying to one another, God always knows the truth about us. There is no reason to lie to Him.
 - When we pray, we can tell God everything and know He is able to forgive us if we only ask.

I will follow Jesus' pattern for prayer.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? (25 MIN)

A. The Posture of Prayer

1. Prayer is one of the most important things we do. Consider how often we are called upon to pray when we gather together to worship. Perhaps your Sunday morning looks similar to this:
 - a. You arrive early to church for pre-service prayer.
 - b. Your Sunday school teacher takes prayer requests and opens the lesson in prayer.
 - c. Someone closes the lesson in prayer.
 - d. A minister opens the main service in prayer.
 - e. During the service, those who are sick are called to the front for prayer.
 - f. Someone prays over the offering.
 - g. The preacher prays prior to beginning the sermon.
 - h. An altar call follows the preaching to give people an opportunity to pray about what they've just heard and felt.
 - i. After altar call, someone closes the service in prayer.
2. It is easy to see how important prayer is to our relationship with Jesus. With so many opportunities for public prayer, we may misunderstand the purpose of prayer. This misunderstanding is nothing new; people in Jesus' day struggled to understand why we pray.

Read Matthew 6:5-8.

And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

3. Jesus' intention was not to say we should never pray in public; rather, Jesus was addressing the heart of prayer. He was reminding His followers that prayer is not a public demonstration; it is a private conversation.
4. Prayer is an opportunity for us individually and collectively to connect with our holy God.
 - a. We talk to God, but we can also expect Him to talk to us.
 - b. We do not serve a God who is unresponsive to us. He hears and answers our prayers.



PRAYER IS ONE OF THE MOST
IMPORTANT THINGS WE DO.

JR. HIGH BREAKOUT!!!

1. For this activity use the Mad Lib sheet provided in the Resource Kit. Mad Libs are also available for free on various websites if you would like to use one of your own choosing.
2. As you work through the sheet, ask students for words to fill in the blanks, without providing any context.
3. When the words are all filled in, read the story aloud.
 - Sometimes the conversations you have with God will not make sense to anyone else except you and Him.
 - It is good to have an order for your prayer time to help you stay focused.

1. Have you ever tried to get your parents' attention, but it seemed as if they did not hear you?
 - a. Perhaps your mom was busy working when you tried to ask her something. "Mom . . . Mom . . . MOM!"
 - b. She abruptly looks up at you with a scowl on her face. "I heard you the first time," she says. "I am thinking about how I want to answer you."
2. In most of our relationships, we discover we do not always get an immediate answer to questions we ask. Sometimes people choose to answer when they are ready rather than when we want them to answer.
3. With Jesus it is the same.
 - a. He does not always answer us right away.
 - b. Sometimes we must wait until He is ready to answer.
 - c. During that waiting period, we may feel as if He did not hear us or He is not concerned about our lives.
 - d. We may see the time between when we ask and when God answers as evidence He does not care. That is far from the truth, though.

Read Hebrews 4:15-16.

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

4. God may not answer us right away, but that is not a bad thing. Sometimes God is waiting until the right time to answer. God is not ignoring us; He may be saying, "Not right now."
5. We must pray with expectation. We should always go to God with faith believing He cares about how we feel, and He is prepared to answer us in His time. We can maintain an attitude of worship and faith while we wait for Him to respond.

Daily Devotional Insight !!!

This week we will talk about what it means to follow a pattern of prayer in our own lives. The Lord's Prayer gives us a literal pattern to follow, but it goes beyond the order in which we say the words. Every day should be an opportunity for us to talk with God and lay our worship and our needs at His feet.

SR. HIGH BREAKOUT!!!

1. For this activity use the “Will He, Won’t He” discussion slips from the Resource Kit. Cut apart and fold the slips. For each group, place several slips into a bag.
2. Form small groups. Give each group a bag with several discussion slips.
3. In each group, students take turns pulling a slip of paper from their bag. The student then reads the slip out loud to the group.
4. Groups discuss the prayer and decide if God will or will not answer the prayer, giving their reasoning for coming to their conclusion. Continue until all slips have been discussed, with groups dividing their slips into two stacks: He will and He won’t.
5. When all slips have been discussed in the small groups, come together and discuss your answers as a class.
 - Prayer is not a way to convince God to do what we want; it is a conversation.
 - God can do everything we ask of Him, but that does not mean He will.
 - Some things are a result of our poor choices, like burned dinner. God may provide another source of food, but He might not unburn the first batch.
 - God is not a magic genie; He is a loving and wise God who supplies all our needs.

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3. God may not answer with a bright light, a booming voice, or a lightning strike the moment we say amen, but before we even pray the prayer, God is at work on our behalf for the very things we need.
 - a. Even if His answer does not come right away, He hears us. His answer may not look like or sound like the answer we imagined, but He still hears and cares.
 - b. God’s decisions over our prayers come about by His perfect love and wisdom in everything. If we are praying for someone to be harmed for making fun of us, we should not expect God to get back to us on that one.
4. When God does answer our prayer, if it is His will, we will know without a doubt He is responsible for what came about.
5. It is important for us always to pray in faith and with expectation that God has heard us and will work through our prayers.

Read Philippians 4:6-7.

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Daily Devotional Insight !!!

This week we will talk about what it means to follow a pattern of prayer in our own lives. Our lives are defined by our habits, so if prayer does not take place every day, it probably says something about the way we are living. Not everyone’s pattern will look the same, so figure out what works for you. Just make sure you are taking time to talk with God every day.

B. The Pattern of Prayer

1. Imagine you are standing in a long lunch line at school. No one has a phone, so everyone is just awkwardly looking around the room. The person behind you tries to strike up a conversation.
 - a. “Wow, this line is long,” he says.
 - b. “It sure is,” you reply.
 - c. “I wonder what they are serving today,” he says.
 - d. “Chicken nuggets, I think,” you respond, even though you know for sure it is chicken nuggets because you checked three times.
2. Conversation can be uncomfortable when we don’t know what to say. Perhaps that is why the disciples needed Jesus to teach them to pray. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus shared what has become known as the Lord’s Prayer. It is not a specific prayer for us to repeat; it is a pattern that teaches us how to communicate with God.

Read Matthew 6:9–13.

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

3. Jesus began His pattern of prayer with worship and adoration of God. It is important to begin our prayers this way. Beginning with worship reminds us of two things:
 - a. Who God is—He is God.
 - b. Who we are—we are not.
4. First, we must recognize we are praying to Jesus because He is God and we are not. We need His wisdom, guidance, and direction to live in right relationship with Him.
5. Second, Jesus taught us to pray for God’s will. We pray: “Your kingdom come, and Your will be done.” We need God’s will and His kingdom to take priority over the things we desire.
 - a. This portion of prayer is how we place ourselves in right relationship with God.
 - b. Have you ever made a wrong decision that seemed right at the time? For example, imagine you decided to meet a friend at the park to play basketball because you both had a couple of hours to spare. But fifteen minutes after you arrived, it began to rain. You made the wrong decision, but only because you had no way of knowing what the weather would do.
 - c. When we make decisions on our own, we can only choose the right action based on the information we have. But we often do not have all the information we need to do the right thing because we are not all-knowing.
 - d. This is where Jesus comes in. Because He knows everything, He always knows what we ought to do. If we ask for His will to be done in our lives, He will show us the path we ought to take.
6. Third, we ask for God’s daily bread. This is where we ask for the things we need. In addition, we ask for God to sustain us.
 - a. We recognize we need more than just natural things, like food, shelter, clothing, and so on; we need spiritual blessings as well.
 - b. We can trust that as our loving Father, Jesus will bless us with good things.
7. Fourth, we must ask God to forgive us as we forgive others.
 - a. We constantly find ourselves in need of forgiveness. This is not because we have wrong or sinful intentions; rather, it is because we are human, so we often fall short of God’s will for us.

I will follow Jesus' pattern for prayer.

- b. Just as we fall short of God's best for us, others often fall short of doing right by us. We want to be forgiven if we do wrong by God, so He wants us to forgive others if they do wrong by us.
 - c. This section of Jesus' prayer pattern calls us to live in right relationship with others. We cannot be right with others if we are harboring hurt feelings and unforgiveness. We must forgive and show mercy to others.
8. Fifth, we ask God to keep us from straying into unrighteousness. We need His help to walk righteously in His sight.
 9. Sixth, we close the prayer by offering Jesus praise and worship once again. Just as we began by reminding ourselves He is God and we are not, we close our prayer the same way.
 10. After His instruction on how to pray, Jesus informed His disciples of the proper way to fast.

Read Matthew 6:16-18.

Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; that thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.

11. Jesus does not want us to walk around pouty and miserable. He does not want us making a grand display in an effort to convince Him to move on our behalf.
 - a. Instead, Jesus wants us to trust He is a loving Father who knows what is best for us.
 - b. When Jesus says no, it is because He has something better for us. When He says yes, it is because our desires align with His plans.
12. Jesus will answer if we will ask. In fact, we ought to ask until He answers.
 - a. When we do not get an immediate answer, instead of assuming He said no, we should continue to ask until He moves or we know He has given us direction.
 - b. When His timing is right, He will make clear to us what He wants to do.
13. We must submit our will, our plans, and our needs to God in prayer. We go to Him not trying to force Him to do our bidding, but to deepen our relationship with Him. As we do, we will better align ourselves with His plans for our lives.



IMAGINE YOU ARE STANDING
IN A LONG LUNCH LINE AT
SCHOOL.

God invites us to pray.

RELEASE III (10 MIN)

OPTION 1

1. For this activity you will need the “Believe It or Not” worksheets provided in the Resource Kit, along with pens and Bibles.
2. Students may work alone or in small groups to read the unusual miracles and complete the worksheet provided.
3. Ask the following questions:
 - Why are these requests unusual?
 - Why do you think God performed these unusual miracles?
 - Have you ever seen or heard of an unusual miracle?

OPTION 2

1. For this activity students will need prayer journals. Consider purchasing inexpensive journals or notebooks for students.
2. They will also need assorted stickers, markers, and other embellishments.
3. Allow time for students to decorate their prayer journals if they don't already have a personal journal.
4. On the inside cover, have students write their name and the Lord's Prayer.
5. Then using the pattern of the Lord's Prayer, have students write a prayer in their own words.
6. Have students use their journal to record their thoughts throughout the week as well as to answer the questions in their Daily Devotional Guides.



PRAYER III

Jesus, help us desire to walk in deeper relationship with You. We know we can only do that through prayer. We want to follow the pattern You have given us so we can align ourselves with the plans You have for our lives.