

AMPLIFY: Prayer

Lesson 1: It's Personal

What we want students to learn: That your students would understand that prayer is an essential component of a personal relationship with God.

What we want students to do with what they've learned: To examine their own prayer lives and evaluate when and why they approach God in prayer.

Scripture Focus: Psalm 102:1-2; Psalm 61:1-3; Psalm 55:22; Psalm 117; and Psalm 37:4

Overview: Whether we're introverts or extroverts, we all desire to be loved and cared for. Part of being made in God's image means that we have been created with a relational capacity. God desires to have a relationship with us. Like all relationships, a necessary part of a growing relationship with God is communication. From school to friends to sports and everything in between, there's so much going on in our students' lives that their communication with God often gets pushed aside. But, God's desire isn't just to be called upon when your teenagers' are in a bind and need something. He wants them to consistently walk with Him, communicating with Him along their journey. The idea is to help students understand that prayer is talking to and listening to God as they grow in their relationship with him.

In this lesson, we'll look at the Old Testament and see how God's desire was (and is) for His people to draw near to Him in prayer. In Lesson 2 we'll learn about how students can approach God confidently because of the person and work of Jesus Christ. Finally, in Lesson 3 we'll look at the model Jesus gives us to follow in our prayer lives.

Lesson 2: Get Some Confidence

What we want students to learn: That our prayers are made possible and effective through the person and work of Jesus Christ.

What we want students to do with what they've learned: To flesh out what it looks like for them to seek God in prayer with confidence.

Scripture Focus: 1 Timothy 2:1-6; John 16:7; Romans 8:26-27; Hebrews 10:19-22

Overview: There has to be some way you communicate with a person you have a relationship with. Even if there's physical distance between you, you call, text, email, Facebook, Twitter, smoke signals . . . you get the point. If you love someone, you'll try your best to communicate with them in some form or fashion. We've defined prayer for your students as talking to and listening to God as we grow in our relationship with Him. So, prayer is a means by which we communicate with God. But what makes prayer possible? What makes our prayer effective? What allows us, as sinful people, to approach a holy God in prayer? In Lesson 1 you helped your students see that God desires to communicate with us through prayer. In this lesson, you'll help show them that communication is only made possible because of the work of Jesus Christ.

Lesson 3: Follow the Leader

What we want students to learn: That they would understand the Lord's Prayer and why Jesus uses it as a model for us to follow.

What we want students to do with what they've learned: To evaluate their own prayer lives in light of the Lord's Prayer, and see how this model can practically help them as they approach God in prayer.

Scripture Focus: Matthew 6:9-13

Overview: There are a lot of things in life we do out of routine without giving it much thought. It's easy for students to get caught in a rut of just going through the motions at school, church, or at practice. Sometimes it's in the way they respond to certain people or questions. They say things like "fine" or "not much" without really even thinking about how they're responding. The Lord's Prayer is something a lot of our students (and us) have probably heard quite a bit. Many of us can recite it from memory pretty easily. The question is whether we really think about what we're saying, or is just a motion we go through? Do we really understand why Jesus tells us, "Pray then like this"? In lesson 1, you showed students that God's desire is for His people to draw near to Him in prayer. In lesson 2, students learned that they can draw near to God in confidence because Jesus is their mediator. Finally, in this lesson you'll help students look at the model Jesus gave us to follow in our own prayer lives.