

Power of Prayer (Pre-K)

Week 4

BIG IDEA

God Hears Our Prayers

BIBLE

Pray with Faith (James 5; 1 Thessalonians 5)

FOR LEADERS

LEADER DEVOTIONAL

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Use this section to get yourself ready to teach! Familiarize yourself with the Bible passage and reflect on what it says about who God is and what it says about us.*
- **DID YOU KNOW...**
 - **WHO?**
 - First Thessalonians was written by Paul to the church in Thessalonica, and from early Christian history, James, the brother of Jesus, has been understood to be the author of the letter of James ([Galatians 1:19](#)). Both authors emphasize the need for faithful, consistent prayer.
 - **WHAT?**
 - These letters are very different in structure and purpose. First Thessalonians addresses the specific situation of believers who were concerned that Jesus would not return. James is a letter of general wisdom meant to circulate among different churches.
 - **WHERE?**
 - The letter of James is addressed to the “12 tribes scattered among the nations” ([James 1:1](#)), which may refer to all the Gentiles who believe in Jesus. Thessalonica, however, is located in northern Greece.
 - **WHEN?**
 - Some people think that [1 Thessalonians](#) is the earliest written document in the New Testament, perhaps written in the late 40s or early 50s. James died around the year 62, and many scholars think his letter was written a few years earlier.
 - **CONNECTING TO GOD’S BIG STORY**
 - Jesus first taught His disciples to “always pray and not give up” ([Luke 18:1](#)). Both Paul and James thus draw upon the teachings of Jesus in their statements about prayer.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Pause now to read [James 5:13–18](#).*
- Praying with faith doesn’t necessarily mean God will say “yes” to your every request. But it does mean you trust He hears you and will respond. And it means you look for and praise Him in whatever response He gives you.
- How will you faithfully pray with divine expectation today?

WELCOME

MUSIC | Worship Playlist

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *During free time, use the Power of Prayer Spotify playlists for background worship music.*

PLAY | Free Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tables will be set with toys and activities for kids to play until the lesson begins. This is a great opportunity to get to know kids and build relationships.*
 - *Get on the floor and be silly*
 - *Play along with what they're playing*
 - *Ask get-to-know-you questions*
 - *Learn names and use them as you interact*

CLEAN UP

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before moving onto the lesson content, play the "Clean Up" song and work together as a class to put all toys and activities away.*
 - *Place all toys in labelled tubs.*
 - *Place all tubs away in labelled cabinets Invite kids to find a "sit spot"*

INTRO

TALK

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Gather kids on the floor and welcome them to church. Lead them through a repeat-after-me declaration to start the class.*
- **Welcome to church today, friends! I am so glad to be here with all of you.**
- **Let's say these words together.**
 - **Thank You, God, that You made me!** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*
 - *Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.*
 - **And I am Your kid!** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*
 - *Put your hands on your hips.*
 - **Jesus loves me so much,** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*
 - *Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.*
 - **His love for me is big.** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*
 - *Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.*
 - **The Holy Spirit leads me** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

- Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.
- **And I can follow You.** (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)
- March like you're following the leader.
- **My life can tell Your story,** (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)
- Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.
- **I'm a wonder, this is true.** (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)
- Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").
- **Today, we're learning that it doesn't matter where we are or how we pray—God hears our prayers!**

ACTIVITY | Where's My Treasure?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Gather a cell phone (adult only), bubble containers, and bubble wands. Have kids gather around you and ask:*
- **If we wanted to talk with somebody who is not here at church today, how could we talk to that person?** *Allow kids to respond. If someone suggests a phone, hold up a phone and say: Yes, we could call that person on a phone! If no one suggests a phone, hold up a phone and ask: Do you think we could use this phone to call the person? Allow the kids to respond. When we want to talk to somebody who is far away from us, we may use a phone.*
- **But what if we want to talk to God? Can we use a phone to call God? We don't need to use a phone to call God! We can talk to God any time simply by praying.**
- **Do you know how to pray? Sometimes when we pray, we fold our hands and close our eyes. We do this so we aren't distracted by other things around us. But we can talk to God anytime, anywhere. We don't have to have our eyes closed for God to hear us!**
- *Use the bubble solution and bubble wand to blow a few bubbles. When we pray, we can imagine our prayers going right to God, kind of like these bubbles as they float up. God hears us every time we talk with Him. Let's blow bubbles and think about talking with God. Blow more bubbles and encourage kids to say some simple prayers to God while watching the bubbles. You could guide them in simple prayers, such as: "God, we love You!" or "Thank You, God, for our friends!"*
- **It doesn't matter where we are or how we pray—God hears our prayers!**

MUSIC | Worship Videos

- **Today we'll learn about how Jesus teaches us to pray. Let's sing and praise God for hearing us!**
- **Will you dance and sing to God with me?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play the worship music videos on the TV. Invite kids to participate by dancing and singing along.*
- **Thank you for worshipping God with me!**
- **Now, let's pray together before we hear our Bible Story.**

PRAYER

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words*
- **Father God, we know that You always hear our prayers. Help us hear from You today. As we worship You and hear Your Word today, help us remember that You hear us and want to spend time with us. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

STORY TIME

SCRIPTURE | James 5; 1 Thess. 5 (Prayer of Faith)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before kids arrive, gather the [Prayer Story Chain](#) strips and tape.*
- *Hold up a Bible and show the kids. **Our God's big story today is from two letters written to the early Christians. The letters were written by two Jesus followers named James and Paul. Encourage the kids to say, "James" and "Paul."***
- **Today we're learning that God hears our prayers! We are going to make a prayer chain that reminds us how we can pray.** *Lay the pieces of the prayer chain out in front of you.*
- **What kind of things do you talk with God about?** *Allow the kids to respond.*
- **Prayer is talking and listening to God. Some people pray at certain times of the day. Some people pray when big things are happening in their lives. Some people don't pray very often.**
- **Jesus and His followers believed in the importance and power of prayer. Let's find the first piece of our prayer chain.** *Hold up the "We can pray to God!" paper. This says "We can pray to God!" Roll the paper into a circle and secure it with tape to make the first link of the prayer chain.*
- **The Bible tells Jesus followers to pray for those who are in trouble and to praise God when they experience joy. The Bible also says that people who are sick should ask others in their church to pray with faith for them, and God will heal them.**
- **God will also forgive them of any wrong things they have done. Even though God does not always choose to heal our sicknesses and injuries, we can still ask God for big things. God loves us, sees us, and hears our prayers.**
- **It's time to add the second piece to our chain.** *Hold up the "We can pray about everything!" paper. This says, "We can pray about everything!" Thread the paper through their first loop before secure it with tape in the shape of another circle to make the second chain link.*
- **God wants us to pray for big things, and He also wants us to pray all the time. The Bible tells us we should never stop praying.**
- **We can pray about anything and everything in our lives—no matter how big or small. And we know that God always answers us in the way that is best—even when the answer may not be what we want. The Bible teaches us to be thankful no matter what happens.**
- **Let's add another link to our prayer chain!** *Hold up the "We can pray all the time!" paper. This says, "We can pray all the time!" Add it to the chain.*
- **God may not always answer every prayer the way we want Him to. But that's not a reason to stop praying or pray only for small things. God invites us to pray big prayers and trust that He hears us! We can pray about everything. God hears and cares about all of our prayers.**
- **Let's add the last paper to our chain!** *Hold up the "God hears our prayers!" paper. This says, "God hears our prayers!" Add final strip to the chain.*
- **Our prayer chain reminds us that we can pray to God about everything, all the time, and**

that God hears our prayers!

(OPTIONAL) VIDEO | Prayer of Faith

- Watch the [Pray with Faith God's Big Story!](#)

MEMORY VERSE | Psalm 66:19-20

- **We're learning that we can pray to God anytime, about anything.**
- **The memory verse we've been learning reminds us that He hears our prayers!**
- **Let's practice it together now.**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.*
 - **GOD LISTENS TO ME**—*Point to your ears.*
 - **AND HEARS MY PRAYERS.**—*Fold your hands together*
 - **I CAN PRAISE HIM.**—*Hold your hands above shoulders and turn wrists back and forth.*
 - **FROM [PSALM 66:19-20](#)**—*Hold your hands out together with palms open, as if opening a book.*
- **Great work, friends! We're going to keep practicing together each week.**
- **Now we get to talk with our friends about what we learned in God's big story. Let's head to our tables.**

SHARING TIME

SNACK

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Gather kids around the tables and serve snacks, while you move on to circle time. As the kids eat, you can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse.*
 - **IMPORTANT NOTE:** *Don't forget to check name tags for food allergies.*

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *As kids finish their snack, distribute the [coloring page](#) along with crayons and continue discussion and prayer time.*

DISCUSSION | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Discuss the Bible story with the following questions. Feel free to repeat questions so that everyone has a chance to respond.
- Use the pieces of the prayer chain to review what was taught about prayer.
- Hold up the strip that says "We can pray to God!"
 - **What is prayer?** (talking to and listening to God)
 - **What did Jesus' early followers think about prayer?** (that it was important and powerful)
- Hold up the strip that says "We can pray about everything!"
 - **What is something we can pray for?**
 - **Does God always give us everything we pray for? Why do you think this is?**
- Hold up the strip that says "We can pray any time!"
 - **When can we pray?** (We can pray day or night. We can pray all the time!)
 - **Should we only pray when we are sad?** (No, we can pray when we are happy or sad. We can pray all the time!)
- Hold up the strip that says "God hears our prayers!"
 - **How do you talk with God?**
 - **Which of our prayers do you think God hears?** (All of them! God hears our prayers!)
- **We can pray to God anytime, about anything. He hears our prayers! Let's talk to God now in prayer!**

PRAYER

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for hearing our prayers.
- **God, thank You for hearing our prayers. Help us to always remember to pray and talk with You! In Jesus' name, Amen.**

MEMORY VERSE | Psalm 66:19-20

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Invite kids to practice the memory verse together, following along with the motions. Award prizes to kids that say the verse.
 - **GOD LISTENS TO ME**—Point to your ears.
 - **AND HEARS MY PRAYERS.**—Fold your hands together
 - **I CAN PRAISE HIM.**—Hold your hands above shoulders and turn wrists back and forth.
 - **FROM [PSALM 66:19-20](#)**—Hold your hands out together with palms open, as if opening a book.
- **Great job!**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have kids line up along the wall on one side of the room.*
- **God hears our prayers. It doesn't matter if we pray with our eyes open or closed, or if we pray when we are happy or sad. God hears our prayers! Let's play a game about different times when you might pray. Listen to the phrases I'll call out. If you can pray for whatever I say, run to the other side of the room after I say each phrase.**
- *Call out different statements starting with "I can pray ..." using the list below. If the kids believe they could pray during the situation you call out, they will run to the other side of the room.*
- *You can use the following statements:*
 - *I can pray ... for my family.*
 - *I can pray ... for my friends.*
 - *I can pray ... for someone who is sick.*
 - *I can pray ... when I'm feeling sad or worried.*
 - *I can pray ... for my teachers.*
 - *I can pray ... for people who are not nice to me.*
 - *I can pray ... when I'm happy.*
 - *I can pray ... for my church leaders.*
 - *I can pray ... for people I don't know in other countries.*
- **These are all times we can pray! God hears our prayers!**