

# 3 Ways to Know Jesus Better

## Scripture

Matthew 6:5-15; Philippians 4:6; Psalm 119:11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

## Memory Verse

"Our Father in heaven, may your name be honored. May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, just as we also have forgiven those who sin against us. Keep us from falling into sin when we are tempted. Save us from the evil one" Matthew 6:9-13 (NIRV).

## Bible Truth

The Bible and prayer help us know Jesus better.

## Important Words

**Prayer**--Talking with God.

**Bible**--The written Word of God.

## Teacher Bible Study

This lesson is about prayer and the Bible. These two things help us know Jesus better. The Bible is God's written story, but He did not write the Bible. God helped men write what He wanted people to know. 2 Timothy 3:16-17(ICB) tells us, "All Scripture is given by God and is useful for teaching and for showing people what is wrong in their lives. It is useful for correcting faults and [for] teaching how to live right. Using the Scriptures, the person who serves God will be ready and will have everything he needs to do every good work."

We study the Bible to know the God of the Bible. It tells us about Jesus and His life and how to be His friend. We can remember the words to help us every day. Psalm 119:11 (NIRV) says, "I have hidden your word in my heart so that I won't sin against you." God's word helps us live the way He wants us to live.

Prayer is talking with God. We can pray any time and anywhere. We can talk with God about anything.

In Matthew 6:5-15, Jesus talks about prayer. He tells us prayer is not a way for people to notice us. Prayer is how we talk with God. It is best to talk with Him in a quiet place. We can think about Him better.

Jesus tells us to make sure we mean what we say. We must be honest and sincere in our prayers.

Jesus gave us a prayer to help us know how to pray. It is called the Lord's Prayer. The prayer starts with praise to God. We then pray for His work in the world, for our needs, and for God's help with our problems.

**Teacher Help.** Don't teach in a hurry. You may take more than one class time to teach the lesson.

## **Begin the Lesson**

Choose the activities you need to begin the lesson. Use as many as you need. You do not have to use them all.

## **Get Acquainted**

YOU NEED a stick or rock.

Have the children sit or stand in a circle. Pass the stick or rock around the circle. As each child gets the stick, say, **Tell us something about you.** Then say, **Tell us what you like to do with your friends.**

Now have the children get into groups. Tell them to discuss these questions. Ask, **How do you get to know someone?** Let the children answer. (Possible answers: Talk to them. Play with them.) Ask, **How can we get to know God better?** Let the children answer. (Possible answers: Go to church. Read the Bible. Talk to God.) Ask, **How can we be a friend of Jesus?** Let the children answer. (Possible answers: Believe God sent His Son, Jesus, to make it possible for God to forgive us. Know Jesus is our Savior. Obey God's Word.)

## **What Is the Bible?**

YOU NEED a Bible. If the student sheet is available, this activity is on page 1.

Show the children a Bible. Tell them the Bible is God's message to people. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17(ICB) to the children. **"All Scripture is given by God and is useful for teaching and for showing people what is wrong in their lives. It is useful for correcting faults and [for] teaching how to live right. Using the Scriptures, the person who serves God will be ready and will have everything he needs to do every good work."** Say, **God did not write the Bible himself. He helped people write it. God gave them His messages.**

Ask these questions.

**Who gave us the Bible?** (God)

**What does the Bible show people?** (What is wrong in their lives.)

**Why is the Bible important?** (It helps us know Jesus better.)

## The Bible Lesson

Choose the activities you need to teach the Bible Lesson. You do not have to use them all, but be sure to tell the Bible story.

## The Bible Story

YOU NEED a picture of Jesus on the hillside teaching, if you have one. When you read the Lord's Prayer, have the children repeat each sentence after you. Do not try to have them memorize it now. They will work on learning it later in the lesson.

### Jesus Teaches About Prayer

(Teacher standing.) One day Jesus went up on a hill and sat down. (Sit near the children.) People came to Him. He began to teach them. He told them many things.

Jesus taught the people a prayer. This is what He said. "This is how you should pray. ' **Our Father in heaven, may your name be honored** (Children repeat.). **May your kingdom come** (Children repeat.). **May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven** (Children repeat.). **Give us today our daily bread** (Children repeat.). **Forgive us our sins,**(Children repeat.) **just as we also have forgiven those who sin against us** (Children repeat.). **Keep us from falling into sin when we are tempted** (Children repeat.). **Save us from the evil one**" (Children repeat.) Matthew 6:9-13 (NIrV).

Jesus told the people to begin a prayer by praising God. Give honor to His name. In Jesus' day a person's name had special meaning. It said something important about the

person. Jesus taught the people to honor God's name. Then they honored God himself. This showed they respected God for who He is.

The people learned they need to do what God wants them to do. They should do good things, because they want to please God. The people learned how to pray in a way that would please God. They wanted to learn more about praying to God.

Jesus told the people to ask for the things they need. God gives us what we need. They learned Jesus forgives us. So we need to forgive others. The people learned to ask for help with problems. Jesus told them to pray for safety from the evil one.

Matthew 5:1-2; 6:9-13

## **Bible Story Review**

YOU NEED the student sheet, if available. This activity is on page 2.

When you finish telling the story, talk about what it said. Ask the children to draw or color a picture of Jesus' teaching the people. Use papers and crayons, if you have them. Or, use the student sheet, page 2.

## **More About Prayer**

YOU NEED paper and pencil or crayons. If the student sheet is available, this activity is on page 3.

Discuss with the children the things for which Jesus told us to pray. Say, **Everyone can pray. God is pleased when you take time to talk with Him. Talk to God as a good friend.**

Philippians 4:6 (NirV) says, **"Do not worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks."** Say, **God wants us to give Him thanks first. Then, God wants us to ask Him for things other people need and what we need ourselves. We do not need to worry about what we say. We can be honest with God. We need to thank Him for answering our prayers.**

Draw or trace a handprint. Let the children tell things to pray for. Print one thing on each finger of the hand. On the center of the hand, print, "Thank God." If paper is available, let every child make a handprint. Let children write or draw pictures of things to pray for.

Here is another way to do this activity. Have the children hold up a hand. Let them name things to pray for. Each finger and thumb could be one request. The center of the hand is "Thank God." (Example: Thumb-people you love; first finger- leaders; middle finger-friends; fourth finger-the sick and weak; little finger-yourself.)

## **More About the Bible**

YOU NEED a coin or other small item. Hide the coin/item somewhere in your room or teaching area. Tell the children what is hidden, and let them look for it. When it is found, have the child bring it to you.

Now tell the children, **Though this was hidden, I knew where it was. I could get it any time I needed it. We should do the same with God's Word, the Bible. Psalm 119:11(NirV) says, "I have hidden your word in my heart so that I won't sin against you." What do you think this means?** Let children answer. (We need to keep the words of the Bible in our hearts. God's Word will help us not to sin.) **How can we hide God's Word in our hearts?** Let the

children answer. (Learn verses from the Bible.) **We learn verses to help us live as God's child and Jesus' friend. God's Word will help us not to sin.**

## **Listen to God**

Part of prayer is listening to God. The children may wonder how we can listen to God. Say, **We do not usually hear a voice speaking. Instead, God puts His thoughts into our minds when we are quiet and listening. Here are some ways to help you listen to God.**

- **When you finish your prayer, do not move. Sit or kneel quietly for a few minutes.**
- **Think about a Bible verse. Ask God to show you what this verse means for you. Sit quietly and think about it.**
- **Listen to Christian music. Sing or read a song. Think about the words. God can speak to you through the words too.**

## **Learn the Lord's Prayer**

**YOU NEED** a copy of the Lord's Prayer. If the student sheet is available, it is on page 4. You also need a ball or a piece of cloth and some string. If you do not have a ball, do this. Roll a piece of cloth into a round ball. Tie it together with string.

Read the Lord's Prayer to the children. Then divide the group into two teams. Have the teams line up facing each other. Give the ball to one team member. Have that whole team say the first sentence of the Lord's Prayer. Then tell the child to gently throw the ball to a player on the other team. Let the whole second team say the second sentence of the prayer. Tell the child to throw the ball back to another child on the first team. Have the whole first team say the next

sentence. Continue this activity until the children finish saying the prayer. Play again, letting the other team begin this time. When you finish, have all the children say the whole prayer together.

Say, **Keep saying the prayer every day. You will remember it by saying it many times.** Children may use student sheet, page 4, to help them learn this prayer.

## End the Lesson

Choose the activities you need to end the lesson. Use as many as you need. You do not have to use them all.

## Bible Song

YOU NEED a song about the Bible, God's Word.

Sing a song about the Bible, God's Word. Encourage children to learn Bible verses. Talk about places where they will hear or read the Bible. They may hear it at home or at church. Let children suggest ways they can learn verses. They can read the Bible or listen to someone read it.

## Closing

YOU NEED a song about prayer; paper and pencil for writing prayers.

Sing a song about prayer. Say, **We can pray any time. We can pray anywhere. We can pray about anything. God wants us to talk with Him.** Encourage the children to pray sentence praise prayers. They may say "**Thank You, God, for... .**" The teacher should show the children how to say the prayer first. Then let each child pray, or let the children write a prayer.



Thank the children for coming. Encourage them to continue learning about God.

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