

Jesus Taught Us That God Is Our Father

Objective: The students will be able to state that Jesus taught us to call God, "Father," and that God loves us and will take care of us.

For the Catechist

Our experience of God and that of the Jews of Jesus' day was that God was both Lord of all and outside of us (transcendent) and as close as a prayer and within us (immanent). The profound message of Jesus was that God was indeed immanent and, in fact, intimate—God wanted to be called "Abba," which is the "Daddy" form of father.

The Father's Love. Just as an earthly father may have several children to love and care for, God Our Father loves and cares for all of us. Of course, all children may not be so fortunate to have a father who shows loving care and concern to them. Be especially sensitive to your children's family situations in this lesson. If some lack a healthy father image from their biological father, perhaps a grandfather, uncle, or other male has stepped in the breach. We also call our priest "Father," and the child may be able to relate to the love and care of their pastor. Also, the child may be able to understand fatherhood from a friend's father.

The Lord's Prayer. Emphasizing the fact that God is Father, the Lord's Prayer is taught in this lesson: We begin with "Our Father," and we call upon God as Father for what we need. The following words and phrases you may need to explain: hallowed=holy; thy kingdom come=when all people follow God's ways, we will be like a kingdom with God as the king; trespasses=when we do wrong, our sins; temptation=when we want to do something wrong; deliver us from evil=save us from wrong and evil.

Background Reading

(Direct quotations from the sources noted.)

Praying

"As did the Jews before them, the early Church taught that believers should pray through the day, because they never stopped living in the heavenly realm. As a rule,

Lesson Plan Overview

Opening: The Lord's Prayer and Doxology.

Introduction: Understanding the Father's love through the love of Jesus. **Need:** "Jesus and the Children" worksheet as a visual aid.

Read Text Aloud: Ask questions noted on following pages as text is being read

Activity Tracks:

Choose a basic, group, or craft activity to reinforce the lesson (detailed on the pages that follow).

- Basic 1:* We Call God "Father"
- Basic 2:* The Lord's Prayer
- Group:* "The Lord's Prayer" Mural
- Craft:* The Lord's Prayer Frame

Closing: The Lord's Prayer and Doxology

Come Bless the Lord Icon:

- Packet I:
- Packet II:

Teaching Pics

The Lord's Prayer (DL17)

Christians might gather once or twice a day for common prayer, but in addition to that personal, private prayer—the communication of each believer with the Lord—was considered indispensable. The usual times for prayer even then were in the morning, before the day's tasks were begun, at the evening at their conclusion, and before retiring" (DC 23).

Family Prayer

"When we pray together as a family, we are affirming that we are one entity before God who directs our life together. In return He strengthens our faith and commitment and binds us more closely together with the result that true forgiveness more readily can take place after a misunderstanding. Thus the nineteenth century Russian Elder Macarius of Optina once wrote to a correspondent, '*The joint prayer of husband and wife is a great force. That may be one of the reasons why the enemy is trying to get both of you to break this excellent habit.*'

"Family prayer should include prayer for one another as well as prayer together. Husbands and wives should pray for the health and salvation of their partners and also that they may continue to accomplish the tasks the Lord has called them to, according to the individual vocation of each one" (DC 25).

God Reveals Himself

"God, who is so far beyond us, has reached out to us, revealing to us something of Himself. Everyone can look about and see in the wonders of nature the Creator whose very Word causes them to be. More especially we catch a glimpse of Him by looking at people, made in His image and likeness. But we get our clearest picture of God because He has directly communicated Himself to us in what we call Divine Revelation. He has freely opened Himself to us so that we may share in His divine life. Forming a people, Israel, God dealt with them through judges and kings, priests and prophets. He fed them, protected them, liberated them, loved them, corrected, punished and forgave them. He taught them that He alone is God, compassionate and true to His promises. He showed Himself, not only as the Holy One, but as our Father as well" (DC 9).

The Lesson Plan

Opening

Let's go to the icon corner and get ready to pray. We've begun a new unit of lessons about Jesus, and we have a new prayer to say. We will be learning about the prayer in this lesson. It is the prayer Jesus taught us. Does anyone know how it begins? (Our Father) How many of you know it? We'll begin with the sign of the cross: "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." When we come to the end of the prayer, we'll say "For..." [Use the translation for your jurisdiction.] I know you've all said these prayers before. Let's try to say the "Lord's Prayer" together. First, let's be still and look at the icon of Jesus. [Say the "Lord's Prayer" with its Doxology slowly with the children.]

Introduction

We are learning about Jesus in the lessons called "Who Is Jesus?" We learned many things about Jesus last week. Who can tell me something they remember? [Allow ample time for responses.] This week our lesson is called, "Jesus Taught Us That God Loves Us." One of the things Jesus did while He was with us was to teach us about God, His heavenly Father.

First, I want to show you one of my favorite icons. [Hold up icon of Jesus and the Children.] How many of you have seen this before? Who is this sitting down? (Jesus) Who are all around Him? (Children) Jesus loved children. He took them on his lap like a father takes a child on his lap.

Jesus loved children, and he taught us that His heavenly Father, God the Father, loves all of us like His children. If God our Father would come to earth, He, too, like Jesus, would take us on His lap.

Jesus taught us about God's love by telling us that God wants to be called "Father." When do we call God, "Father?" (In the "Lord's Prayer")

Let's read about how God loves us.

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Jesus Taught Us That God Is Our Father



God created us.
God loves us.

How do we know that?
God sent His Son, Jesus,
to teach us.

Jesus taught us about God.
Jesus taught us that God loves us like a father.

A good father will take care of his children.
God will take care of us.

Reading of Text

As the children read aloud, help them interact with the text using the comments or questions below which are keyed to the text phrases (in bold type). See "Reading of Text" in Lesson 1 for use of the Vocabulary Visual Aid.

God will take care of us.

Jesus taught us about how God loves us. How does God love us? (Like a father) [If you have students whose fathers are absent or not healthy "father models," say to the group: "I want you to think of someone now who is a good father—either your own dad or someone you know. When I talk about fathers, think about this person."] A father's love is wonderful. How does a father show love for his children? [Allow sharing.] God loves us like a father.

Jesus taught His followers to pray.
We are His followers.



We pray to God for what we need.
We talk to God like a father.
We are God's family.

"Do you want to know how to pray to God?" Jesus asked.
"I will teach you."

Then Jesus said, "When you pray, call God, Father."

We are God's family.

What can children talk to their fathers about? [Allow sharing.] Do you pray to God? What do you pray for? [Allow sharing.]

Look at the photograph. Do you see an icon? Even though the little boy's head is blocking some of it, you might recognize it since we've learned about it before. Do you know the icon? (The Trinity) The Trinity is a community of love. A family is a community of love also.

When you pray, call God, Father.

What did Jesus say to call God? God is the creator of everything. God has all power, but God does not want us to be afraid of Him. He wants us to think of Him as a father.

Do you know the "Lord's Prayer"?

How many know it by heart? Do you know what all the words mean? Look at prayer in the box in your text and follow along with me. We begin with, "Our Father" and we call upon God as Father for what we need. Find these words, and I will tell you what they mean. [Help students find the following words or phrases and explain them as follows:

- 1) hallowed=holy;
- 2) thy kingdom come=when all people follow God's ways, we will be like a kingdom with God as the king;
- 3) trespasses=when we do wrong, our sins;
- 4) temptation=when we want to do something wrong;
- 5) deliver us from evil=save us from wrong and evil.]

One way we do this is by praying.

How does God want us to live? (United to Him)
What is one way we do this? (By praying)

Let's review: Today we learned what Jesus taught us call God when we pray. What are we to call God? (Father) When you say the "Lord's Prayer" or the "Our Father," think about how God loves you—like a father. Let's look at the photograph. The boy is reading the "Lord's Prayer" in the Divine Liturgy book. Do you know where to find it in our liturgy book? [Hold up book.] It's on page _____.

Activity Tracks

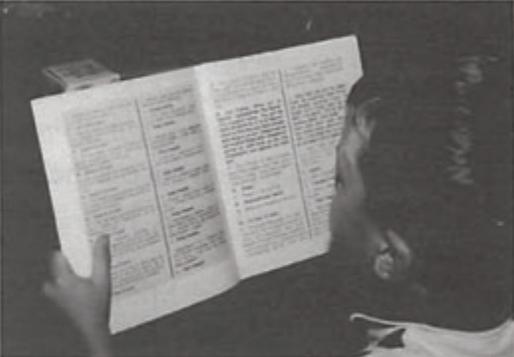
Basic 1: We Call God "Father"

[This worksheet is in the student text.]

When we pray to God, we ask for His help and for things we need. What is something we need every day? (Food) That is part of the "Lord's Prayer." We also ask God to forgive us when we do something wrong and to help us forgive others. We also want to keep from doing bad or evil things, and so we ask that too. Let's look at the words of the "Lord's Prayer" and see if we can find where we ask for food, where we ask forgiveness, and where we ask that we don't do bad things. [Have a child read the prayer and have the students look for those three phrases.]

Jesus taught the prayer that begins with the words "Our Father."

Jesus is our Lord.
We call this prayer the "Lord's Prayer."



We pray the "Lord's Prayer" in the Divine Liturgy.
Do you know the "Lord's Prayer"?

God wants us to live united to Him.
One way we do this is by praying.

We Call God, "Father"

A. Match the phrases with the drawings.
Write on a teacher's help in some words.

Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy
will be done on earth as
it is in
heaven
Give us this day our
daily
bread
and forgive us our
trespasses as we forgive
those who trespass
against
us



And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Basic 2: The Lord's Prayer

Materials: "Lord's Prayer" worksheet, pencils

[For the Doxology use the translation for your jurisdiction]
Today we learned God wants us to call Him "Father."
Jesus taught us the "Lord's Prayer." Here is the prayer,
but it is not complete. Look at the words to use, and fill
in the correct word. These are not necessarily in order.
[You may want to have them cut out the prayer and paste it
to construction paper as a frame.]

Group: "The Lord's Prayer" Mural

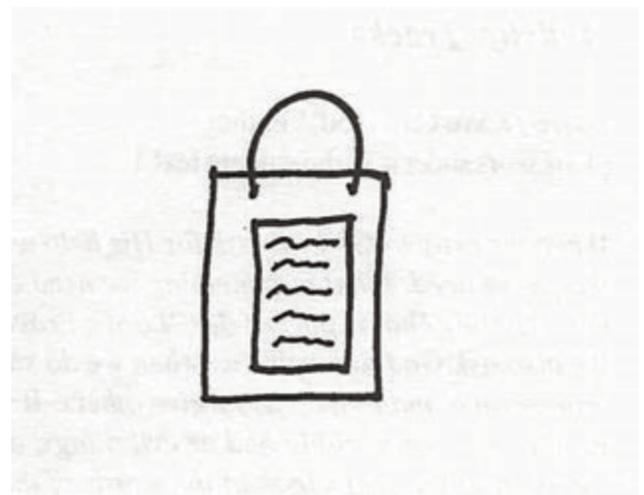
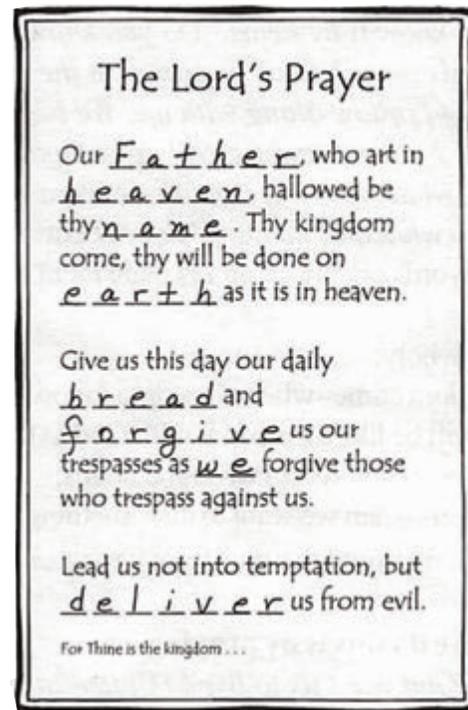
Materials: Long mural paper OR regular white paper that
you will tape together to make a mural OR a poster board
that you can paste cut-out pictures on, markers, glue

[The students may print some of the words and illustrate the
others. Suggestions for illustration: Father, heaven, kingdom,
earth, heaven, bread, forgive, trespasses, temptation, evil.]
Today we learned God wants us to call Him "Father."
Jesus taught us that when He taught us the Lord's
Prayer. Do you know the "Lord's Prayer"? It begins
"Our Father." Let's try it together. Today we're going
to work together on a project for our room. Each
person is going to choose a part of the prayer to draw
and color on this mural. When we put it all together,
we'll have made the "Lord's Prayer."

Craft: "The Lord's Prayer" Frame

Materials: "The Lord's Prayer" worksheet, stickers,
sequins or other decorating materials, construction paper or
pre-cut mats with 5x7 openings

Our project today is to make a beautiful frame for the
"Lord's Prayer," so you can have it in your room. [Hold
up sample. Have children fill in the prayer and decorate the
frame. Tape prayer to frame or behind mat.] We'll color
the worksheet and then paste on construction paper for
a frame. You can decorate the frame. When you say the
"Lord's Prayer," the "Our Father" think about how
God loves you—like a father.



Closing

Our prayer for this unit is the "Lord's Prayer" and the Doxology.

First, let's be still and look at the icon of Jesus. [Make the sign of the cross, and say the "Lord's Prayer" slowly with the children, ending with the Doxology.]

God bless you. Have a good week!



Father



children



followers

The Lord's Prayer

Our _____, who art in
_____, hallowed be
thy _____. Thy kingdom
come, thy will be done on
_____ as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily
_____ and
_____ us our
trespasses as _____ forgive those
who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but
_____ us from evil.

For Yours is the kingdom . . .

Words to Use

Father
earth
name
heaven
we
forgive
bread
deliver



**Words
to Use**

Father
name
bread

Cutting line if prayers ist to be framed with pre-cut 5x7- opening mat

The Lord’s Prayer

Our _____, who
art in heaven, hallowed be
thy _____. Thy king-
dom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily
_____ and forgive us
our trespasses as we forgive
those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory of the Father, Son, and Holy
Spirit—now and ever and forever. Amen.