

Now We Can Pray "Our Father"

Objective: The students will be able to state that because we are God's people, we can call God "Our Father." They will be able to state one reason why they pray.

For the Catechist

The children have come to a deeper understanding of God the Father's love through the Mysteries of Baptism and Chrismation. The relationship that was begun at Baptism and Chrismation now grows through understanding and realization. The children come to know that something is happening between themselves and God. The children are realizing the love, care and concern which God graciously gives to them.

The children have learned the Lord's Prayer in the Kindergarten and Grade 1 texts. The meaning has been presented with graphics included in the text. They have also been introduced to the concept of sin and forgiveness so they should be ready to discuss trespasses and forgiveness in this lesson. The present lesson introduces the idea that because of our baptism and chrismation we have an intimate family relationship with the Almighty God. The words that introduce this prayer in the Divine Liturgy are: "And grant, O Lord, that we may with confidence, and without condemnation dare call upon You, Father, the God of heaven and say" We can call God "Our Father." This is a tremendous gift for all humanity. St. Paul says:

"For through faith you are all children of God in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ" (Galatians 3:26-27).

"As proof that you are children, God sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out, 'Abba, 'Father!'" (Galatians 4:6).

God has chosen and adopted us as His children with special love and tenderness. God is a loving Father. He worries about His children and can never be impersonal to them. "See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the

Lesson Plan Overview

Opening: "We Praise You"
(Refer to the "Liturgical Prayers According to Jurisdictions" in the section "Introduction to Grade 2" for the correct wording to use in your parish.)

Introduction: Discussion of relationships and special names **Need:** magazine photos and index cards

Read Text Aloud: Have students read text aloud.

Activity Tracks:

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

- *Basic:* Now We Call God "Father"
- *Group:* The Lord's Prayer with Motions
- *Craft:* "The Lord's Prayer" Collage

Closing: "We Praise You"

Come Bless the Lord Icon Packets:

Packet I:
Packet II:

Teaching Pic:

#DL17 Lord's Prayers

children of God! Yet so we are" (1 John 3:1).

As adopted children of God, we are brought into union with Him through the seal of the Spirit in Chrismation. "For those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God ... you received a spirit of adoption through which we cry, *Abba*, 'Father!' The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God" (*Romans 8:14-16*).

From earliest times the Lord's Prayer has been incorporated into the Divine Liturgy. The doxology "For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory..." was added by the Church in early times. All prayers end with a glorification of God. Whenever the "Our Father" is prayed, it is completed with the doxology. When you pray the Lord's Prayer, end with the doxology.

When His disciples asked Him how to pray, Jesus taught them. We continue to pray as Jesus taught us.

Background Reading

(Direct quotations from the sources noted.)

Forgive As We Forgive

"To forgive is truly divine. When we forgive we are sharing in a Godlike action. God has taken away the sin of the world in Jesus Christ, and God calls us to imitate His forgiving love. He even makes it a condition if we expect to share in the forgiveness He offers. As the Lord Jesus taught the disciples, we must forgive others if we want God to forgive us our own sins (Matthew 6:14-15). As He taught us to ask in the Lord's Prayer, 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.' Christ gave us the ultimate example of this teaching. When He was being crucified, He prayed for His tormentors, 'Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing'" (*Celebrating Forgiveness 32*).

The Lesson Plan

Opening

[Have the words ready for the students. Gather them at the icon corner.] *Our last unit was "I Put on Christ" which taught us how we became members of God's people. Do you remember which two Mysteries made us members of God's people? (Baptism and Chrismation) Which Mystery nourishes us as God's people (Holy Communion) Today we'll begin a new unit called "I Belong to the Church." For our opening prayer, we'll pray the hymn "We praise You, we bless You." It makes me think about how happy I am that I belong to the Church. I can pray to God and bless God and praise God now that I'm a member of God's people. Here are the words. Let's try to memorize this prayer.*

Introduction

[Before class, cut out pictures from magazines that show a few adults alone, a few children alone, and three or four mothers/fathers with children. Place index cards in front of students (or words on a chalkboard) so that there are cards with "mom" or "dad" written on them for each picture which is showing a mom or dad, and "son" or "daughter" for each picture to which those names might apply, and then enough other cards with personal names such as "Joe" or "Sue." The idea is to have the children realize that although everyone has a given name not everyone has a special relationship that gives them a special name such as "Father."] *I have many pictures here. Do you know any of these people? (No) I have written out some index cards with names. Let's see if we can decide what these people might be called.* [Have a child come forward and match a card with a picture. Comment with:] *"Yes, she looks like she might be called "Sue."* [When the first "mom" or "dad" card is placed, ask:] *"What made you think he/she could be called Dad/Mom?"* [Make the point that the person is called something other than their personal name because they are in relationship with someone else.]

[When all the cards are placed, ask:] *Do you ever get called "Son " or "Daughter"? How does it make you feel?* [Ask about other relationships that are special, i.e., granddaughter etc. If you are a mom or dad, share how it feels special when you are called "mom" or "dad." If you aren't a parent, think about other relationships (aunt, niece, sister, brother), and try to express the difference between receiving a card that says "Happy Birthday, Sister" rather than just "Happy Birthday."]

There are children in the world that don't have families. Do you know what they are called? (Orphans) Can you imagine not having family relationships? Most of these children long to have a family and someone to call "Dad" or "Mom" or "Sis." What do you think you'd feel if you were an orphan? [Allow responses.]

The good news is that none of us are orphans, nor can we ever be as long as we know God. Jesus taught us that we can call God "Father." As we just learned, that means we are in a special relationship with God. God cares about us and we care about pleasing God.

14

Now We Can Pray "Our Father"

When we were baptized and chrismated, we became members of God's family. We have a special relationship with God now. Jesus taught us about that relationship. Jesus taught us that God is our Father. God is a good and loving Father.

We learned this when Jesus taught us how to pray. In Jesus' time people used many, many words to pray. Jesus told us that God knows what we need. We should pray a simple prayer. The prayer Jesus gave us is called the "Lord's Prayer."



58

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).

Let's turn to our "Unit Introduction" page.

[Have one student read the lesson titles and another the questions at the bottom]. Look at the questions that will be answered. Do you think you know any of these answers?

God is a good and loving Father.

Jesus taught us to think about God as a good and loving Father. When I say "good and loving Father," what do you see in your imagination? [Allow responses.] If we all have the same father, what are we? (Brothers and sisters).

The prayer Jesus gave us is called the "Lord's Prayer."

Can you find the Lord's Prayer in this lesson? [Say prayer with students and include doxology with wording your parish uses.]

Let's look at the prayer and see if we understand the words. [Have a student read each phrase, pausing to make sure they know the words: hallowed=holy; trespasses=sins; temptation=the chance to do wrong; and deliver us=save us. You may wish to ask for examples of trespasses/sins and examples of being tempted. Be ready to offer your own examples.] One phrase we really need to understand is "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." We need to forgive others if we want God to forgive us. Have you ever asked for forgiveness? Have you ever forgiven someone?

It is called the doxology.

At the end of the Lord's Prayer, we always give praise to God with these words. We've learned that we are God's people and part of the kingdom of God. In the doxology we tell God that He is the Lord of the kingdom and to Him belongs all power and glory.



*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.
For . . .*

*Do you know the last line?
It gives praise to God. It is
called the doxology.*

19

We can talk to God and ask Him to help us.

[Allow responses to:] *Have you ever prayed about a hurt? Have you ever said "thank You" in prayer? Have you asked for God's help? It is wonderful to be able to pray to God. [From your prayer life, give examples of feeling God's peace and knowing He heard your prayer.]*

Let's review: *We call God "Father." What are some reasons why we do that? (We are God's people, and Jesus taught us to pray with those words.) Who can name one reason why we pray? (To ask for help, when we're hurt, to thank God)*



When we pray, we talk to God. We praise God. We can talk to God about what hurts us. We can talk to God to say "thank You" for His blessings. We can talk to God and ask Him to help us.

Jesus showed us that we can live united to God. We are united to God when we pray and live as Jesus taught. God loves us like a good Father. Jesus taught us to call Him "Our Father." It is wonderful to be united to God, our Father.

60

Activity Tracks

Basic: Now We Call God "Father"

Let's use this page to review what we've learned. At the top we'll circle the word that correctly completes the sentence, and at the bottom we'll check our understanding of some of the words of the Lord's Prayer.

Now We Call God "Father"

A. Circle the word that completes the sentence.

- When I was _____ I put on Christ. baptized swinging
- I became a child in God's _____. school family
- I can now call God "_____". easily Father
- God loves me, cares for me, and continues to give me _____. late life
- Jesus taught us to pray "_____". Our Father Now Begins
- This prayer is called the _____ Prayer. Lord's Life's

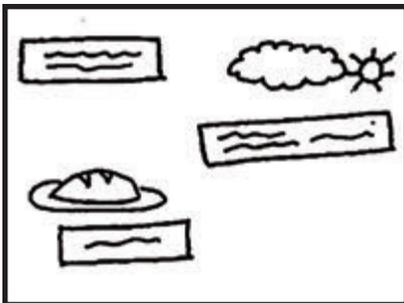
B. Match the word with another word that means almost the same thing:

1. hallowed	• upset
2. trespass	• sin
3. temptation	• good
4. deliver	• the chance to do wrong
	• return
	• holy
	• tree
	• game

Group:: The Lord's Prayer (with Gestures)

When we were baptized, we were clothed with Christ and sealed in His Spirit. We became children of God's family. One privilege of belonging to this family is calling God our Father. He loves us tenderly, cares for us and continues to give us life. Today I'll teach you how to say the Lord's Prayer using gestures. Follow what I do.

	Gesture
<i>Our Father, who art in heaven,</i>	arms upstretched
<i>hallowed be Thy name,</i>	head bowed with hands crossed in prayer
<i>Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done</i>	hands turned outwards at sides
<i>on earth as it is in heaven,</i>	hand on heart
<i>Give us this day our daily bread</i>	hands cupped together in petition
<i>and forgive us our trespasses</i>	head bowed
<i>as we forgive those who trespass against us,</i>	smile and nod to each other
<i>And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil</i>	hands crossed in prayer with head bowed slightly



Craft: "The Lord's Prayer" Collage

Materials: Construction paper, scissors, "The Lord's Prayer" activity sheet, magazine pictures of fathers, food.

Today we learned that God is our Creator. We also learned that God is our Father. What prayer did Jesus teach that tells us that God is our Father? (The Lord's Prayer) Whenever you say the Lord's Prayer, remember that God is our good and loving Father. To help you memorize the prayer, we'll make a collage. Here are the phrases from the Lord's Prayer, and here are some drawings. You can also use some pictures from magazines. To make your collage, place the words on the paper in the right order, and then place the illustrations.

Closing: Let's pray the hymn "We Praise You" together.

*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.*

