

The Our Father Prayer – The Lord’s Prayer

Materials Needed – Place them next to you.

- Copy of the Lord’s Prayer (So not to lose track of what comes next.)
- On a sheet of paper, lined or printer, glue photos of people and people with animals from the newspaper, magazines or printed off of the computer
- Write the word “HOLY” in large letters on a sheet of paper
- Write the word “No Trespassing” in large letters on a sheet of paper
- Print out a picture of a globe, or use a real one if you have at home, to represent the earth
- Loaf of Bread
- Stack of Monopoly money or a big shiny gemstone
- Crown or picture

Activity - Call your family to gather and as they read the prayer line-by-line you read what is in italics.

You: *Jesus taught us to say The Lord’s Prayer. This is the oldest Christian prayer we have and Jesus shared it with his first disciples. Christians all over the world and in all times and places have said this prayer. There are some big words and hard things to understand in this prayer, so we are going to think about them out loud together.*

Your Family: Our Father, who art in Heaven

You: Hold up the collage of people and recite out loud the following:

Some people find it helpful to think about God’s love for us like a father’s love for his children. But you can think about God’s love as being like the love of the person who knows you and loves you the best. You can think about God’s love being like your Mom and/or Dad’s love for you, or the love of your sister or brother, or the way your grandparents love you. God’s love for us is bigger than any love, but it helps us to think about it by remembering how we feel when we are with the person who knows us and loves us best.

Your Family: Hallowed be thy Name

You: Hold up HOLY and recite out loud the following:

“Hallowed” is a funny word, isn’t it? Does anyone know what it means? “Hallowed” is a word that means “holy” or “special.” And God’s name IS special and holy. We don’t want to use God’s name to hurt other people or in a way that is disrespectful. I’ll bet you don’t like it when people make fun of your name or say it in a nasty way. God doesn’t like it either.

Your Family: Thy Kingdom Come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven

You: Hold up the globe and recite out loud the following:

We ask God to help us do God’s will and to help us make the world the way God wants it to be – just like God sees the world in Heaven. What do you think the earth would be like if it was the way God wanted it to be? ... (Pause so all can think about your question.) In this part of the prayer, we are asking God to use us to help make the earth the way God imagines it can be.

Your Family: Give us this day our daily bread

You: Hold up the bread and recite out loud the following:

I wonder what this could mean? Back in the times when the Bible was written, bread was the basic necessity of life. In the prayer, bread is a symbol for asking God to make sure we have what we need. What do you think are the things we need? ... (Pause so all can think about your question.)

Your Family: And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us

You: Hold up No trespassing and recite out loud the following:

“Trespasses” is another of those big words that we need to think about. Have you ever seen a sign like this one? What do you think it means? ... (Pause so all can think about your question.) When we “trespass” against someone, we do something wrong, something that is hurtful or disrespectful of another person. We ask God to forgive us for what we do that is wrong, but we also promise God that we will forgive people who do things to us that are wrong. This is very hard and sometimes we have to work our whole lives to forgive someone. It isn’t always easy, but God understands that it is hard and knows when we are working at it. We don’t have to be perfect about it, we just have to be serious about working to forgive someone.

Your Family: Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil

You: Show the Monopoly money or the gem

“Temptation” is another big word. “Temptation” can be lots of things. What tempts you? It can be something as big as wanting to steal from other people or as small as sneaking a cookie from the cookie jar when Mom or Dad has said, “Not until after dinner!” We ask God to help us stay away from the things that we know are wrong for us to do. And that is how “deliver us from evil” gets into the prayer. In the “trespasses” line just before this one, we prayed about forgiving others from the wrong they had done us. This line of the prayer is our asking God to keep both of us from doing the wrong thing as well as protecting us from the wrong things other people might do to us.

Your Family: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever and ever

You: Hold up the crown

This almost last part of the prayer is us reminding ourselves that everything in the world, even our very selves, belongs to God. Even the things we think we own, really belong to God. In telling God that we know all the blessings and good things we have, come from God, we make a kind of promise that we will take good care of these gifts God has given us. We can do this by taking good care of our bodies, not using more water than we need, picking up litter or recycling, sharing with a new person at school – these are all good examples of how we remind ourselves to take care of what God has given us and asked us to take care of.

Your Family: Amen

You: Conclude with the following

“Amen” means “so be it” or “let it be so.” When we say “Amen,” we are saying that what we have prayed, we mean, and we mean to do. It is sort of a way of saying that we promise to do the things we have prayed in this prayer. Now, let’s say the whole prayer together.