

# Pray for One Another

Grades  
**3-4**

**PRAYER • LECTIONARY 26 • YEAR B**

**JAMES 5:13-20**



26

## What's happening in this story?

James shares the full scope of uses and types of prayer in Christian practice. Prayer can be used in *all* situations, from rejoicing about good news to reacting to sickness. The practice of prayer is embedded in the church's worship life. James reinforces the early church's continuity with the Hebrew scriptures, using an example from the life of the prophet Elijah to illustrate a point about prayer. We also stand in a line of continuity with Elijah in our own prayer and worship practices.

## What does this story mean for kids?

Kids may not be familiar with the idea that we can pray at all times, not just during sickness or suffering. Help them understand that we are called to pray with one another in all circumstances. If kids have experienced praying for something and it not turning out as they hoped, they may think this means their prayer didn't work, or that God didn't listen to them or answer their prayer. Help them understand that God listens and responds to all our prayers, but not always in the way we expect or hope.

## What is the lectionary connection?

An active prayer life is something we can cultivate every day and season of the church year, including "Ordinary" time. We do not need to wait for special occasions like Advent or Lent to begin a prayer routine.

## AGE LEVEL TIP

Prayer can be difficult for kids! Their young minds deal with concrete things better than abstractions. Help them attach the idea of prayer to concrete practices like *telling* God things or *asking* God things.



### GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Markers
- Stapler

### LESSON SUPPLIES

- Paper cups
- String
- Beach ball
- Permanent marker

**WHIRL SUPPLIES • WHIRL NRSV BIBLES • DVD • WALL CHART • LEAFLETS**

## Do some kids arrive early? Try this.

Make a paper-cup-and-string “telephone.” Have supplies available for kids to make, decorate, and use their own “telephones” to tell each other their plans for the rest of the day.

## Invite kids to look at the Wall Chart.

Point out today’s date, church season, color, and icon. Invite someone to mark the chart with a kneeling stick figure. **The practice of prayer has always been an important part of our faith. Our Old Testament ancestors prayed to receive God’s promises. Jesus and his disciples prayed for understanding about what those promises meant. Today we pray in many ways as we live in those promises. Thank God for prayer!**

Ask kids to kneel in a circle as you say: **God, thank you for always listening to us. Help us to listen to you.**

## Pass out leaflets and markers.

If you have something really important you want a trusted grown-up to know, how would you tell them? Ask kids to look at the leaflet and circle the *most* likely way they would tell and put a box around the *least* likely way. **Why did you choose each one? Is there**

**any wrong way to let important adults know what’s going on in your life? Why or why not?**

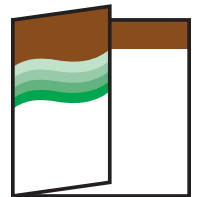
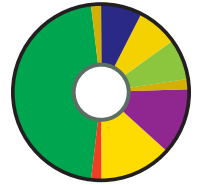
## Gather kids around the screen where you’ll watch the video.

Where in our church have you seen people praying? In today’s video we’ll find out more about where and why we pray.

View Episode 3 “Why Pray Tell?” on the Whirl Year B Fall Grades 3–6 DVD.

Ask kids these questions about the video:

- **When are you most comfortable praying?**
- **Which character do you think prays most like you? Why?**
- **Who teaches you how to pray?**
- **What are your reasons for wanting or *not* wanting to pray out loud?**
- **What did Ruby learn about prayer?**



## Pass out Whirl NRSV Bibles and help kids find James 5:13-20.

Do the Lectionary 26 Preview Activity together on page 1432 and compare responses.

Read James 5:13-20 in this creative way together: **Today's text is all about prayer. What kinds of things do you think we can pray about?** Give time for kids to answer; encourage prayers of gratitude as much as prayers of concern. Write kids' responses below the questions so you can include them in a prayer after talking about the story. Read today's text, respond to the questions below, and then pray a short prayer including some or all of their requests.



### Ask these questions after you read the story:

- What different ways of praying did you hear?
- What do you feel when you're praying?
- How can talking with God help you?
- What about prayer do you wish you understood better?
- What is your favorite thing about prayer?

### BIBLE BIT

Verse 16 isn't just about physical healing. The practice of confessing to others can restore our peace of mind and heal our spirits. Community is good!

### WATCH IT AGAIN

How could Ruby turn all her reasons for not praying into an opportunity for gratitude or generosity?

### OUR CHURCH

Discuss the various places and times where prayer happens at your church. Take a tour of a prayer room or locate where prayer requests could be submitted.

**TODAY'S READINGS** Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 🌐 • Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 📖  
**James 5:13-20** • Mark 9:38-50

# RESPOND 10

## Open leaflets and pass out markers.

Tear off leaflet square.

1. Ask kids to look at the questions on the leaflet's beach ball. **Choose one question and write your answer inside the wedge.**
2. While kids are writing, inflate a beach ball.
3. With a permanent marker, write the words "who," "what," "when," "where," "why," and "how" on the ball, one word per wedge.
4. Toss the ball to a kid. Ask that kid the question on the leaflet that matches the label that the kid's left hand is touching when they catch the ball, even if it's not the one they answered on the leaflet.
5. That kid then tosses the ball to another kid; repeat the process. Keep tossing until everyone has a chance to participate. Help kids think of multiple responses for all the questions.
6. **How can we remember to pray with and for each other each time we gather this year?**
7. Encourage the kids to finish filling in their wedges when they get home.

# LAUNCH 10

## Circle up with kids for a quick review.

**Prayer gives us an amazing opportunity to speak to God, listen to God and each other, and share happy and sad times. What did you hear about prayer that you had not thought of before?** Take time to hear kids' responses.

## Return to the leaflet panels, pass out markers, and get your stapler ready.

**Fold panels on the dotted line. Write your name and a prayer request on one side and the name of a friend you'll pray for on the other.** Make a prayer chain link by placing the black strips on top of each other. Staple links together. Hang prayer chain.

## Send kids out.

Kneel together in a circle as you say: **God, thank you for always listening to us. Help us to listen to you.**

Pray together: **God, it's amazing to be able to thank you, praise you, and bring our joys and problems to you. Thanks for what we're doing *right now!* Amen.**

Thank kids for thinking and talking about how they communicate with God! Remind them of the Family Square on the other side of the leaflet.