

Pray for One Another

PreK-
K

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 is a conversation with God that includes both *talking* and *listening*. Young kids can spend short periods of time quietly listening for God when they pray. If kids wonder how they will hear God, suggest ways such as in your heart or through the Bible, other people, or stories and songs.



GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Glue sticks
- Crayons
- Scissors
- Construction paper (precut into 2-in. circles with the word *Pray* written on them)

LESSON SUPPLIES

- Handheld mirror
- Objects that make noise (whistle, spoons, bell, etc.)
- Envelopes (business-size, 1 per kid)

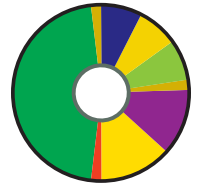
WHIRL SUPPLIES • WHIRL STORY BIBLES • DVD • FLOOR MAT • LEAFLETS

Do some kids arrive early? Try this.

Every day has some good things and some not-so-good things in it. Have kids share one high and one low they remember from yesterday or today. Kids can act out part of the story so the other kids can guess what happened.

Invite kids to sit around the Floor Mat.

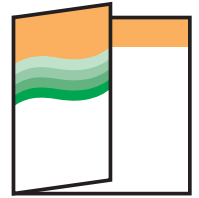
Point out the season (Season after Pentecost), color (green), and icon (footprints). Give each kid a paper circle with the word *Pray* written on it. **The circle you are holding says “Pray.” Prayer is having a conversation with God. God wants to hear us talk about *everything!* We can talk to God about things we are happy or sad about. We can ask God for help. We can talk about *anything*.** Invite kids to place their circles on the Season after Pentecost section of the Floor Mat.



Pass the mirror around the circle, with kids holding it out to reflect things and people around them. **When you hold the mirror, say, “God, I will pray about everything.”**

Pass out leaflets and paper circles from the Floor Mat activity.

We can pray to God anytime, no matter what we’re doing. God is always listening. What do you see the kids on the leaflet doing? Which shows a good time to pray? Put your Pray circle over that photo. Which are times when you pray? Put your Pray circle over that photo. How could you pray during storytime? During playtime? Mealtime? What about in the morning? Which is the time you pray most often? Put your Pray circle over the photo that shows your favorite time to pray. Collect their leaflets until Respond.



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

In today’s video, the kids have different ideas about how to pray. Let’s see what happens when they think they have to get God’s attention.

View Episode 3, “Winging a Prayer,” on the Whirl Year B Fall PreK–Grade 2 DVD.

Ask kids these questions about the video:

- What were some of the ways the kids tried to talk to God? Which ones seem silliest?
- When do you feel like you need to be loud to be heard?
- How is the way Mimi prays different from the other kids?
- How do you pray?
- How can you be sure God hears you?



Pass out Whirl Story Bibles to kids.

Let's find our story today! Help kids find "A Praying Way" on page 502. Start by pointing out the graphic that shows the footprints in the green circle for the Season after Pentecost. Before you read, invite kids to look for people praying about many things in many ways.



Read the story and Ada and Otto's questions and comments on each page.

Ask these questions after you read the story:

- The Bible story says we should *always* pray to God. Why do you think God wants us to pray about everything?
- Name some things you can pray about.
- What things do you give God thanks for in prayer?
- When have you prayed for someone who was sick?
- God loves to listen to our prayers and to talk to us. How can you listen for God?

Play together!

God always listens to our prayers. It doesn't matter what we sound like or what we want to talk to God about—God wants to hear what we have to say. God also wants to talk to us, which means we need to listen too. Let's practice listening! I will make a noise, and you guess the sound. Have kids close their eyes. Make noises using various objects (whistle, bell, etc.) or miscellaneous items in the classroom—drop a book, close a door, tap spoons together. Kids may also take turns being the noisemaker. **Great job listening today! Remember that prayer is *talking and listening* to God.**

BIBLE BIT

- One of the marks of a Christian community is prayer. James encourages the church to remain faithful in prayer as individuals and as a community.

WATCH IT AGAIN

- If you watch the video again, pay attention to how Mimi's prayers are similar to the way you would talk to a friend or family member.

OUR CHURCH

- Show kids the worship book your congregation uses for prayer. Select one or two simple prayers of thanksgiving or confession to say together.

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

Pass out leaflets and crayons.

Unfold and tear off leaflet square.

- 1. The leaflet shows a prayer labyrinth.** Have kids repeat the word *labyrinth* (LAB-a-rinth). **Sometimes people use labyrinths to pray. Most labyrinths have paths large enough to walk in. When you walk through a labyrinth, you stop at places called “stations” to pray. We’ll walk this labyrinth with our fingers. As we walk, we’ll stop to pray.** At each station, have kids color the feet. **Find Tot at the entrance. Let’s pray. God, be with us as we walk this labyrinth.**
- 2. Walk your fingers to the first station where Victor is (Troubles). If you are sad about something, tell God about it while I pray. God, help us know you are with us when we feel sad.** Pray slowly so kids have time to share with God.
- 3. Walk fingers to the second station (Ada/Thanks). God, you have given us many gifts. Thank you.**
- 4. Walk fingers to the third station (Clara/Healing). If you know someone who is sick, say his or her name while I pray. God, we pray for (insert names) and ask you to heal them.**
- 5. Walk fingers to the fourth station (Jax/Forgiveness). God, we’re sorry for doing things that don’t please you. Forgive us.**
- 6. Walk your fingers to the last station in the center (Otto/Friends and Family). God, bless the people we love.** Ask kids to close their eyes and sit quietly. Count silently to 10. **Amen.**
- 7. Walk fingers out of the labyrinth. What was the labyrinth like? Did you feel or hear anything? Who or what did you pray about?**

LAUNCH 10

Circle up with kids for a quick review.

God wants us to pray about everything. What new idea about prayer did you see or learn about today? Take time to hear kids’ responses.

Pass out leaflet panels, scissors, and envelopes.

Cut out the prayer squares and place them in the envelope. **This week, take out your prayers to say with your family.**

Send kids out.

Pass the mirror around the circle. **When it’s your turn, look into it and say, “God, thank you for listening to my prayers.”**

Pray together: **Dear God, thanks for hearing our prayers! Help us remember to talk and listen to you every day. Amen.**

Thank kids for practicing prayer today. Remind them of the Family Square on the other side of the leaflet.