

## 2.14 FRIENDS OF GOD TALK WITH GOD

Topic: Becoming a Friend of God

Subtopic: Introducing Prayer

2A. Prayer and Worship; 2C Sin

Class: Standard II (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)

Objectives:

**Knowledge:** When asked what prayer is, students will define prayer as talking with God.

**Attitude:** Students will begin developing a prayer relationship with God.

Materials Needed:

Exercise and Memory Verse Books

Chalkboard and chalk

Letters for PRAISE GOD (optional)

Scripture:

**References:** Genesis 2:8-3:24; Luke 11:1-2

Teacher's Notes

Memory Verse: "Lord, teach us to pray." Luke 11:1 GNT

### TEACHER ACTIVITIES

**Introduction:**

1. Have you seen people praying? What do you think they are doing when they pray?

**Bible Story:**

2. Adam and Eve talked with God in the garden. Tell their story from Genesis 2:8-3:24. What did Jesus' disciples ask Jesus about prayer?

**Suggested Discussion Questions**

3. Is talking with God just asking God for things?
4. Is praying just for adults?
5. How do we begin our time of prayer?
6. While we are learning to pray, there is a pattern that can help us focus our prayers. It is called ACTS. What do those letters mean?

**Application:**

7. Will you join me in a prayer time using ACTS as a guide? Let's make this a very special time of talking with God.

**Evaluation:**

8. Are you including talking with God every day?

### STUDENT ACTIVITIES

**Introduction:**

1. Students will explain what they understand about prayer—talking with God.

**Bible Story:**

2. Children will listen and learn that God invites us to talk with Him and He will teach us to pray if we ask.

**Possible Answers to Questions:**

3. Talking with God includes thanking God for things He does for us, telling Him we are sorry for things we have done wrong, asking for direction for our lives.
4. God likes to hear children pray too.
5. Begin praying by closing out distractions so you can focus on God
6. These are four words to remind us what to include in our prayers: A is Adoration for God; C is confessing our sins; T is thanksgiving and S is supplication.

**Application:**

7. Students will become involved in praying as a group with teacher's guidance.

**Evaluation:**

8. Students mention praying while walking to and from school, before meals, at bedtime, any time

### **Extension Activities**

1. In their Memory Verse Exercise Book, have them write the memory lesson: “Lord, teach us to pray.” Luke 11:1 GNT
2. In their regular exercise book, have them write “Friends of God Pray”. Underneath have them copy the acronym for ACTS from the chalkboard.
3. Letter Jumble: **Materials needed: Prepare in advance individual letters that spell P-R-A-I-S-E G-O-D.** Jumble the letters and then have each child draw one. (If you have more than nine children, select nine to do the exercise or if you have fewer than nine children, each child may draw more than one.) Ask them to think of something to praise God for that begins with the letter they have drawn. When everyone has given a praise beginning with the letter they have drawn, see if they can “unscramble” the letters to come out with the words PRAISE GOD. Have them stand in the order of the letters in the words so everyone can see. (You may have to give them a hint that it is two words and that those words relate to what they have just been doing. You may have to suggest that the first word begins with P etc.
4. Variation of the Letter Jumble is to write all of the letters for PRAISE GOD on the chalkboard but jumble them up and have the children unscramble them.

## **NOTES FOR TEACHERS**

### **Highlights for the Bible Story**

1. God is eager to talk with us. He wants to be our Friend. Friends like to talk together.
2. When God created the world, He made a man called Adam and his wife, Eve. They lived in a beautiful garden.
3. God would come and walk and talk in the garden with Adam and Eve.
4. Then Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating fruit from the tree God had told them not to eat from. That disobedience separated them from God. They had sinned when they disobeyed God. No longer did God come and walk with them. Instead, the only way they could talk with God was by burning sacrifices of animals. That was not nearly as satisfying because there was no conversation back and forth.
5. Many years later, when Jesus was doing His ministry here on earth, He would find time to get by himself and talk with God.
6. He especially did that when He had big decisions to make, when He was tired, when He was too busy, when people wanted to make Him their king.
7. His disciples watched Him do this and one day they asked Jesus, “Lord, teach us to pray.” (Luke 11:1)
8. If Jesus needed to pray, they knew it must be important. They were right.
9. If Jesus needed to pray, so do we need to pray. Today we are going to talk about how we pray.

### **Key Points to Include About Praying**

God invites us to talk with Him because He wants to be involved in our lives.

Sometimes we disappoint God. We call that sin and the only way we can get back into fellowship with God is to pray and ask forgiveness for our sin.

If we have friends, we like to talk with them. The same is true with being a friend of God. We want to talk with Him.

God likes to hear the things we want and need but He also likes to hear us give thanks and praise to Him.

God likes to hear adults pray but He also wants to talk with children.

We need to find time each day to talk with God where we are not distracted by other things.

### **ACTS: A Suggested Pattern for Helping Us Learn to Pray**

**A stands for Adoration.** That means we tell God how special He is. e.g. He is loving, faithful, provides for our needs, forgives our sins, cares about us, is always present, is powerful etc.

**C stands for Confession.** When we do things that displease God—when we sin—we need to tell God we are sorry. That means we confess to God that we have done wrong. e.g. tell a lie, take something that doesn't belong to us, hurt a friend's feeling

**T stands for Thanksgiving.** When we have confessed our sins, our hearts feel free and we want to give God thanks. Other things we can thank God for are parents, forgiveness, homes, friends, schools.

**S stands for Supplication.** Supplication is a big word but it means that we tell God what we want or need. Our desires should not be selfish desires or things that would make God sad. Supplication includes things like asking for a sick person to get well, asking God to help you know Him better, ask for someone to become your friend, ask that your unchurched neighbor come to church.

### **GUIDING THE STUDENTS IN PRAYER USING ACTS**

We have the wonderful privilege of talking with God. We are going to pray as a group and the teacher will give some guidance incorporating ACTS so we can learn to pray. Let's bow our heads and close our eyes and talk with God.

Let's begin by adoring God. We'll just praise God for the special Person He is. [Begin the prayer and invite the children to each say one thing they want to adore God for who He is.] **"Dear God, You are such a wonderful God. We praise you for your love and ...[You may have to help them remember—faithfulness, powerful, caring, always present, available to talk with us etc]."**

[Continue with the prayer after several have praised God.] **"Sometimes, God, we do things that disappoint You. We want to admit those things to you.** [Admit something you know displeased God in your life and invite the children to admit their own.] **"Forgive us for these our sins, dear God."**

**"Thank you God for forgiving our sins. Thank you for each child who wants to talk with you today. Listen to them give thanks to you."** [invite each child to give thanks for something] **"You are such a gracious God."**

**"Lord, You have told us to let you know the desires of our hearts. Lord, I long to see every boy and girl in this room come to know you as their Lord and Savior."** [Invite the children to tell God their desires.]

[Close with a closing prayer or use this suggested prayer]: **Dear Jesus, what a privilege it is to be able to talk directly with you. Thank you that you seek our friendship. Thank you for all the things you do for each of us. We want to walk with you throughout life. Thank you for being our Friend. Amen**

**Teacher Evaluation**

Have these students learned that talking with God is something God invites them to do? Do they see in me that talking with God is something I treasure? Have I given them handles that will help them come easily to God in prayer? How will I continue to encourage them to pray and to develop a greater relationship with God?