

Question 41

What is the Lord's Prayer?



Answer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Big Idea

Jesus gave all believers a model of prayer when he taught his disciples the Lord's Prayer.

Aim

To further equip the children with a pattern of everyday prayer.

Bible Passage

Matthew 6:5–15

Memory Verse

“Pray then like this: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. . . .’” (Matt. 6:9)

Virtue
Humility





Notes

Leader's Notes

Some of the children may already know the Lord's Prayer by heart. What they may not realize is that the prayer contains a beautiful pattern of prayer, which should be followed by all believers. Sometimes familiarity causes the essence of this prayer to be overlooked. It is not wrong to learn and recite the Lord's Prayer, but it is important to clearly understand the model contained in the prayer. This lesson should further form the children's understanding of what and how to pray. This is the conclusion of the questions in *The New City Catechism* that specifically focus on prayer.

Things to remember when planning and teaching:

- Beware of the children's familiarity with the Lord's Prayer. It will mean that you need to work especially hard to engage the children in this lesson.
- The lesson should show the children that Jesus provides an excellent pattern of prayer to personally follow.
- Remember to mix and match the activities in the lesson to fit your time frame (see p. 12 for some sample outlines). You won't have time to do them all. Feel free to adapt each activity based on your class's strengths and weaknesses.

Leader's Prayer

Father God, help me to be inspired and challenged as I come to study the prayer that Jesus himself taught. Help me to read it with fresh eyes. Please teach me to pray in a way that is consistent with your Word and

glorifying to your name. May the children who will hear this lesson be challenged to learn from the patterns of prayer that you institute through your Word. In Jesus's name. Amen.

Leaders Tool Kit

- Ping-pong balls
- Bag or bingo cage
- Q41 Illustrations of Learned Skills (RB)
- Markers
- Q41 Lord's Prayer Bookmark (RB), printed on cardstock, one for each child
- Stickers for decorating the bookmarks
- A printout of Matthew 6:9–13 for each child
- Prayer notebooks from previous weeks
- Whiteboard and marker



10 Catechism Recap

Write the numbers of a random assortment of the questions that have already been taught on ping-pong balls and put them into a bag or box. If your budget allows, purchase a bingo cage or blower to add to the fun, or make your own.

Divide the children into two teams and explain that you are going to have a quiz to

help them remember some of *The New City Catechism* questions they've already learned. Let each team pick a numbered ball out for their opponents. The opposing team will get two points if they can remember the catechism question and answer associated with the number. The team with the most points wins! Remember, this is meant to be a fun and engaging activity!

5 Introduction to Question 41

Show the children Q41 Illustrations of Learned Skills (RB). Ask them to identify what each person is doing. (Skiing, skydiving, playing the cello, fencing, driving a car.) Tell the children that these are all things that are fun to learn how to do. How would a person go about learning to do one of these things?

Help them to realize that to learn any of these skills, you would need a teacher.

Explain to the children that many things in life need to be taught. The Christian life is all about teaching and learning; we need to be taught to learn and grow as Christians. Introduce Question 41: "What is the Lord's Prayer?" and explain that it allows us to see Jesus teaching his friends how to pray. They said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray," and Jesus used the prayer that we now know as the Lord's Prayer as a model for them.

10 Activity



Print on cardstock and cut out the Lord's Prayer Bookmark (RB) for each child. Have markers and stickers available to decorate the bookmarks.

Encourage the children to decorate the bookmark and take it home to keep in their Bible or prayer journal. As they decorate, take turns reading the prayer out loud to help with memorization.



15 Teaching Outline

Print a copy of Matthew 6:9–13 for each child in the group. Have lots of markers available.

Begin the teaching time by asking for God's help. Ask that the lesson would be taught faithfully and that the children might listen well.

Introduce the children to Matthew's Gospel. Tell the children that the Gospels record much about Jesus's life and ministry. Explain to them that chapter 6 is part of a long sermon (called the Sermon on the Mount) from Jesus. Tell the children this lesson will focus on the part of the sermon that addresses the practice of prayer.

Jesus reminds those listening to his sermon that prayer is about a personal relationship with God. Remind the children that our attitude matters! Tell them that what we know about God—that he is a loving, all-powerful Father—should affect the way we approach him in prayer.

Pass out the copies of Matthew 6:9–13.

Explain that Jesus taught his disciples how to pray in Matthew 6:9–13, and this prayer should now be used as a pattern of prayer for each believer.

Have the children read the Lord's Prayer and ask them to do the following things on their paper:

- Circle the part of the prayer where Jesus addresses God.

- Put a squiggly line under the part where Jesus praises God the Father.
- Underline every request Jesus makes for himself and his disciples.

Ask the children some questions to help them see what Jesus is teaching us about prayer.

1. Based on the way Jesus prays, how should we address God in prayer?

Jesus teaches us to address our prayers to God the Father. Christians have been adopted into God's family and therefore can call him Father. The more we get to know him as Father, the easier it will be to pray!

2. What does Jesus mean when he prays that God's will would be done?

Jesus is asking that many people would become Christians and love God with their whole hearts, and that they would act in accord with his Word.

3. Why does Jesus ask for God's name to be hallowed?

This is a way of praising God and saying he should be respected and worshiped above anyone else.

4. Why does Jesus pray for daily bread?

He encourages us to pray for our essential daily needs. This helps us to remember that every good gift is



from God. Without him, we wouldn't even have food!

God's help to recognize temptation and run from it.

5. What does this model prayer teach us about forgiveness?

If we are seeking God's forgiveness, we must forgive those who have wronged us.

6. Why does Jesus pray that we will not be led into temptation?

Because of our sinful nature, we are easily led astray by sin. We need

Finish the teaching time by helping the children commit Question 41 and the answer to memory.

(These notes are just for guidance. Please expand or amend them to suit your own children and context. Write out your talk in your own words and include illustrations and applications that you know will connect with your children.)



Activity



Pass out the prayer notebooks. Make sure each child gets the one he or she started, and have extras on hand for any students who were absent the week they were made.

Ask the children to write a prayer inspired by the model of the Lord's Prayer. It should include words of praise, requests about God's work in the world, requests for your needs, a

request for forgiveness, and a request for help. They can make their prayers more specific than the Lord's Prayer. For example, they can list out more needs than just bread. They can also ask forgiveness for specific sins. Assure them that this is meant for God's eyes alone.

The prayer journals can be sent home with the children this week.



Discussion and Question Time

Some questions that might arise include:

? Can we pray for things not mentioned in the Bible?

Yes, reassure the children that we can bring all our praises and requests to God.

No, but remind the children that it's a helpful tool to learn to pray in a biblical way.

? Do we always have to use the pattern of the Lord's Prayer?

? Will God always answer our prayers?

Yes, tell the children God does answer his people's prayers, but it may not always be in the way people want or expect. Sometimes he says no,



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sometimes he says yes, and sometimes he tells us to wait.

Also use this opportunity to help the children think about their own lives and how this question and answer affects them personally.

- How might they use this pattern of prayer in their own prayer life?
- Ask the children to think of specific ways they could pray for God's will to be done on earth.
- What does it mean to ask God for our daily bread?

10 Virtue Vision



Humility

In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus asked his Father to provide daily bread. Ask the children to think about where bread comes from. Help them think through the steps that happened before it came to them.

- Someone bought it at a grocery store or bakery.
- Someone baked the loaf.
- Someone mixed the ingredients.
- Someone ground wheat into flour.
- Someone picked the wheat from the field.
- Sun and rain made the wheat grow.
- Someone planted the wheat.

A lot of steps go into providing our daily bread. The richest person in the world

probably thinks he doesn't need to ask God for his daily bread—he can buy his own! But ask the children which of those steps is something that all the money in the world can't make happen.

Help the children see that only God can send the sun and rain. No matter how wealthy or powerful we get, we could never even provide our own bread without God sending us what we need. Realizing this should make us humble.

Ask the children if there's anything else in the Lord's Prayer that reminds us to be humble. Help them see that when we pray "forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors," it reminds us that none of us is any better than another. We all need God's forgiveness. That should humble us!

10 Memory Activity

Write the memory verse or catechism answer on a whiteboard large enough so every child can read it.

Tell the children that you are going to read the memory verse or catechism answer together while you do a series of different actions:



- Read the words out loud while patting your own head.
- Read the words out loud while hopping on one foot.
- Read the words out loud while doing jumping jacks.
- Read the words out loud while clapping your hands.
- Say the words out loud while keeping your eyes closed.

Notes



Closing Prayer Time

Pray the Lord's Prayer together to conclude the lesson.