

Teaching Children To Pray

Notes for the person facilitating this training are written in blue. It's important to read through all exercises and all blue text instructions when preparing to facilitate this training.

All videos can be previewed prior to the training session but be aware that this course has a two-month limited access. So the training needs to be completed within two months from the date of purchase.

The timing of each exercise is a guide only. For example, a larger group may need more time in sharing ideas from multiple small groups after a brainstorming exercise.

Allocate two hours for this training, with a twenty minute break after Exercise #4 (around the sixty minute mark). If possible, provide tea and coffee and some light refreshments.

Set Up:

- Set up chairs around tables (ideally 6-7 per table)
- Cover tables with paper
- Place coloured markers on each table
- Place wrapped lollies on tables as treats (optional)

Need:

- Data projector
- Sound system

Introduction:

- Welcome people.
- Indicate timing of breaks and essential information for all in attendance (toilet locations, emergency exits...).
- Begin by committing the time to God in prayer.
- Encourage everyone to introduce themselves to those in their group if appropriate.

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Welcome people and open in prayer.

EXERCISE #1 (10 mins. Questions 1-4 personal reflection - not to share, Questions 5-6 share in pairs) Tick all those that accurately describe you.

Note: Only fill in sections that are relevant for you in Question 4.

1. I've set aside time in the last week to talk to my Father in heaven for ten minutes or more (tick one):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> every day | <input type="checkbox"/> once per week |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 times per week | <input type="checkbox"/> not at all |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 times per week | |

2. I talk to God throughout the day (tick one):

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> continually | <input type="checkbox"/> occasionally |
| <input type="checkbox"/> frequently | <input type="checkbox"/> never |

3. The people I live with would say of me that praying is (tick one):

- ☐ very important and practised often
- ☐ important but not practised often
- ☐ not important and rarely practised

4. Kids' Ministry Leaders (tick all that are true for you) - I pray for the children I teach:

- ☐ just before and/or just after I teach them
- ☐ when I'm with my team
- ☐ as a group (but not by name), once a week
- ☐ individually by name, once a week
- ☐ individually by name, once a month
- ☐ their families as well
- ☐ this year and from previous years
- ☐ out loud with them each time I teach them
- ☐ I tell the children I teach that I pray for them

Parents (tick all that are true for you) - I pray for my children:

- ☐ daily
- ☐ for their salvation
- ☐ that they will grow in godliness
- ☐ that they may stick with Jesus through trials and suffering
- ☐ I tell my children that I pray for them
- ☐ I pray with my children regularly
- ☐ I intentionally teach my children how to pray
- ☐ I pray with my spouse for our children

5. What or who has had the most impact on your prayer life?
6. If it was a person, what did they do that impacted you?

Video #1: PRAYERFUL DEPENDENCE

Parents and kids ministry leaders partner together in teaching kids to pray.
Prayer is not an optional extra for young disciples of Christ.

- Teach children the importance of prayer.
- Teach them to enjoy their Father in heaven through prayer.
- Teach them to journey the ups and downs of life in prayerful dependence.

What we do matters.

- Do they see us praying?
- Do they hear us praying?

EXERCISE #2 (8 minutes, group activity)

1. What do these passages teach us about prayer?

And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

~Matthew 6:5-8

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

~1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

~Philippians 4:6-7

Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

~James 5:13-16

Encourage each group to share one or two reflections from Exercise #2 (5 minutes).