

READ IT

This week's Bible story is

The Lord's Prayer

from Matthew 6:5-15.

Prayers should not be public performances but for God alone.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Hypocrite
- Hallowed
- Synagogue
- Debt
- Gentile
- Trespasses

A critique of praying without thinking is in Ecclesiastes 5:2. A critique of praying without trying to behave as God commands is in Isaiah 1:15.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 278-281

Spark NRSV Bible page 1064

Family Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. You will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

- 1 What is okay to say to or to ask of God in prayer?
- 2 What makes a good prayer?
- 3 How and when does God answer prayers?
- 4 Everybody take turns adding something to the Lord's Prayer to personalize it. For example, "...forgive us our debts, when we hurt each other's feelings, when we disobey our parents..."

Eye Spark

Watch for corners this week: corners of a room, of a block, of shapes in your math book. Each time you see a corner, remember Jesus telling us to go into a corner (a private place) to pray.

Ear Spark

Listen for silence: the moment after a song finishes, before traffic begins for the day, in between gusts of wind, underneath noises. Listen for God in the silence.

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LIVE IT

For families to do together

Pick a place in your home to be used for quiet prayer. What would you like in that space? A special pillow or chair? A cross or an icon? A copy of the Lord's Prayer or the Bible? Set up your space and take time to be in it together as you say a quiet prayer as a family.

For younger kids

There are many ways to pray. Pictures can be prayers. Draw a picture of something you want to share with God. Songs can be prayers. Sing a song for God.

For older kids

Create a prayer to God in your words and write it down. Choose to fold and keep your prayer private or to share it quietly with someone you love.

