**Sunday School from Home**

**February 7, 2021**

This week we read the passage in which Jesus teaches his disciples to pray.

* Read the passage – Matthew 6:5-15
* Help your child recite the Lord’s Prayer in the way you normally would, and help them to break it down into kid friendly terms. Use the simplified version in the attachments to help you.
* Ask your children why they think Jesus taught the disciples to pray, and why we use this same prayer today.
* For older kids and adults, explore different versions of the Lord’s Prayer. Use the attachment (Many Ways to Pray) or research online.
* Now that you have read several versions of the Lord’s Prayer, try writing one in your own words. This can be done as a family group or individually, depending on the ages of your children.
* Are there other prayers you say from memory? Some denominations have more rote prayers than others. Why might we choose a rote prayer at times?
* Teach your child a simple five finger prayer – touch one finger for each of the following: pray for yourself (thumb), pray for someone else (pointer), pray for our leaders and teachers (middle), pray for those we love (ring), pray for those who are small or in need of help (pinkie). Reinforce this pattern using the hand printable – children can color each finger a different color, or make a fingerprint with paint on each finger in the printout.
* Part of the Lord’s Prayer (or praying in general) is about thanking God for our blessings. However, sometimes we forget to say thank you for the ordinary things! Select a few mundane items from around the house, and ask children to explain why we should be thankful to God for these items. Pray together thanking God for everything we are given, the big things and the small things!
* Print out one 3-D prayer sheet for each child (cardstock works best if you have it). Follow the instructions to make praying hands, and help your child to decide where to display them. Some people have pictures or sculptures of praying hands in their homes to remind them to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)
* Learn about the Western Wall in Jerusalem, where thousands of people go to pray. Watch these two videos:

[Thousands of Prayer Notes Removed from Western Wall - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sRdehiD0Ao4)

[Western Wall Facts & Figures - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8xsXqDYZUD0)

* Taking inspiration from the videos above, create a prayer wall in your home! This could be a small bulletin board or white board, a section of wall that you mark off with painter’s tape, the refrigerator door, or any other place that makes sense for you. Work together as a family to decorate the space to make it special. Then give everyone one or more post-it notes to write a prayer request and hang it on the wall. Add more throughout the week.
* Use as many of the attachments that are helpful for you!