

Let's Pray!

Talking with people is important to us! We make sure that we can call others whenever we want. We also make sure people can reach us wherever we are.

If you needed to talk to your Mom or Dad, how would you do it? Most likely, you'd go to them, probably at home, and let them know you need to talk. Maybe you talk in your room. Maybe you chat in the car. Either way, you can sit down and talk face to face with your parents just about any time they are available.

If you needed to talk to your friend, how would you do that? A good friend is sometimes only a text or a Tweet away. Maybe you talk online or on your phones. Maybe you talk in person, if you live close by or have time at school. Or maybe you go old school and simply write them a note on a piece of paper.

If that's how you talk to your parents and your friends, then how do you talk to God? That's a good question, isn't it? Mom and Dad are right there at home. Your friends are right there at school. But God? We can't see Him, can we? And we only go to church once a week. So how do you talk to God?

The truth is talking to God is something you can do anytime, anywhere. God is everywhere, and when you become a Christian, his Holy Spirit lives inside you. We have access to God any time we want it. In fact, God is more available than your parents or your friends ever will be!

So if talking to people is easy and we do it all the time, why is it so hard to spend time talking with God?

Sometimes, we get busy, or we don't see Him all the time so we forget. We don't know how. We might question whether God is really listening. We might think our problems are too small.

No matter the reason, it is important to talk with God.

1. God wants us to know Him.
2. God really does answer prayer.
3. God loves us through prayer.
4. We love God through prayer.

So how do we pray? Remember that it's as simple as talking to someone you love. Look at the word 'TALK'.

T: TAKE the TIME: Find time in your day to talk to God. Pray at the same time each day. Make it a habit, like brushing your teeth. Ya'll brush your teeth, right?

A: AHHHHH.... Quiet: Find a quiet place in your home. Turn the TV off, your music off, and find a way to escape from your little brother. Sit under a table, go in your closet if it's big enough, make a fort, whatever!

L: LEARN from God's Word: Read one verse a day. If you're up for the challenge, read one chapter a day. Try to understand what God is saying to you. Ask a grown-up who knows Jesus for help if you need it.

K: KEEP a Prayer Plan: Write down how to pray. Pray that way. Write down things or people you are thankful for, people that need help or are sick, and things that worry you. Keep it simple or else you won't keep doing it.

Do any of you like to talk with your hands? Today our hands are going to help us learn how to pray. As long as you have hands, you should remember this lesson. You've got five fingers and we've got five parts of prayer. You ready?

1. PRAISE: Praise is saying what you love about someone. It's saying, "God, I love that you are good. I love how you made the ocean. I love that you sent Jesus for our sins."

2. CONFESS: Confession. It means to get the junk out of your life. It's when you ask for forgiveness of your sins. It's saying, "I'm sorry that I lied. Forgive me for getting in a fight with my brother. I'm sorry for not loving you like I should."

3. READ: Reading God's word helps us see ourselves as in a mirror. It helps us understand who God is and who we are. It helps us to pray because we know who we are praying to.

4. ASK: God says in Matthew 21:22 that, "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer." Pray for others. Pray for yourself. Ask for people to be saved, for God to provide, for wisdom to understand, for help in temptation, for people to be healed.

5. THANKS: God has done so much for us. What are you thankful for today? God wants us to be thankful. God has given us every good thing we have –from the air we breathe to our families to the wonders of nature. We need to be

thankful in the good times when God has answered our prayers and given us blessings. We also need to be thankful in the bad times. When nothing is going right and we feel sad, being thankful can lift our spirits and remind us of all the good things God has done.

God wants us to pray every day. Whenever you pray, start with a word of thanks. Thank God for the big things in life, and the little things. Thank Him when you are happy, but also count your blessings when you are sad.

Let's look at a prayer of David (remember him?). David was just a shepherd boy when he was chosen by God to become a king. He slayed a giant, united God's people, and wrote most of the book of Psalms. As David neared the end of his life, he began to look back at all the good things God had done. Overwhelmed by all the blessings, David offered up a prayer of thanks.

David knew that all of the good things he had come from God. He knew that all of the good things his people now enjoyed were blessings from the Lord. In front of the whole people, David praised God, thanking him for all the blessings God had given to him and his people. He asked God to bless his son, and to use him to carry on the work David started.

David knew that his son, Solomon, and the people of Israel could do great things if they stayed faithful to the Lord. By offering this prayer, David set an example for them, and for us. He shows us that we need to thank God first and foremost when we pray, and always be mindful of God's blessings.

Saying "thank you" is one of the most important lessons our parents teach us. When someone answers our request, we say thank you. When they send us a gift for our birthday, we send a thank you card.

Saying thank you to God is more than just good manners. It's a way of reminding ourselves that God is the giver of all good things. We need to thank God on our good days. We need to thank Him when we get good news. We need to thank Him for answering prayers.

Just as important, we need to thank God on our bad days. When all is wrong with the world, when we don't get the grade we wanted, when we just want everyone to go away and leave us alone, we need to say a prayer of thanks.

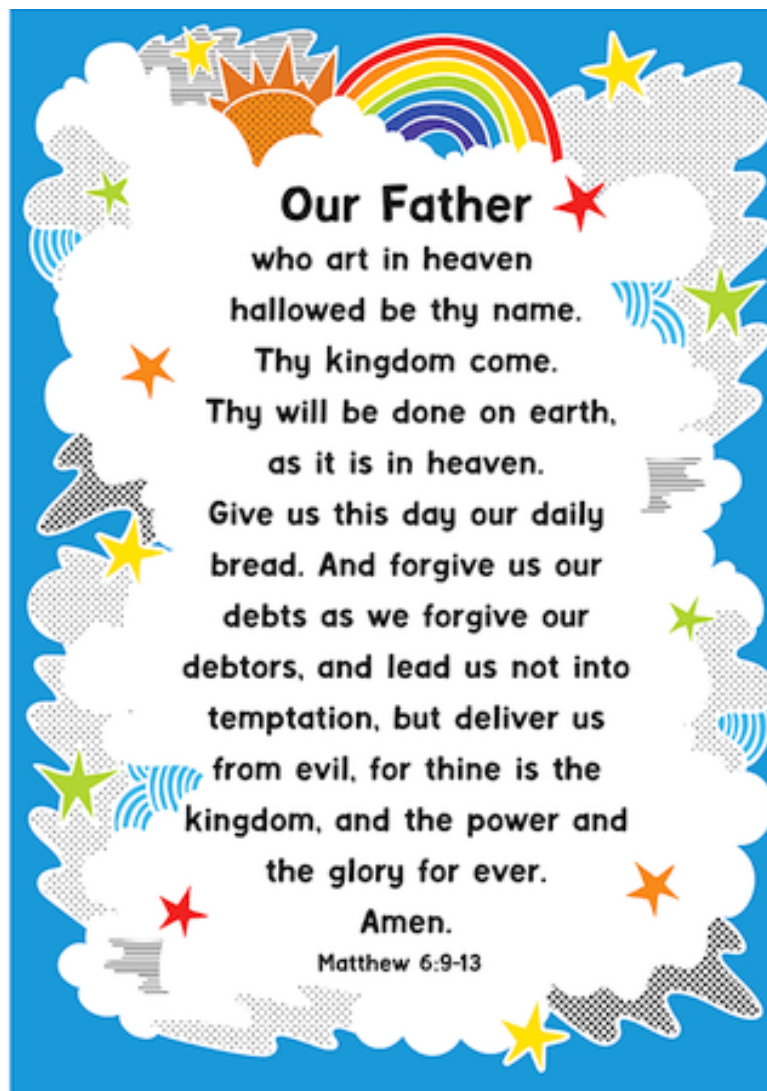
Being thankful when we are down in the dumps is the first step to pulling ourselves out of the dumps. The more we thank God, the more we realize how blessed we are. The more blessed we feel, the harder it is to stay sad or angry.

God has given us a beautiful world. He gave us people who love us and people we love. He's made us all unique, and He has a special purpose for all of us. There's so much to be thankful for, how can we not praise His name?

When you pray, don't start in with a list of what you want or need. Start every prayer by thanking God for all the good things He has done.

God doesn't care how we communicate with him. We can write, speak, or even think what we want to communicate to God, and God hears us and understands us. And God never gives us a busy signal or says the words in our letters aren't spelled right or tells us to come back later when he's not busy. God hears our prayers any time, any place, and any day. God wants us to talk to Him so He's made it easy for us to pray!

Here's a special prayer that God gave us to show our love for Him. It's called The Lord's Prayer (Memorize it, if you haven't already to earn some Kingdom Cash)



My name is _____

The Lord's Prayer



Our Father which
art in

_____ ,

Hallowed be Thy

_____ .

Thy _____

come, Thy Will be done,

on _____

as it is in Heaven.



Give us this
day our daily

_____ ;



and forgive
us our debts,
as we

our debtors.



And lead us not into _____ ,
but deliver us from _____ : For Thine is
the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever.

Amen.



Teach Us to Pray



And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

Luke 11:2 -4 (KJV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 11:1-4

Y L T P H W D V H U H T W A G
F O J E A E H K E O W E M W F
Y R C O M P A S I N Z A C Y S
M D N S E P T V J Y D C R A R
E T N X Z G T R E E V H N M J
P I Q D M R K A W N D O O W V
S H X I A A F O T Z C D F E H
F U M H W I L O C I G T E A H
Q A U B U L L B R N O V E R A
V P T C A X H Y I G E N Z T V
P N A H D Z K K Y B I V P H N
V R A Q E G U R K I U V I G H
C Q A M R R H P W B H F E L G
O I B Y E F K U W H O F E Z G
D J O C F B R E A D Q N C Q M

TEACH

FORGIVE

EARTH

FATHER

KINGDOM

SINS

HEAVEN

HALLOWED

PRAY

EVIL

NAME

TEMPTATION

DAILY

BREAD

LORD



Hands of Prayer

Pray without ceasing. — 1 Thessalonians 5:17



JESUS TEACHES HOW TO PRAY

Follow the path to Jesus.

