

Grade 6 Kingdom of God

Begin this session with prayer:

Make the Sign of the Cross.

Picture yourself on a hillside in Galilee. You are one of Jesus' best friends. Other followers of Jesus are with you. For weeks you have traveled with Jesus. You have listened to his stories and watched as he healed the sick. As a friend of Jesus, you have spent time eating with him and speaking to him. You have been a part of his everyday life. You notice that Jesus often goes away to find a quiet place to pray. Sometimes you wonder what Jesus says during his prayer times. You know he must be an expert at praying. You wish Jesus would teach you how to pray....

Click to put yourself into this scene...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pymmxR33tik>

Pray: Jesus, teach me to pray constantly so that I may grow as close to the Father as you are. Amen.

Reflect: Who taught you to pray? What is your favorite prayer?

The Lord's Prayer, or the Our Father, is much more than a simple prayer. When architects design a building, they first create a blueprint or printed guide that others can use to make the building a reality. The Lord's Prayer is a blueprint or guide, given to us by Jesus, to show us how to communicate with God.

Watch the video The Meaning of the Lord's Prayer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKlusTOMe1o>

What stood out to you after watching this video?

Read this summary about the Lord's Prayer:

1. Jesus' friends, the Apostles and disciples, asked him to teach them to pray. Jesus responded by teaching them his prayer to the Father. We call this prayer the Lord's Prayer or the Our Father.
2. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* calls the Lord's Prayer the *quintessential*, or most perfect, prayer of the Church.
3. The reasons for this can be summarized in ten statements:
 - Jesus himself gave us the Lord's Prayer.
 - The Lord's Prayer teaches us to pray.
 - The Lord's Prayer is addressed to the Father.
 - The Lord's Prayer helps us to know who God is.
 - The Lord's Prayer helps us to know who we are.
 - The Lord's Prayer helps us to be more like God our Father.
 - The Lord's Prayer helps us to have loving and trusting hearts.
 - The Lord's Prayer is about "we," not "me."
 - The Lord's Prayer is *the* prayer of the Church.
 - The Lord's Prayer is truly a summary of the whole Gospel.
4. Seven is the perfect number. There are seven petitions in the Lord's Prayer.
5. Three petitions focus on the glory of God the Father. Four more petitions focus on human needs.
6. Before we begin to pray our petitions, we address God as Father. We are children of God!
7. By saying *our* Father, Jesus tells us that God's love extends to all people.
8. The words "who art in heaven" do not refer to a physical, faraway place. Heaven is a way of life or a state of being. In addressing our Father in Heaven, we recognize God's nearness to us.
9. Petition 1: *Hallowed be thy name*. The word *hallowed* means "holy." "Hallowed be thy name" is a request for help in keeping God's name holy, to use it with reverence, to be in awe of our God.

10. Petition 2: *Thy kingdom come.* The Kingdom is a time of justice, peace, and love. In this petition, we ask God to help us put our priorities in order as we do our part to bring God's Kingdom into being.
11. Petition 3: *Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.* Jesus told us that God's will is that we love one another. In this petition, we ask God to help us give and receive love.
12. Petition 4: *Give us this day our daily bread.* We ask for daily bread, for the basic food of everyday living, for ourselves, our families and friends, and everyone in the world. We also remember those who are hungry, not for material needs but for God.
13. Petition 5: *Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.* The word *trespass* is another word for *sin*. We all trespass at times, and so we all need forgiveness. Holding on to hurts or seeking revenge blocks God's love and forgiveness in our lives.
14. Petition 6: *Lead us not into temptation.* A temptation is an invitation to do something wrong. This petition asks God to help us avoid people and situations that could lead to sin or tragedy.
15. Petition 7: *But deliver us from evil.* In this last petition, we ask God to deliver us from things that would harm us or turn us away from God. We pray with confidence that good will ultimately triumph over evil.
16. The last word of the Lord's Prayer is *Amen*, "so be it." The last book of the Bible refers to Jesus as *the Amen* (see Revelation 3:14).

(All summary points are taken from *The Catholic Connections Handbook for Middle Schoolers, Second Edition*. Copyright © 2014 by Saint Mary's Press. All rights reserved.)

Reflect on the Lord's Prayer

Next to each phrase from the Lord's Prayer, write another version of the phrase, using more current language or simply putting the words in a different way.

Our Father,

who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come;

thy will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day

our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

Amen.

Commit to praying The Lord's Prayer every day.

Click for closing song reflection: The Lord's Prayer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qqOA3JYDWMs>

Make the Sign of the Cross