

## Reality – Lesson for August 23, 2020 – 4 Yr. Olds

### The Lord's Prayer

#### Five weeks of memorizing the Lord's Prayer through a verse by verse study

#### Lesson 4

1. **Lesson:** "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."
2. **Scripture:** Matthew 6:5-13
3. **Memory Verse:** "Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." - Matthew 6:9-12
4. **The Jesus Storybook Bible:** Pages 222 - 225
5. **The Beginner's Bible:** Page 323
6. **God's Story for Me Bible:** Pages 374-375
7. **Materials:** Coloring sheets; glue sticks; crayons; markers; colored pencils; scissors  
**Beginning Activity - Object Lesson:** a bowl or indented plate, water, ground black pepper, dish soap **Craft:** fish downloads; a stick for each child – approximately 12 in. long (or a dowel or a jumbo craft stick); 18 " of string, hemp, or yarn; the two Lord's prayer downloads; two googly eyes per fish; hole punch; scissors **Memory Verse Game: Preschool:** copy of the hand motions from the lesson **Extra Game:** piece of paper and pencil; one or two balloons

**\*Please note – the Bible background section for the teacher to use when preparing the lesson is at the end of the text.**

**1.Prayer and Welcome Activity:** Greet the children and take time out to talk to them and pray with them. Have them say the memory verse altogether. Give them the coloring sheets. After they have colored for a bit, introduce the following object lesson:

Jesus teaches that, as we ask God for forgiveness, we should also be in the practice of forgiving others. God wants relationship and kindness between His people. In order for this to happen, we need to forgive those who hurt us, even if they never apologize or say they were wrong. Let's do a little experiment to help us understand what happens when we forgive others.

**Fill a clear bowl with water. (Or position yourself so that the children can see the surface of the water.) Sprinkle a good amount of ground, black pepper over the surface of the water.**

**Say:** The pepper represents all the unkind words and actions others have said or done to us. If we don't forgive them for these things, our hearts hold onto those feelings and sometimes we want to say or do unkind things back to them. We get full of bitterness and we hurt inside. God wants us to forgive others.

**Dip your finger in the dishwashing liquid and then stick it in the middle of the pepper water.** The pepper will 'race' to the edges of the bowl.

**Say:** Just like the pepper moved away from my finger when I stuck it in the water, when we forgive, it pushes away all the bitterness and hurt feelings that we have and our hearts can be full of joy and peace as we forgive others for what they have said or done. God helps us remove the bitterness. We simply have to ask Jesus to help us forgive others as He forgives us.

**Explanation:** Water molecules generally adhere to each other—until something comes along that is either heavy enough or powerful enough to separate them. When this is not the case, water molecules will line up in a way that gives the top of the water surface tension. Because pepper flakes are so light and do not absorb water, they will float in the tension. Soap is able to break down the surface tension of water. As the soap moves into the water, the surface tension starts to change. In attempt to maintain what surface tension it can, the water molecules pull back away from the soap and carry the pepper along with them.

**2.Bible Story:** (You can use the lesson below and/or read the first 4 verses of the Lord's Prayer from "The Jesus Storybook Bible – Pages 222 – 225, "The Beginner's Bible" – Page 323 or the "God's Story for Me Bible" – Pages 374 - 375)

(Please write on the white board – **"Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."**)

Let's repeat all the parts of the Lord's Prayer we have memorized so far. (Do this.) Now let's add on our new verse – verse 12..."And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." There are two parts to this special request to God. The first part says, "Forgive us our debts." This means asking God to forgive us for what we have done wrong. It means saying that we are sorry for something we've done, and that we don't want to do it anymore. But there is a second part – that's a bit trickier...we also need to forgive people who have done or said wrong things to us. Sometimes others hurt us very badly, so we need to ask God to help us forgive them.

Let's look at the first part of the verse...We need to confess our sins to God. These can be the things we have done wrong, but it can even be the wrong things that we think. In Romans 3:23 it says, "Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to God's glory." We all need help. That's why God sent His Son, Jesus, to die for us. He loves us that much. All we have to do to be right with God is to tell Him our sins and ask Him to forgive us for doing wrong. Then He will forgive us.

The second part of the verse is easy to say without thinking much about it. But it is actually harder than you think, and it matters a lot to God. We see it in many other places in the Bible. For example, Ephesians 4:32 says, "We should forgive others because God, through Christ, has forgiven us." This is not always easy to do. It may be easier to just ignore others who have hurt us, but this will damage our relationships and friendships. This isn't what God wants. We have to forgive those who hurt us, even if they never apologize or even admit that they have hurt us - because God freely forgives us. If we expect God to forgive us for the wrong things, we do that hurt Him, then it's only right that we forgive the wrong things that others do that hurt us.

There's a special story in the Bible that talks about this kind of forgiveness in Matthew 18:21-35. Jesus told the parable after Peter asked Him how many times he should forgive someone who sins against him. Jesus said seventy times seven! Let's do a little math to figure out exactly how many times that is. (Work out this multiplication problem on the board, or have the older students figure it out.) Seventy times seven is 490! That is a lot of times to forgive someone. But do you think that is really what Jesus means? Do you think He really wants us to forgive people exactly 490 times, and then we stop forgiving them? I don't think that's what Jesus was saying. The Bible tells us that love keeps no record of wrongs. As Christians, we love everyone. Jesus also told us that we are to love our neighbor as ourselves. Jesus gives this big number for two reasons. One is to tell us that we should forgive endlessly, and the other reason is to tell us that we cannot forgive endlessly on our own. We need Jesus to help us forgive others.

Jesus wanted to help us understand this by telling this parable – the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant. This is how the story goes...

Once there was a king who was extraordinarily rich. He had many servants who worked for him. Some servants were in charge of lots of the king's money. They were also in charge of other servants. The king decided to check to see if one of his servants was taking care of the money. When the king checked on the money, he found out that his servant had borrowed the money for himself. It was not just a little money. The servant had borrowed thousands and thousands of dollars! He had borrowed so much money that he could never pay it back. This man had a huge debt.

At first the king decided the only way to get his money back was to sell the servant and all of his family as slaves. The servant was terribly upset. He begged the king to forgive him for what he had done. The king felt sorry for the servant, so he decided to forgive the servant for borrowing so much money. He even told the servant that he would not have to pay the money back. Do you think the servant was happy? Do you think that he was so happy that he treated everyone nice that day? Well he was happy, but he certainly wasn't nice to others.

As soon as the servant left the king, he found another servant who owed him money. The servant only owed this man a few dollars. His debt was exceedingly small. Even

though the king had forgiven him, the servant grabbed this man. He told him that he would throw him in prison until he paid back the few dollars.

Some of the other servants heard what had happened and went and told the king. What do you think the king thought? He had forgiven the servant a huge debt, but the servant could not forgive another even a small debt. The king was incredibly angry and threw the man in prison. He would have to stay in prison until the debt was paid.

Peter listened to the parable that Jesus told him about forgiveness. The parable means that God has forgiven us for everything we have ever done wrong to Him. He has forgiven us an enormous debt! Now he wants us to forgive people when they ask for our forgiveness. God forgave us our huge debt like the king in the parable did and we should forgive others for their small debts against us.

Jesus died so that we could be forgiven of our sins. If someone has hurt you, ask God for the strength to forgive them. If they continue to hurt you, forgive them, but you don't have to spend time with them. You do need to pray for them and forgive them in your heart. By forgiving someone, you are not saying that what the other person did is okay. You are saying that you have decided not to hold it against him/her. It may seem unfair to just let someone off without making them 'pay' for what they did. That is why it takes a special kind of love, like the love of God, to forgive.

God will help you get over the feelings of hurt. And remember, any act of kindness done for the person who has been unkind will show your love in action and will help you get over your hurt more easily. God will help you with whatever challenges you face. Nothing is impossible with God!

### **K - Preschool:**

(For younger children, please teach them these hand motions:)

**Our Father** (Make a circle around your face with your right hand.)

**In Heaven** (Point to heaven using your left hand.)

**Hallowed be** (Place both your hands in front of your face, palms facing out.)

**Your name.** (Touch your lips with your pointer and middle finger.)

**Your Kingdom come** (Beckon with your right hand, like you are asking a friend to come with you.)

**Your will be done** (Write in the air using your right hand.)

**On earth** (Make a circle in front of you with your left hand.)

**As it is in heaven.** (Point to heaven with your right hand.)

**Give us this day** (Cup your hands together in front of your chest.)

**Our daily bread.** (Hold “bread” in your left hand and slice it with your right hand, two or three times.)

**And forgive us our debts** (Lift your empty palms up.)

**As we forgive our debtors.** (Flip your hands over, putting the palms down.)

### 3. Bible Exploration – Checking for Understanding:

1. How do we ask God to forgive us? (Allow for responses. We pray to ask God’s forgiveness. Help students make the connection between God’s forgiveness and their own—God forgives our sins and expects us to forgive those who sin against us as well.)
2. Is there anyone that you need to forgive that you don’t think you can talk to? Can you still forgive them? Can you still pray for them?
3. Sometimes the hardest person to forgive is ourselves. God promises to forgive our sins and He already knows what we have done. So why is this so difficult?

### 4. Bible Application:

**Craft: The Lord’s Prayer Fishing Pole and Fish -**



1. Print and cut out the “Lord’s Prayer” fish.

2. Glue the Lord's prayer verses on both sides of the fish.
3. Stick on googly eyes.
4. Color and decorate the fish.
5. Punch a hole in the nose of the fish and tie the string to it.
6. Tie the other end to a stick.

**5. Worship/Prayer:** In the Children's Worship Room

**6.Snack:** Pray before they eat.

**7.Memory Verse:** Have the children say the memory verse one more time – "Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." - Matthew 6:9-12

USE THE ASL OR HAND MOTIONS AS THEY LEARN THE VERSES.

**8. Closing Prayer:** The teacher will lead the children in a closing prayer. Encourage them to also say their own individual prayers about any added concerns they have.

### **Bible Background for the teacher to read when preparing the lesson:**

Jon Courson writes, "In the expression of this prayer is the explosion of forgiveness. I might begin praying the Lord's Prayer with bitterness in my heart toward someone who hurt me six years ago, eight weeks ago, or ten minutes ago. But as I pray, "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors," suddenly the resentment, the bitterness, the ill-will dissipates from me as I pray this prayer meaningfully."

Two forms of the Lord's Prayer exist in the New Testament (Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4). In verse 12, Matthew writes, "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" whereas Luke records, "And forgive us our sins, as we ourselves also forgive everyone in debt to us. J. Vernon McGee whimsically wrote, "Two little girls were talking about the Lord's Prayer as repeated in their churches. One said, 'We have trespasses in our church' and the other said, 'Well, in our church we have debts.' – and they were both probably right! 😊 - Which one is accurate? There is no difficulty here at

all since all of these words refer to the same thing, and that thing is sin. Sin is a complicated thing. Goodness and virtue are simple.”

In some translations of the Bible, sin is represented as a debt. Sin is like a debt that is owed to God and is beyond our capacity to repay. Sins, as moral debts, reveal one’s shortcomings before God. Adam Clarke wrote, “Sin is represented here under the notion of a debt, and as our sins are many, they are called here debts. God made man that he might live to his glory and gave him a law to walk by; and if, when he does anything that tends not to glorify God, he contracts a debt with Divine Justice.”

Here, therefore, is a historical explanation of debts, trespasses, and sins:

John Wycliffe, in 1395, translated the Greek word *dettis*, or debts. In 1526, William Tyndale translated the same Greek word *treaspases*, or trespasses.

Even though the ancient words are virtually interchangeable, there might be a shade of difference in the English meaning of them. If we are asking to be forgiven for our trespasses, we are asking for forgiveness for something we have already done. But, if we are asking for forgiveness for our debts, we are asking for forgiveness for something we may have yet to do. We are asking God to forgive us for what we have failed to do; and we are asking the slate to be wiped clean. But this does not have to be limited to the wrongs we have already done; they could also include all the good that we have failed to do. These would be all the missed opportunities, the moments we failed to be kind in word or deed – the times we could have made a difference but didn’t. We are asking forgiveness for these too. In the long run, people will use whichever word they’ve been accustomed to using. Both words highlight just how unfathomable God’s mercy really is.

McGee wrote, “Remember this one thing, God has forgiven us through the blood of His Son. But on the basis of our forgiveness of one another is our service and walk conditioned. It is on that basis that we worship God. The Lord Jesus says that if you go to the altar and remember that your brother has anything against you, do not even go on with your worship, as important as that is, but leave it and go and be reconciled to your brother. (See Matthew 5:23 and 24) This is of paramount importance. And how many times our Lord repeats this! Paul says it in just a little different way in Colossians 3:13: ‘Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.’”

We must first forgive others for their sins or mistakes. Then we can ask God to forgive our sins. We should forgive others because God, through Christ, has forgiven us.

### **Extra Activities and Games:**

#### **Game #1 –**

### **When it is hard to Forgive:**

Write on a piece of paper what happened when someone hurt you and how that made you feel. To show that you won't keep a record of the wrong, you could do one of the following things with that paper:

- Tear it up
- Soak it in water for a few minutes and then squeeze it into a tiny ball. Practice throwing the ball into a wastepaper bin from a distance.
- Take it home and bury it in the garden or a secret place.
- Think of some other unusual way to destroy it.

### **Game #2 –**

#### **How Many:**

The purpose of this game is to help demonstrate how much seventy times seven is.

**Ask the kids** - "How many jumping jacks can you do?" Have them answer. "Does anyone think they can do 490 jumping jacks?" Do a few jumping jacks together, counting how many you do, and stop.

Ask them other challenges - "How many times can you tap a balloon with your hands to keep it in the air? (Try this.) How long can you stand on one foot?" Continue with different challenges for about ten minutes