

# We Talk to God

## Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

### Lesson 3, ages 4-5

#### Lesson 3 Goal

- Your child will learn simple ways to pray spontaneously and will also participate in praying the Lord's Prayer.

#### Key Points

- God is our friend, and wants us to talk with him.
- There are many ways to pray.



#### Parent Reflection

Prayer is our response to the call of a loving God. He calls us through nature, other people, and our very hearts and minds. As he calls us, we answer his call through prayer.

- In a prayer of *blessing*, we acknowledge and respond to God's goodness with joy and gratitude. Because God blesses the human heart, we can in return bless him who is the source of every blessing.
- Prayers of *petition* ask God for something specific. For many people, this is the most common form of prayer.
- Prayers of *intercession* are similar; however, the requests made are for someone else. For example, in a prayer of intercession, you might ask God to bring healing to someone you know who is sick.
- In prayers of *thanksgiving*, we acknowledge God as our Creator and thank him for his goodness. We can also offer prayers of thanksgiving for specific gifts God has given us.
- Finally, prayers of *praise* express our love for God.

We often use multiple forms in the same prayer, and find examples of this in Scripture (such as in the "Our Father," for example). But no matter what form of prayer we use, we should remember that God is always listening, calling us ever closer to him.

#### Reflection Question

Which form or forms of prayer might I need to focus on using more often?

## Lesson Preparation

Before inviting your child to sit with you for lesson time, prepare all materials.

### Materials

- Family Activity Sheet
- crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- low table
- tablecloth
- cross
- various statues
- battery-operated tea lights
- prayer book/children's Bible
- artificial flowers
- plastic container for flowers

- music or musical instruments
- Activity Master #2 – Saint Page (Keep the saint page from each lesson to gather together a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

### Preparation Steps

- Make sure your child has a copy of Activity Master #2 (included with this lesson).
- Prepare a special place of prayer for your child and provide the suggested supplies.

## Gathering

Create a prayerful space. You might place a candle on the table, or set a cross in front of you. Invite your child to join you in quietly preparing for prayer.

Say the following or similar words: “Now that we are in this prayerful space, let us find the quiet in our hearts so we can talk with God.”

Sit together for several seconds of shared silence.

Say, “Today we are going to pray with the prayer that Jesus taught us for talking to God. Because Jesus gave us this prayer, we call it The Lord’s Prayer. We also call it the Our Father, because those are the first words in the prayer. I will say the prayer, and you can listen with your ears and with your heart. People all around the world know this prayer!”

### Begin in prayer:

Make the Sign of the Cross together or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

*“Jesus, today we use the words you taught us to pray. We know that there are many ways of talking to God in prayer. We also know that listening to you is praying too. So we will listen now, finding the quiet in our hearts. (Bow your head to model for your child.)”*

*“Jesus said to them, ‘When you pray, say: 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.’ (Based on Matthew 6:9–13; Luke 11:1–4)”*

## Discovering

**Jesus Teaches Us to Pray.** Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about Jesus and prayer.

Ask your child, “What prayers can we pray as a family?”

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask your child the “Ask Me!” questions and review the answers.

## Exploring

Use the following activities to enrich your child's understanding of the lesson and of our Catholic faith.

**1. What's the Order?** Turn to the main activity of the Activity Sheet (center pages) and invite your child to describe what he or she sees. Give your child crayons or colored pencils. Explain the activity to your child and have him or her complete it.

**2. Prayer Space for Kids.** Prepare a special place of prayer for your child by providing a low table with a tablecloth. Invite him or her to decorate the prayer space with a cross, statues, battery operated "candles," prayer books, and flowers. Encourage your child to use the space to pray or sing or play a few songs to Jesus. Participate in your child's spontaneous prayer and singing.

**3. The Communion of Saints: Saint Thérèse of Lisieux.** Show your child the picture of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux on the Family Activity page and read about her. Then read more about Saint Thérèse to your child (see page 4).

Ask your child:

► Thérèse knew that God loved her. Do you know that God loves you too?

► When do you talk with God?

► Where do you talk with God?

Have your child write and draw about Saint Thérèse using Activity Master #2.

## Sending

**Pray the Our Father with your child.** Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together, or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead. Pray aloud with your child.

*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.*

Close with the following prayer: "Dear Jesus, We praise you, we bless you, we thank you, and we adore you. Bless everyone and bring us back safely until we can be together again. Amen."

## **Saint Thérèse of Lisieux**

### **Learning to Pray**

Little Thérèse had four big sisters. She played with them and played tricks on them! Sometimes Thérèse was shy, sometimes stubborn. But even when she was not so well-behaved, her family loved her.

Thérèse's family showed her that God always loved her too. They taught her many ways to talk with God.

Her mother taught her prayers. Each night Thérèse knelt down with her whole family to pray these prayers.

When Thérèse was scared, her mother told her to talk to Jesus, because he would understand how she feels.

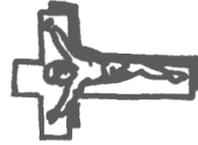
One day when Thérèse was four years old, her mother found her behind a curtain and asked, "Are you playing a hiding game?"

"No," said Thérèse. "I sit here to think about God."

Another time, while at the seashore, Thérèse saw how the sunshine on the water looked like a path. "That light is like Jesus' love, showing us the way to him," Thérèse said to her sister.

Fishing with her father, Thérèse saw how beautiful everything was, and thought of God. In all these ways, Thérèse prayed. Sometimes she talked. Sometimes she listened. Always she knew that Jesus loved her.

**DRAW**



**Saint  
Thérèse,  
pray for us!**