

Things to take:

- | Question box with pens & paper.
- | Door welcome sign, register & rules.
- | Print off and cut out animal cards from 'extras'.
- | Print off and cut out Lord's prayer cards from 'extras'.
- | Salt dough plaques & paints **or** Zig zag cards & coloured pencils.
- | Prayer journal.
- | Print off 'Design a Heavenly Dad' sheets.
- | Song and PowerPoint.

Session Aim:

To show how and why we pray, and to look at who we are praying to.

'Our father in Heaven'

Matthew 6:9

Game as they arrive and register: Animal pairs

Equipment: animal cards, paper and pencils

As the kids arrive give them one of the animal cards from the 'extras' section of the download and a pencil and piece of paper. They then have to go around the room making the noise of that animal (and keeping the card secret) until they find the other person (or other three people - if you have a large group print off double the amount of cards) who is the same animal. In their pair they then have to try and think of as many words as possible relevant to the question on their two cards until everyone else arrives. See who has found the most words at the end.

Game: The Lord's Prayer

Equipment: Lord's prayer cards

Place the cards with the comedy version of the Lord's prayer faced down on the floor. One person turns a card over and the rest of the group has to try and work out what the real line in Lord's prayer is. Then talk about what the words actually mean for us, do this for each line of the Lord's Prayer. Afterwards look at the child friendly version and explain we're going to be breaking it down over the next few weeks to help us understand it.

*Our Father who lives in heaven,
Holy is your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven,
Give us today our daily bread,
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us,
Lead us not into temptation,
But save us from evil
For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, Amen.*

Rules & Question Box

Introduce the rules and how the question box works.

Bible bit: Matthew 6:1-13

Get a leader (A) to act out the actions and words in the reading below whilst another leader narrates.

When you do good deeds, don't try to show off.

A *(Goes around with a box of sweets giving them out) Hello! Look at me everyone, am I not the most generous and kind person you have ever seen? Look at all the sweets I am giving away!*

If you do, you won't get a reward from your Father in heaven. When you give to the poor, don't blow a loud horn.

A *(Makes trumpet noise with fist clenched by mouth) Attention everyone! I gave half my money away to the poor today!*

That's what show-offs do in the meeting places and on the street corners, because they are always looking for praise. I can assure you that they already have their reward. When you give to the poor, don't let anyone know about it. Then your gift will be given in secret. Your Father knows what is done in secret, and he will reward you.

When you pray, don't be like those show-offs who love to stand up and pray in the meeting places and on the street corners.

A *(Loudly) Dear God, thank you for all the money you have given me and that I am such a lovely, kind, generous, good looking person.*

They do this just to look good. I can assure you that they already have their reward. When you pray, go into a room alone and close the door. Pray to your Father in private. He knows what is done in private, and he will reward you.

When you pray, don't talk on and on as people do who don't know God.

A *(Loudly) Dear God, please help the poor people in the world, please help the people that are hungry, and please help me to keep doing lots of good in the world. Please will you help me not to be afraid of spiders anymore and please can I have lots more money and food and toys and blab la blab la blab bla blab bla bla etc etc etc*

They think God likes to hear long prayers. Don't be like them. Your Father knows what you need before you ask.

Talk: How and why should we pray to our Father?

The Bible verse we just heard says 'Your Father knows what you need before you ask', so why do you think we bother praying? Well, say you're in the kitchen with your Dad after school and he has a packet of chocolate biscuits. Your Dad probably knows you'd really like a chocolate biscuit but it doesn't mean he will just give it to you, you have to ask for it first. It's the same with God, he has so many good things ready for us and he knows what we need. However he likes us to talk to him through prayer and tell him what we need and what's on our hearts.

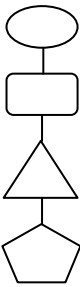
It's important to pray to our Father in Heaven so that we can get to know him better. He loves spending time with you, and loves hearing you talk to Him. He doesn't want you to pray to show off like the person in the Bible reading, or to make you look good. He wants you to pray because you want to talk to your Dad in heaven who loves you.

Do you think it's better to pray on your own or with other people? The reading said to go to your room alone and pray. Sometimes it's good to pray like this, but the Bible also tells us to pray with and for each other too. We're going to have a go at praying like that now.

Creative Prayer:

As a group suggest you start a prayer journal to write down prayer requests people have. You can then look at the book next week and see if any of the prayers have been answered. You could get prayer requests from the kids by sitting them in a circle and having a passing object. It's their turn to share a prayer request when they have the object. There are also lots of other creative prayer ideas in the 'extras' section of the download.

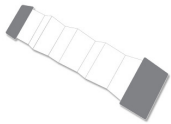
Memory verse: Matthew 6:9 - Salt dough painting/ Zig zag cards



Option 1: Salt dough painting

If you have plenty of time for a craft activity in your sessions you can bring some salt dough shapes each week that you can make at home beforehand (200ml water, 300g plain flour, 300g salt, 1 tbsp vegetable oil - mixed together, moulded into small shapes and make a hole from top to bottom and baked for 20 minutes at gas mark 4, 180°C).

The kids can paint the verses from each week on a new shape and thread them through a piece of string to make a decoration to hang up in their bedroom.



Option 2: Zig zag cards

If you don't have time for salt dough, then you can concertina some card or paper and the kids can write each week's verse on a section of the card so they have the completed version by the end of the term.

Testimony:

Get a leader to share about how they view their Father in heaven.

Response: Design a Heavenly Dad

Give out the templates and explain that our Father in heaven is perfect, he loves us and is a much better Dad than we could ever hope for here on earth. Get the kids to fill in the sections and then share it with you if they want to.

Song & Actions: Non Stop

The song is available to download free from the resources section of the YoYo website under 'songs'. The PowerPoint in the 'songs' folder of the download. We made up our own actions for this song so you could do the same or we are very happy to teach you ours! This song was written and recorded by Danny Sewell at The Rock Church York.

Game: Wink murder with choice of death!

This is just like regular wink murder, except that once the detective has gone out the group pick a way of dying! Whenever somebody is killed they have to act out that death (e.g. electrocuted) and the detective not only has to guess who the murderer is but also how they are murdered!

Pray: Kids Rock prayer before they leave.