

Faith Together: Prayer Workshop

Thursday, April 16th 6pm-7:30pm

Focus:

To engage parents in prayer with their children at church so they can go home and pray together.

Texts:

various

Schedule:

6:00pm	Dinner
6:10pm	Meal Time Grace
6:30pm	Opening questions/prayer with music
6:40pm	Stations explanation
6:45pm	Prayer Station Rotation
7:20pm	Closing Prayer – Bubbles prayer

Opening Question:

Hold up a telephone.

Q: Do you know what this is?

Point to the keypad.

Q: Do you know what this part is for?

Point to the mouthpiece

Q: Do you know what this part is for?

Point to the earpiece.

Q: Do you know what this part is for?

We use phone's to communicate with each other, right? Who do you call on the phone? Your grandma, friend, aunt, uncle, neighbor...

Well, prayer is the way we communicate with God and God communicates with us.

Sometimes we talk to God and sometimes God talks to us.

Sometimes we listen to God and God always listens to us.

-When are times that people pray?

-Why do you think we should pray? *Prayer keeps us in relationship with God. It keeps those lines of communication open so we can share our happy times and sad times, and so that we make time to listen to what God is telling us.*

- Do you have any special prayers your family does together? What are they? When do you say them?

Do you think there is a right way to pray?
Is there a wrong way to pray?

Music Prayer: Music is a wonderful way to celebrate God. Listening, singing, dancing are all ways of praying that make God smile! You are encouraged to listen to the following song dance together as a family!!

Instructions:

There are lots of different ways to make prayer central in our lives and today we are going to try some things that you can take home with you to use as needed. Be open to trying some different ways of communicating with God.

Prayer Stations:

- **Prayer chain:** On strips of paper, write out prayer requests for people you want God to help – maybe a sick neighbor, your friend at school, etc... Use one strip of paper for each prayer request. Once you are done, loop the prayers together to make chain.
- **Refrigerator Art:** Invite each person in your family to grab a piece of paper and to color pictures, images, symbols that express their relationship with God. Then put this picture on your fridge. Imagine God looking at each gift with love and pride as the drawings are all hung on a refrigerator.
- **Bucket prayer:** Invite each person to pick up a popsicle stick out of one bucket. Then look at the stick to see what type of prayer request you are asked to share.
- **Sculpture Prayer:** Art can be a form of prayer. Using the play doh in front of you, encourage each person to create some type of sculpture that represents their special prayer to God. You may want to create sculptures of something in God's creation you are thankful for.
- **Map Prayer:** Take one map for your family and set it in the middle of your family. One by one, take turns saying your prayer concern and then marking it on the map with an object you're your pocket or your purse – like a ring or a coin. For example, place a coin on Italy to pray for the people affected by the earthquake, ring on Oklahoma for a friend of yours that lives there and just had a baby.
- **Washed Away Prayer** - This is a powerful symbolic experience of God's forgiveness. With a washable marker, each person writes on his or her palm one sin they want washed away. Once everyone's is ready, take turns washing your hands (or each other's hands). Once every person has had their opportunity to wash their hands, say this...
 "Through the waters of baptism and God's everlasting grace, know your sins are washed away.
 Your sins are forgiven. Amen!"
- **Building Blocks prayer** – If you have younger children, you can use building blocks to stack up the things you want to tell God you are sorry for. So for each thing you tell God sorry for, you stack up a block. Once everyone is done praying you can invite your youngest to knock down your sins. Remind them that God knocked down all sin when Jesus died on the cross.
- **Walking Prayer** – You are invited to go outside and walk to the parking lot, to the sanctuary, and to the Learning Center and pray together by talking out loud about the things you see, the places you visit and the people who use those spaces.
- **Bubble Blessings** – Everyone loves bubbles. A fun way to pray together is to blow bubbles for every prayer request you want to send "up" to God. Choose one bubble container for your family. As you blow the bubbles you can talk about how neat it is to watch your prayer go out to God.

Closing: On your drive home tonight, talk about when you might find a time every day your family can pray together.

Supplies:

Camera
Candles
Lighter
Music (Jessica)
CD Player (Jessica)
Bubbles – 15 (Allison)
Colors / Side walk chalk (Jessica)
Bible verses on the walls
Buckets – 15 (Allison)
Popsicle Sticks – (Allison)
World Map – 15 (Allison)
Play Doh – 15 (Allison)
Paper Strips (Jessica)
Resources
Washable markers
Blocks
Bowl for water
Stapler and staples

Supplies from Church:

Copies of meal time grace page
Copies of cards from each station
Paper for art station
Cut strips of paper
Towel for washed away station

Take Home:

Meal time grace page
Card from each prayer station
Supplies from most stations

To Do:

Type Bible verses for the wall
Meal time prayer booklet – type
Gathering supplies for stations
Write items on popsicle sticks

