



Kids at Home Lesson: P.R.A.Y. Week 2 - Repentance

Sunday, October 18th

BIBLE POINT: When we say sorry, God forgives us.

OBJECTIVE: Kids will learn that saying sorry is a part of prayer.

KEY PASSAGE: Matthew 6:9-13, Psalm 51:1-3

Today we'll find out saying "sorry" is part of prayer. We can tell God we're sorry anytime. One time Jesus was teaching a group of people how he prays. Listen to this. Read Matthew 6:9-13.

We've been learning about the different parts of this prayer, and this week we're learning that saying "sorry" is part of prayer. We all have to say we're sorry sometimes, like when we hurt someone or disobey.

- Share about a time *you* said you were sorry to someone. You might share an example of a time you hurt someone's feelings, broke something, or even did something by accident.
- Have kids share a time they had to say sorry to someone.

God doesn't want us to do wrong things, but sometimes we do. All of us do wrong things. But when we say we're sorry to God, he forgives us. Wrong things hurt us and others. Because God loves each one of us, he doesn't want anyone to be hurt. That's why we say "sorry" to God when we pray.

On the whiteboard, draw a picture of something you did as a child that was wrong, and then invite kids to use the dry-erase markers to draw pictures of things kids do that are wrong. Help kids with ideas as they draw. Ask kids to tell you about their pictures. They might draw a picture of a child taking a cookie after Mom said "no," a picture of someone pushing or hitting someone else, or a picture of someone saying something mean to someone else. If you don't have a whiteboard, use paper and pencils.

Say: Look at all these wrong things, or sins, that people do. All of us sin and do wrong things. All people do. But God forgives us. That's why we say "sorry" when we pray. Point to your picture. When we [name the sin you drew], we say we're sorry to God and he forgives us. Erase your picture and replace it with a heart. God forgives us because he loves us.

Guide each child to say, "When we [name the sin they drew], we say we're sorry to God and he forgives us," and then wipe away the pictures they drew and replace them with hearts.



Let's look at a man in the Bible who talked about this. His name was David, and he did something he knew was wrong. Read Psalm 51:1-3. David was saying he was sorry to God and asking for forgiveness from God. We can talk to God like that, too.

Say: **We can talk to God anytime and tell him we're sorry because saying "sorry" is part of prayer. God loves when we talk to him about anything, and when we do say we're sorry to God, he forgives us. Let's talk to him right now about wrong things we do.** Lead kids in a brief prayer, thanking God that he forgives when we say we're sorry and being specific about some of the things kids can say they're sorry to God about.

Questions to discuss as a family:

1. Is it hard or easy to say sorry?
2. When you say sorry, how has your family responded?
3. Does God always forgive us? (talk through this as a family, it can be hard for us to understand, but the answer is always YES!)



Family Activity at Home:

Supplies

- 4 different colored pieces of paper (or 1-4 written on a piece of paper)
- tape
- music

Easy Prep

- Hang a different color of paper in each corner of the room.

Talk About Celebrating

Say: **When we make wrong choices, it makes our hearts feel sad. But we can tell God we're sorry because saying "sorry" is part of prayer. When we tell God we're sorry, he always forgives us. Then we don't have to feel sad about what we did anymore. That's something to celebrate.**

Share a way *you* like to celebrate. Maybe you like to go out for a special meal or get together with friends.

- Ask kids **What's *your* favorite way to celebrate?** Kids may say have a party, eat a special treat, or go to a special place.

Celebrate Being Forgiven

Say: **Let's celebrate being forgiven right now with a special game.**

- Show kids the colored papers hanging up in the room.
- Play music, and encourage kids to dance around.
- When you stop the music, direct kids to choose a color and stand by that paper.
- Pick a color, and lead the kids standing by that color to jump up and down and yell "Thank you, God! I'm forgiven!"
- Start the music again, and continue calling colors as time allows.
- On the final round, call out all the colors and encourage all kids to cheer.

Say: **God loves us so much. He's always ready to forgive us when we tell him we're sorry. That's why saying "sorry" is part of prayer. Then we can thank God and celebrate being forgiven.**



Kids at home Lesson: P.R.A.Y. Week 3 - Ask

Sunday, October 25th

BIBLE POINT: We should ask God for help when we pray.

OBJECTIVE: Kids will learn that asking for help is a part of prayer.

KEY PASSAGE: Matthew 6:9-13, Psalm 121

Today we're learning that asking for help is part of prayer. We can ask God for help with anything, and we can ask him anytime.

On a blank piece of paper, write "I'm asking God for ..." Encourage kids to draw a picture on the page to show what they want to pray for. What is something that need help with today? If kids have a hard time thinking of something to pray for, offer some ideas, such as the following:

- someone they know who's sick
- someone they know who needs help
- something they need
- something they're scared about

Since we know God's always listening to us, let's ask him to help us with the things we drew. Pray together about the things you talked about. After you pray, say: Isn't it amazing that we can ask for God's help with anything? Asking for help is part of prayer. The Bible tells us God always hears our prayers. Read aloud 1 John 5:14.

Now that verse tells us that God hears our prayer, but does that mean we will always get what we want? Sometimes we pray and God says yes. But other times God says no or not now. Let's do a little exercise to talk about what we should do when God answers our prayers with a no or not now.

Have kids each trace one of their hands to help remember these points.

1. **The first thing to do when God doesn't give us what we want is to keep asking. Jesus said!**
 - a. Read Matthew 7:7-8. Have kids write "Keep asking—Matthew 7:7-8" on the thumbs in their hand outlines.
 - b. **Jesus did say to keep asking. But he followed it up by saying this.** Read Matthew 7:11.

God will give us only *good* gifts. And sometimes even if what we're asking for seems good, it might not be good for us at that time. But we might find that God's different answer is actually good, if we look for the good.



2. On another finger of your handprint, write, “Look for the good—2 Corinthians 12:7-10.” If God doesn’t answer your prayers with what you want, look for the good things he’s giving you instead.
3. On another finger, write “Ask other people for help—James 5:16”.
 - What are some problems kids might have that they could ask adults to help with?
 - What are some problems that a friend could help with?

Asking for help is part of prayer, so we can always turn to God for help. Sometimes his help comes through a person he sends to help us. So if you’re facing a really big problem, talk to a trusted friend or adult who might be able to help and pray with you.

Sometimes God’s not answering our prayers because we’re asking for the wrong things. Remember, God gives only good gifts. Sometimes you might need to change what you’re asking for. You might be praying for your sister to be nicer to you when you really need to ask God to change *your* heart toward your sister.

4. Have kids write “Change how you’re asking—Psalm 51:10” on another finger.
 - What are some other examples of prayers that might need to be more focused on your heart?

There’s one more thing we can do when God isn’t giving us what we want: Trust God! Here’s why we can trust him.

5. Read Isaiah 55:9. Have kids write “Trust God—Isaiah 55:9” on the last finger.
 - Tell about a time you disagreed with the way God worked in your life. Examples could include moving, losing a close friend, or parents getting divorced.

When those types of things happen, it’s clearly not the way we think is best. But we can trust that God’s ways are higher than our ways, and he’s doing what’s ultimately best. Even if his answer doesn’t make sense to us, we can trust him. And we can keep on turning to him because asking for help is part of prayer.

Have kids place their hands on their handprints as you pray: **God, thank you that we can always ask for your help and we can trust you to do the very best thing. Help us trust you even when we don’t get what we want. In Jesus’ name, amen.**



Family Activity at home:

Supplies

- “Difficult T” handout (1 per child)
- “Difficult T Answer Key” handout (1 per adult)
- scissors
- paper clips (1 per child)

Easy Prep

- Cut out the shapes edged in dotted lines from each handout, and paper clip the pieces to the handout’s T shape.

Attempt a Brain-Bending Puzzle

Say: **We’ve been talking about how asking for help is part of prayer. Sometimes God might give us all the help we need, just when and how we need it. And sometimes God might just give us a little hint—a little “aha” that can help us figure out what to do. Let’s see what that’s like with a brain-bending puzzle. You’ll probably have some difficulty with this Difficult T puzzle, but the good news is, when you want help you can just ask.**

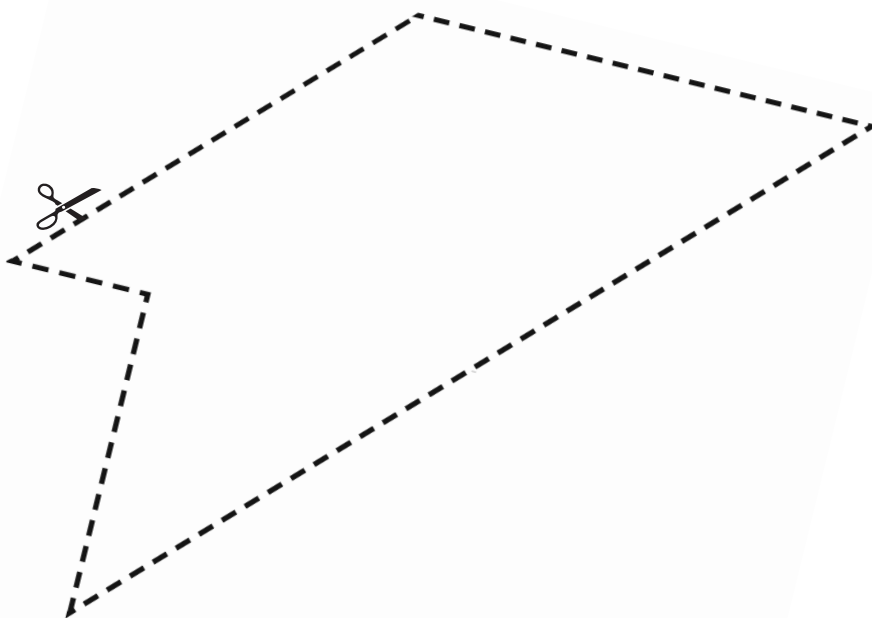
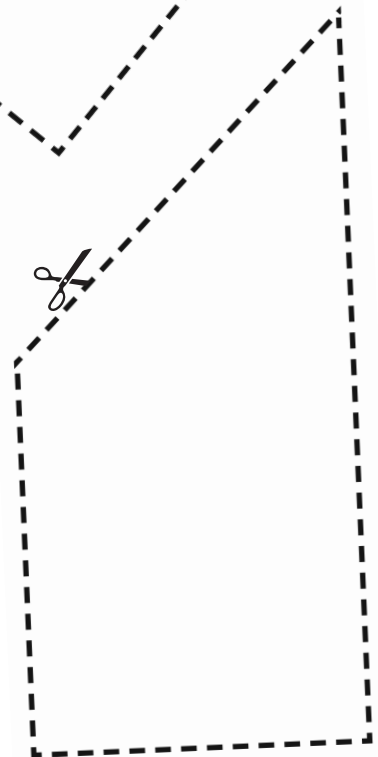
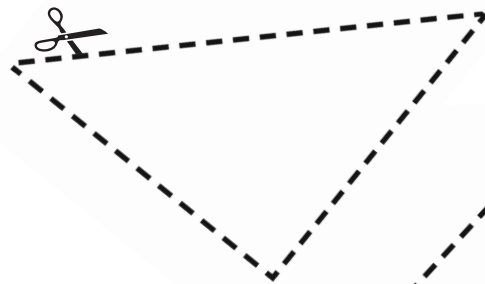
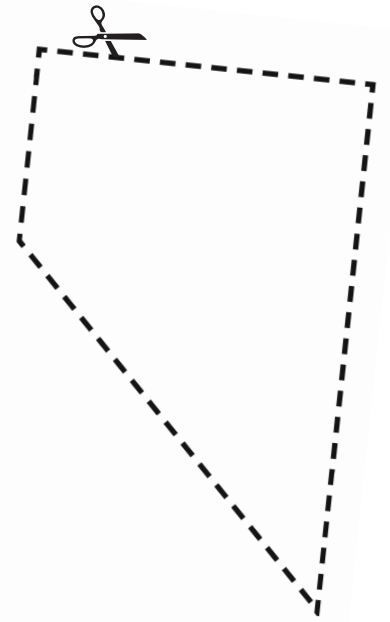
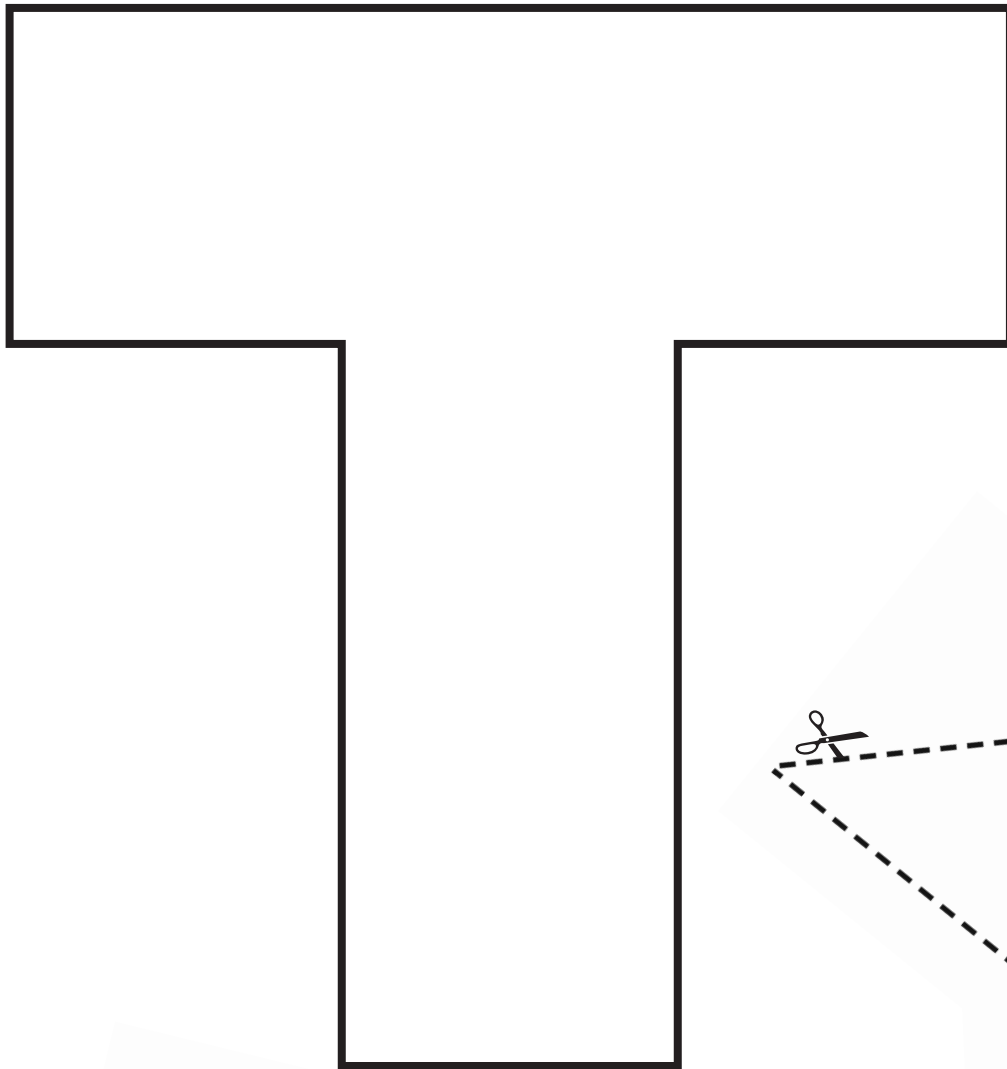
- Give each child a puzzle.
- The goal is to get the four pieces to fit inside the outline of the T shape.
- Allow time for everyone to think and struggle a bit in trying to solve the puzzle. This should be a difficult challenge.
- You have the answer key so kids can ask for hints in solving the puzzle.

Talk About It

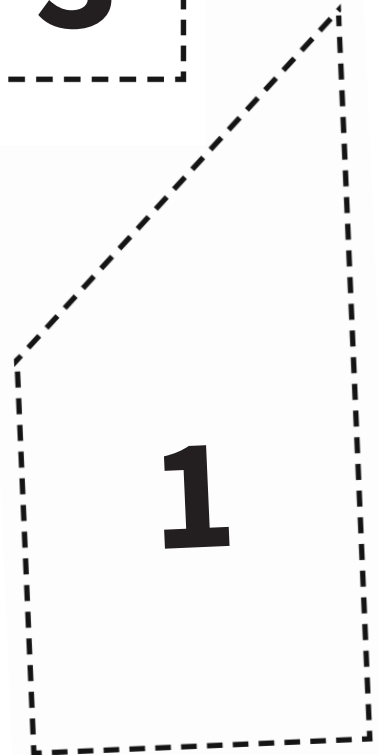
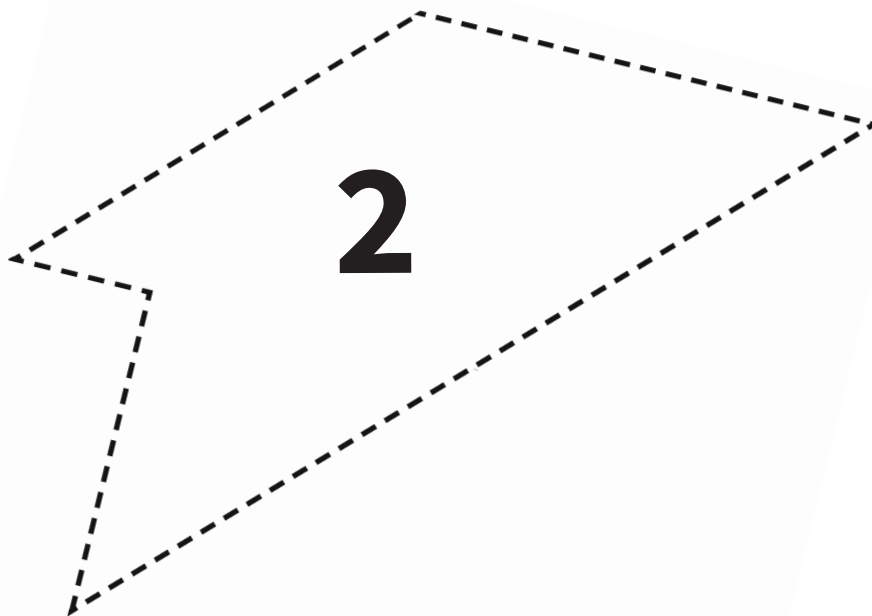
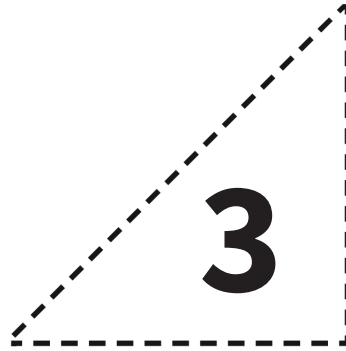
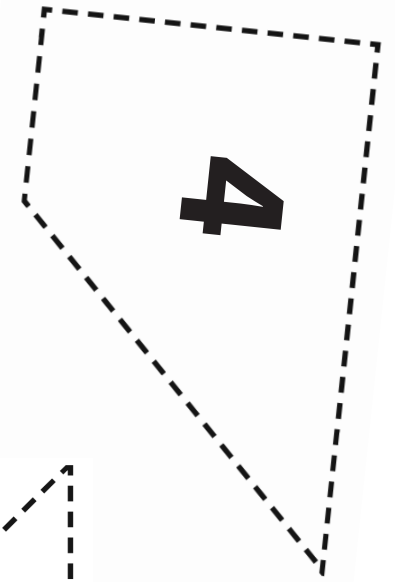
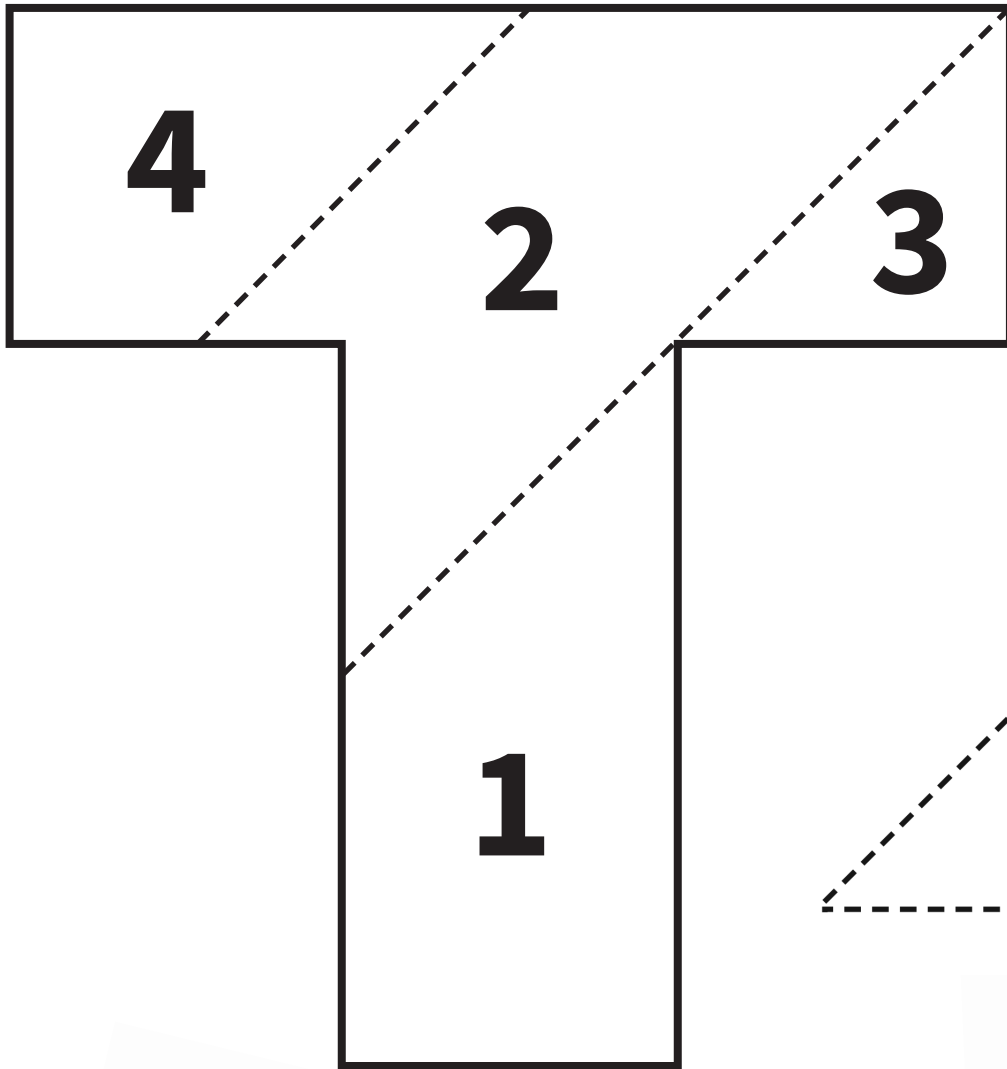
- **What made you decide you wanted to ask for help, if you did ask?**
- **How did hints about the puzzle help you solve it?**

Say: **The hints helped you think in new ways and see new possible solutions to the puzzle. That actually helped your brain change and grow. Brain-bending puzzles like this can help you learn new skills in solving problems! That means the difficulty you experienced was actually a *good* thing, and you learned from the help you got. That’s true when we face difficulties in life, too. We learn from God when we make asking for help part of prayer.**

Difficult T



Difficult T





Kids at home Lesson: P.R.A.Y. Week 4 - Yield to God's Will

Sunday, November 1st

BIBLE POINT: Jesus seeks God's Will

OBJECTIVE: Kids will learn that yielding to God is a part of prayer.

KEY PASSAGE: Matthew 6:9-13, Matthew 26:36-46

Since we're learning about prayer, let's start our Bible time by making a wish list of everything we want God to give us.

Distribute paper and pens, and have kids write their wish lists. Then share a few things on their lists.

- Are there any items on your list you don't think you should ask God for? Why or why not?

Asking God for things we need or even want is a part of prayer. But sometimes that's *all* we include in our prayers. We think that prayer is all about getting what we want. But today we're going to look at a different side of prayer: wanting God's will is part of prayer. That means asking God what *he* wants and desiring to do things *his* way. In the Lord's Prayer, the example prayer Jesus prayed, he said, "May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."

Let's see another example of what that kind of prayer looks like.

Open your Bible to Matthew 26. Say: In the Bible, Jesus prayed another prayer where he asked for God's will, even when it wasn't what he wanted.

See, Jesus knew he was about to get beaten and humiliated and then die on a cross. He didn't want to do that! He called that a "cup of suffering"—something he knew he had to do that would be hard. Let's see what he said. Read Matthew 26:39. Then discuss these questions:

- What do you think Jesus wanted?
- What did God want Jesus to do?
- Let's brainstorm some options Jesus had for how he could've gotten what *he* wanted. (Examples might include running away and hiding, fighting off the bad guys, or zapping himself back to heaven without dying. Let kids use their imaginations!)



God wanted Jesus to die on the cross so that we could be forgiven. Jesus' death would pay the punishment for *our* sins. Jesus knew that would hurt him physically...and emotionally. He could've stopped it in a lot of ways, but he didn't. Let's read Jesus' prayer again. This time, pay attention to how Jesus *did* choose to respond. Read Matthew 26:39 again and discuss this question.

- What did you notice about Jesus' prayer?

It's okay to tell God what we want. Jesus was honest about his feelings when he prayed, and he asked God to take away the suffering he was about to go through. But then he prayed this: "Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." That sounds a lot like the line from the Lord's Prayer. Let's say it together. Lead kids in saying, "May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."

Wanting God's will is part of prayer. And sometimes, when we *really* don't like God's way, we might need to pray the same prayer over and over. Jesus did! Read Matthew 26:42 and 44.

- Tell about something you know God wants but is hard for *you* to want. Share your own example first, such as loving a really annoying co-worker or giving some of your money to church. Then have kids share.

When we don't want what God wants, we can be honest about that. But then we can pray something like what the Lord's Prayer says: "May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."

So let's pray through our wish lists, but we'll do it by seeking God's will. For each item on your list, you'll pray, "God, I want _____. Yet not my will, but yours be done."

Wanting God's will is part of prayer because it shows we trust that God's way is better than ours. You might *want* a phone, but maybe that wouldn't be good for you, and God knows it. When we pray for God's will, we're praying out of trust.

Close with this prayer: God, may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. We want your will to be done, not ours. Help us pray out of trust in you, believing that your ways are better than ours. In Jesus' name, amen.



Family Activity at home:

Supplies

- pens
- paper

Share a Pen

Say: Today we've been looking at Jesus' example of how wanting God's will is a part of prayer. It means letting go of what we want or want to do and doing what God tells us is best. God's in control no matter what, but a change happens in our hearts when we want God's will over our own. Let's do an experiment of opposing forces to see what it's like to fight for control, and to let go of it.

- Form pairs, and give each pair one pen and a piece of paper.
- Have partners both hold on to the pen with their dominant hands (the hands they normally write with). It'll feel a bit awkward, but that's part of the experiment. One person can hold the pen low, close to the point, while the other person holds the pen higher so both partners have a good writing grip on the pen.
- On the count of three, you'll give everyone a word to write, and partners will attempt to write the word at the same time in the way they normally write.
- Have partners write the word *bat*.
- Most partners will struggle and might not be able to write anything legible.
- Repeat the experiment a few times, changing partners if possible.
- This time after a few rounds, they'll take turns surrendering to the way their partners write. That means one person will lightly hold the pen and allow the other person to direct writing "bat."

Talk About It

- What made the first few rounds such a struggle?

Say: The first few rounds were a battle of wills. That's because even though you all were trying to write the same word at the same time, you all have different handwriting. The way you wanted to write "bat" won't ever exactly match another person's way.

- What worked better when you relaxed, let go of control, and allowed your partner to lead?
- What might change in our lives if we let God lead us?

Say: It's not always easy to let go of what we want to do but that's why wanting God's will is a part of prayer. Each time we talk with God we can ask for his help not only to know what he wants us to do but also for the help we may need to let him lead.