

Prayer



What IS prayer? What does it mean to pray? Prayer is talking to God the Father, through Jesus Christ the Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Now I know that's quite a mouthful....

I heard this great analogy for the Father – Son – Holy Spirit relationship in prayer:

It's like God the Father is talking to us through a walkie talkie. He has one handset. Jesus handed us the other handset when he died on the cross – we have a way to talk directly to God. But the walkie talkie is missing its battery. The Holy Spirit provides the battery, the power, that we need when we talk to God. Pray is talking to God the Father, through Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit.



Trace your hand on a piece of paper or have someone help you. Once your hand is traced, write the following words on each of the fingers and talk with your family about what that kind of prayer is. Come up with examples of what you could pray about for each of these types of prayer. You may want to draw examples on (or around) your hands as reminders of what each part of the prayer is.

The Fingers in the Prayer Hand

PRAISE (thumb)— Praise is telling God how great He is and talking about all the great things that God has done.

What are some things that you could say to God to tell Him how great He is?

THANKS (1st finger)— Thanksgiving is about thanking God for the things He has done and the things He has given us.

What are you thankful for?

SORRY (middle finger)– – Confession is about telling God the things you've done that you know He wouldn't want you to do. Tell Him you're sorry and ask Him to forgive you. When we repent of our sins and turn to Jesus to follow Him, that is confession. Take this time to define the words sin and repent...

~ SIN ~ anything we do that goes against God's law or anything we do that puts our desires above God's desires

~ REPENT ~ turning away from your sin and turning to God. (you can illustrate this by writing God on one piece of paper and sin/ self on a 2nd piece of paper and putting them on opposite walls. Have all the kids walk toward the sin sign while you talk about sin, then say repent and have them turn their back on 'sin' and walk toward God. Ask if they can be walking toward both at the same time....can you be sinning and obeying God at the same time?

ASK (ring finger)– -Ask is asking God for the things that you need. This is the time to ask for things you need, not just things you want.

What's the difference between a need and want? What are some of the things we need? Let me remind you that one thing we all need is a Savior and that Jesus is the only way to be saved and the only way to have a relationship with God.

OTHERS (PINKY)– -Intercession is a word we use when we pray for others and it means asking God to help other people. You can pray for your family, your friends, people in your church and other people who need to hear about Jesus.

Who are some of the people you could pray for?' Make a list of people to pray for and spend a few minutes praying for them.

The 5 Finger Prayer

Thumb: Those closest to you, your family.

Pointer: Those that point you in the right direction (teachers, doctors, priests) ask for wisdom & support.

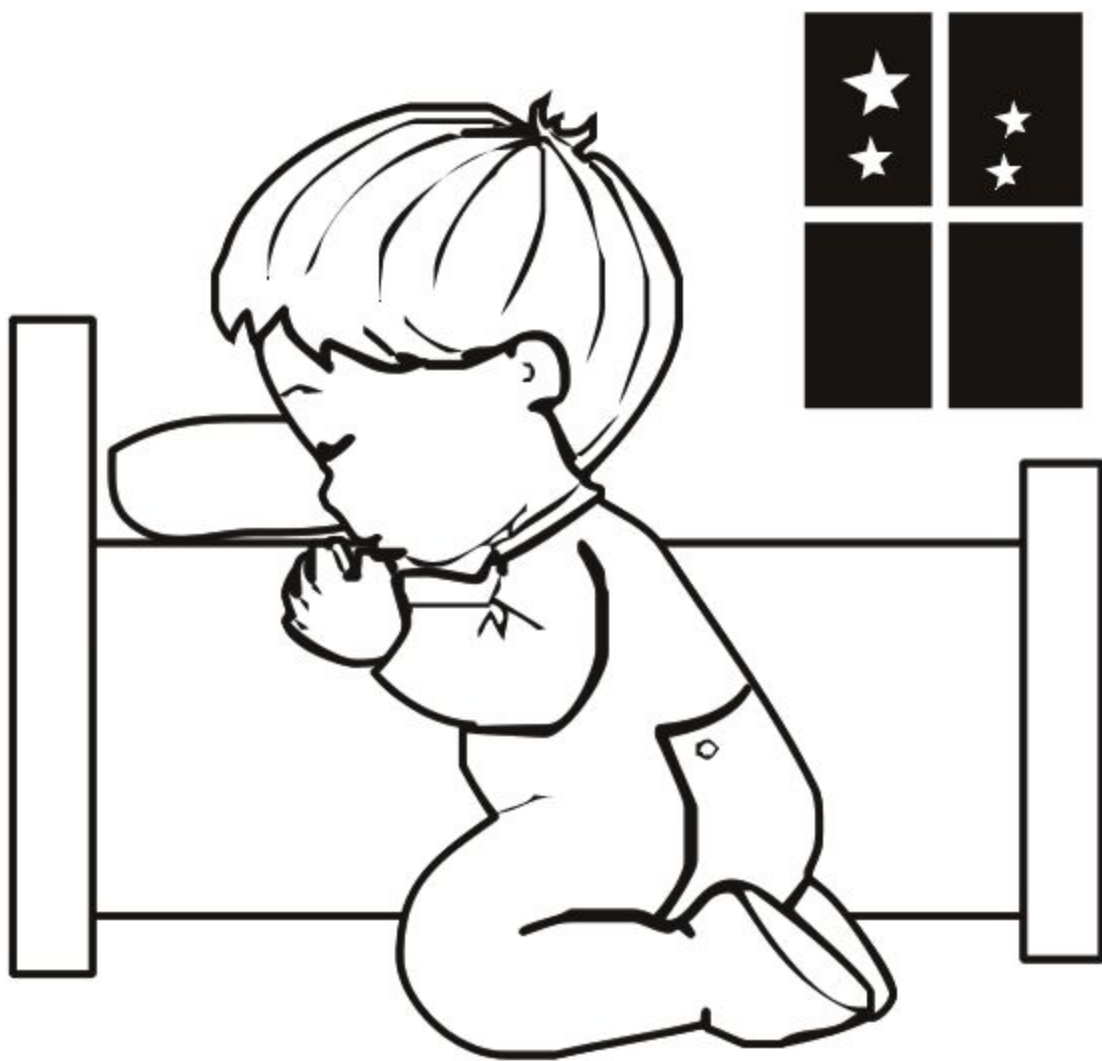
Index: (tallest) Those that lead us, (Government) ask for guidance & wisdom.

Ring: (weakest) Those that are weak, in trouble, or in pain. We cannot pray too much for them.

Pinkie: (smallest) Our prayers for ourselves & our own needs.



pray



Thank you, God, for
listening to my prayers!



My Prayer Journal date _____

Confession

Things I'm Thankful For

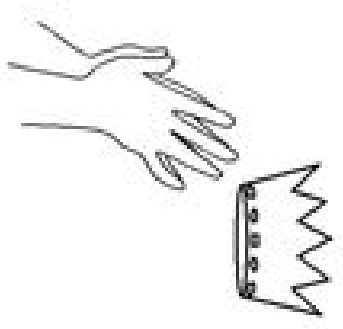
Prayer for others

Prayers for Myself

Lord's Prayer Word Search

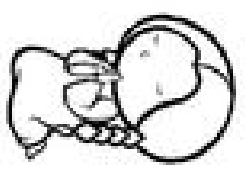
A N L N S S E N E V I G R O F
 N T A L K T D A N L H V O R P
 Y E V E I L E B N H P A E Z R
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 D A I L Y F I O Q Y M G U K X

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| anytime | hears |
| anywhere | heaven |
| ask | listens |
| believe | power |
| communicate | praise |
| daily | pray |
| example | simple |
| eyes | talk |
| forgiveness | temptations |
| hands | |



Use words to fill in the blanks.

Lord's Prayer Anagram



- aeelmpx _____
- eilmps _____
- aeehrv _____
- odily abder _____
- eefginorssv _____
- oeimnopsttt _____
- eeprw _____
- oeimnty _____
- occeimnotfu _____
- oeehrvwy _____