



## Ready, Set, Go!

### Jesus Teaches on How to Pray

**BIG IDEA:** Jesus teaches us how to say powerful prayers that are honoring to God.

**BIBLE BASIS:** Matthew 6:5-16

**KEY VERSE:** “Then you will call out to me. You will come and pray to me. And I will listen to you.” Jeremiah 29:12 (NirV)

## SCHEDULE

ESTIMATES

### WELCOME KIDS AND FREETIME

6:15 PM

### SMALL GROUP CONNECT

6:30 PM

### WORSHIP

6:45 PM

### JTS SHOW & DISCUSSION

7:00 PM

### SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

7:30 PM

### GYM TIME?

7:45 PM

### PICK UP TIME AND FREETIME

7:55 PM

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## LEADER DEVOTIONAL

You might say I'm a bit of an organizing junkie. I can consume a book on "simplifying life" like a paperback beach read. Why? Because for years I have had this notion that if I could just get down to the basics of life, with less stuff to take care of and fewer distractions, I just might find a sweet spot. And in the sweet spot I could focus on what really matters in life.

Isn't this similar to God's direction on prayer? In Jeremiah 29:12 it says, "Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you." Simple. When we push away all the words we say to sound important, or spiritual, we can get to the basics. What if we actually did what Jesus teaches in Matthew 6:6: "But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen." What if we pushed aside the feeling that we need to say overly verbose, beautifully worded prayers and instead said genuine prayers that came from our gut and followed the pattern that Jesus taught us through the Lord's Prayer?

When I think back to my richest moments with God, I think back to one summer when I was getting up early in the morning and meeting God at a tree stump to pray. I was alone, but I could feel God listening. So much so, that I often left the prayer time with my eyes full of tears, having encountered His powerful presence. Seek Him, and He will listen. He wants to meet us in that beautiful, sweet spot.

*Nicole Johnston*  
GO! Contributor





## SMALL GROUP SKILL BUILDING

### *How to Prepare Like a Champ for Small Group*

Picture this scene. Moments before children’s church is scheduled to begin, a leader stands in the corner of the room with his face buried in some papers labeled “Small Group Lesson.” He seems oblivious to the kids moving quickly and loudly all around him. A bead of sweat rolls down his face. The clock ticks loudly as he reads at a fevered pace. Have you seen this leader? Are *you* this leader? There’s no judgment here! We get it — life is often *really* busy, and finding the time to lead a small group, much less prepare for one, can be tough. But by investing just a small amount of time into preparation, you can go from being a good small group leader to a great one. Here’s how:

**Read your lesson ahead of time.** You saw that one coming, didn’t you? When the kids arrive, it’s game time. When you’ve read the lesson ahead of time, the kids get your full attention from the moment they walk in. When small group begins, you’ll be able to lead much more effectively if you’re not trying to figure out the lesson for yourself at the same time you’re explaining it to your group.

**Familiarize yourself with the materials.** Many of the small group activities in the GO! curriculum have materials that go with it. When you read the lesson at home, you might have a picture of what the materials look like, but double check to make sure what you imagined matches reality when you arrive at church.

**Prepare your own heart.** The best way to lead the kids in your group is through example. Consider reading the Bible story ahead of time and asking yourself how it applies to your own life. Spend some time in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to show you how you need to change in light of this story.



# 7.3 WN Small Group Lesson | Elementary



## SMALL GROUP CONNECT

**Remind kids about being respectful.**

1. **Respect God** - Worship, listen, use kind words
2. **Respect People** - Be kind, share, follow leaders
3. **Respect the Building** - Take care of the space & supplies

**Question:** If you could ask God for anything in the world, what would it be?

### **ADDITIONAL TIME ACTIVITY — THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN**

Simply ask the kids in your group to share one good thing that happened this week (thumbs up) and one not-so-good thing (thumbs down). This is a great way for your group to share celebrations and struggles with one another.





## ★ LARGE GROUP LESSON

**Lil Climbers Will Join Us**

**Open with worship.**

**Lil Climbers Leave**

**Leah will introduce the series.**

**Watch Journey Today Show – will pause a couple times for reading and discussion.**

**1<sup>ST</sup> VIDEO PAUSE:**

**Read Matthew 6:5-13**

### **THE BIG BIBLE STORY QUESTIONS**

**Directions:** After reading, answer the following questions:

**For Younger Kids:**

- What was your favorite part of this story?
- Why do you think it's so important to pray to God?

**For Older Kids:**

- What is your favorite part of the Lord's Prayer? Why?
- Was there any part of the Lord's Prayer that was confusing to you? If so, which part?

**2<sup>ND</sup> VIDEO PAUSE:**

**Ask:** If you know that He listens to you, what is the one thing you want to tell God the most right now?





## SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

### Prayer Dice

**Say:** Today we learned about The Lord's Prayer. Let's see if we remember what it says. Point to the image on the dice in order and say the Lord's Prayer. Repeat it a few times so the kids can memorize it.

### Prayer Images Order:

- **GOD:** "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name."
- **Earth:** "Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."
- **Bread:** "Give us this day our daily bread."
- **Sad face:** "And forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors."
- **Stop sign:** "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

**Directions:** Have everyone take turns rolling the dice. Whatever image they land on, see if they can recite that part of the Lord's Prayer. (Recite the prayer together if they need assistance.) Then ask them the related question below. If they land on the question square, have them answer that specific question.

### Questions:

- **GOD:** That means God's name is so, so special. What do you think is special about God?
- **Earth:** That means when we pray, we should ask for things that God wants, not just things that we want. What do you think God wants us to have?
- **Bread:** That means when we pray, we should ask God to give us our food and anything else we need to live. What kind of things do you need to live?
- **Sad Face:** That means when we pray, we should say, "I'm sorry" to God for doing bad things. We should also say, "I forgive you" to people who do bad things to us. What do you need to say "I'm sorry" for?
- **Stop Sign:** That means when we pray, we should ask God to help us stop doing bad things and start making good choices. What kind of things do you get in trouble for?

**Say:** Remember, no matter when, how or where you pray, God promises He'll hear every word you say.