

The Lord's Prayer: God's Glory

Core Activity

The Prayer of Jesus

1. Write the following words of the Lord's Prayer on the board, on newsprint, or on an overhead:

Our
Father
who art in heaven
hallowed be thy name
Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven

2. Ask the students to estimate the number of times they have recited the Lord's Prayer. One way of reaching an estimate is to first have the students think about the number of times in a week they pray the Lord's Prayer. Then have them multiply that number by 52, and multiply that number by the age they are.

3. Pray the Lord's Prayer together. Then offer a presentation based on the introductory paragraphs on pages 415–416 of *The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth, Third Edition (CFH)*.

4. After the presentation divide the class into pairs and provide the following instructions in your own words:

- One person in each pair is to recite slowly, point by point, the phrases from the Lord's Prayer that have been posted. The other person is to listen. The listeners are to pretend they have never heard this prayer and are curious about it, and are to write questions about the prayer to be posed to the whole class. As a sample, they might come up with these questions:
 - Why *our* Father and not *my* Father?
 - What is meant by *kingdom*?

Then have the partners reverse roles and repeat the process.

5. Gather the class back. Invite the students to name the questions the different phrases evoked. Then offer comments on the phrases, using material from pages 417–423 of the *CFH*.

6. Praying the Lord's Prayer on a regular basis has the potential to change us. Explain to the students that this segment of the activity invites them to consider the ways such change can occur.

Form six groups and assign each group one of the lines from the Lord's Prayer that you have posted. Provide each group with a piece of poster board, a sheet of newsprint, or another large piece of paper. In the middle of the paper, the group should write, in large letters, its assigned line.

7. Invite the students to reflect on how their assigned portions of the prayer could ultimately change them. An example response is "By praying the word *our* rather than the word *my*, we shift our focus from ourselves to others."

8. After everyone has had a chance to reflect, ask the groups to write their reflections on their papers around the central word or phrase. Post the completed signs around the room. Ask the students to move about the room and read the reflections. For this to have its full effect, ask that the students remain silent as they move through the classroom.

9. When the students have read all the reflections, ask them to return to their seats. Conclude with a discussion on how their understanding of the Lord's Prayer has changed.

(This activity is adapted from the *TC: Prayer* manual.)

Core Activity Extension

The Kingdom Is Now

1. Assign the following scriptural passages to the students:

- Matt. 13:44
- Matt. 13:45–46
- Matt. 13:47–50
- Mark 4:30–32
- Luke 13:20–21

2. Tell the students to read the assigned scriptural passages and use what they have read to answer the following questions:

- What images does Jesus use to describe the Kingdom of God?
- After reading the parables, write a paragraph that describes the Kingdom of God to someone who has never heard of such a thing.
- According to the parables, where, or how, will we find the Kingdom of God partly present in our world?

(This activity is adapted from the *TC: Prayer* manual.)

Additional Activities

Ways to Praise God

1. Form small groups of four to six students and assign each group one of the following themes:

- personal
- family
- school community

2. Indicate to the students that the Lord's Prayer speaks to our need to praise and honor God. Ask the groups to discuss this question: "How do we praise and glorify God personally? as families? as a Catholic school community?"

Allow time for the groups to discuss the question. Ask one student in each group to serve as the group's recorder and to list ways he or she sees the group praising and glorifying God's name.

Invite a person from each group to present the group's ideas.

3. Conclude by asking the students to write a thank-you note to God. The note can be about anything, but it should give praise, honor, and thanksgiving to God. Collect the notes and place them where they will be remembered during class prayer. For the next week, refer to them during class prayer time.

(This activity is adapted from the *TC: Prayer* manual.)

People of Every Race and Tongue

1. Ask the language teachers in your school for copies of the Lord's Prayer in different languages.

2. Divide the class into small groups. The number of small groups should equal the number of translations that you have. Assign each group a translation and provide each group member with a copy of that translation.

3. Ask each group to discover the proper pronunciation of its translation. Explain that the group is to create a presentation in which the translation is spoken to the class. Each person in the group is to have a part in the presentation. Allow two or three days for the groups to develop the presentations. Devote a class period to hearing the Lord's Prayer in languages from around the world.

Called to Pray Together



Conduct a class prayer service using the handout "Called to Pray Together" (Document #: TX003211). A leader and a reader will need to be assigned, and the reader will need a Bible. (This activity is adapted from the *TC: Prayer* manual.)

In Your Own Words

Have your students read the Pray It! article “In Your Own Words,” on page 420 of the *CFH*. Next ask them to rewrite the Lord’s Prayer in their own words as directed at the end of the article. Once they have completed the activity, either in class or as homework, invite a few students to share their personal translations of the Lord’s Prayer. (This activity is adapted from the *TC: Prayer* manual.)

(The material labeled *Catechetical Sessions on Christian Prayer* or *TC: Prayer* is from *Total Catechesis: Catechetical Sessions on Christian Prayer*, by Mary Shrader and Laurie Delgatto, in the Total Catechesis series [Winona, MN: Saint Mary’s Press, 2004]. Copyright © 2004 by Saint Mary’s Press. All rights reserved.)