



# 9

# Pray Without Ceasing

## Key Theme

- God works in believers to accomplish His purpose.

## Key Passages

- Philippians 4:6–7
- Adoration—Psalm 146:1–2      Confession—1 John 1:9  
Thanksgiving—Psalm 95:2      Supplication—Matthew 6:11

## Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe some ways God wants His children to pray.
- Describe some types of prayer.



## Lesson Overview



### Come On In

Students will practice the memory verse by completing the Memory Verse Review Sheet and reciting the verse to a friend.



### Activity 1: Pray Without Ceasing Class Notes

Students will fill out the Pray Without Ceasing Class Notes as you study the lesson.



### Studying God's Word

All believers should pray. God wants to hear from His children. And the Bible describes the kinds of prayers we should pray and gives many examples. The acronym ACTS includes four kinds of prayers: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication.



### Activity 2: Prayer Corners

Students will determine what kind of prayer each question is referring to and move to the corner with the corresponding answer.

# Lesson Preparation

## WHAT YOU WILL DO

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED



### COME ON IN

- Print one Memory Verse Review Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Review Sheets
- Pencils or crayons



### PRAY WITHOUT CEASING CLASS NOTES

- Print one Pray Without Ceasing Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- Pray Without Ceasing Class Notes for each student
- Pray Without Ceasing Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils



### STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.
- Print and cut the eight Lesson Illustrations from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- Lesson Illustrations
- Tape or poster putty
- Student Take Home Sheets



### PRAYER CORNERS

- Print one set of the Prayer Corners Components from the Resource DVD-ROM. Keep the Prayer Corners Questions for your use.
- Cut out the four Prayer Corners Illustrations and attach one illustration in each corner of the room.

- Prayer Corners Questions
- Four Prayer Corners Illustrations
- Tape or poster putty



### MEMORY VERSE REVIEW GAME (OPTIONAL)

- This is an optional activity to use in some or all of the lessons to review the memory verse if time allows.
- Print onto cardstock and cut out one or two sets (depending on class size) of the Memory Verse Flashcards from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Keep the flashcards for use in Lessons 7–12.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Flashcards (two sets if you have a large class)
- Masking tape
- Optional: Timer



## Memory Verse

**1 Thessalonians 5:16–18** Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

► **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





# Prepare to Share

## SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above with this background.

We are all sinners and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). As believers we are saved by grace through faith—not by our own works so that we could never boast (Ephesians 2:8–9).

As sinners saved through grace, we know that we have received the Spirit of adoption and can now call God, “Abba, Father” (Romans 8:15–16).

Because of these wonderful truths, we know, as believers, that we can come boldly and confidently to the throne of grace where we find God’s mercy to help in our times of need (Hebrews 4:16). This is both a privilege and a command given to us by God, our Father. The Apostle Paul told the Thessalonians to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Jesus commanded in His Word to ask, and it will be given; to seek, and it will be found; and to knock, and it will be opened (Matthew 7:7). Jesus assured His disciples (and all believers) that whatever we would ask in His name He would do in order that the Father may be glorified in the Son (John 14:13–14). We see this principle repeated in 1 John 5:14–15 where we read that if we ask anything according to God’s will, He hears us!

The prayers of believers that Jesus is referring to must be presented in Jesus’s name and according to His will. These prayers would be prayers directed, not toward selfish gain, but the furthering of the kingdom so that the Father will be glorified and honored.

But what is the proper way to pray? Most people are familiar with the Lord’s Prayer in Matthew 6:9–13. This is an example set before us by Jesus Himself of how to pray. This prayer includes worship of God, trust in God, supplication to God for daily needs, confession of sins before God, and a humble submission to God as we wait and trust that He will answer our prayers according to His perfect will.

We find more direction from the Apostle Paul in his writings to the Philippians (and to us through the inspired Word of God). Here we are told to be anxious for nothing and in ALL things by prayer, with thanksgiving, to present our requests to God. Only confidence and complete dependence on God will allow us to pray in this way. And it will result in the peace of God guarding our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:6–7).

The Bible gives other examples of various types of prayers that we can learn from. You may have seen the acronym ACTS used to illustrate some of these prayers.

A – Adoration is to worship and adore God—to sing praises to Him while we have our being (Psalm 146:1–2).

C – Confession is to come before God in humility and ask for His forgiveness for the times we sin against Him (1 John 1:9).

T – Thanksgiving is to continually be aware of and thank God for the many blessings He allows in our lives every day! The psalmist said it well: “Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms” (Psalm 95:2).

S – Supplication is to come to God, our heavenly Father, with our daily needs and the needs of others. The Lord’s Prayer includes praying for our daily bread (Matthew 6:11). We know that God cares for us and will supply all our needs according to His riches in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).

It is truly a privilege as a child of God to approach His throne of grace with our requests. God expects and desires us to come to Him honestly. Praying in all things reveals a dependence on His sovereignty and will for our lives. We can trust that as our “Abba, Father,” He knows all things. He knows our hearts better than we know them ourselves, and He will always answer our prayers in ways that are best for us—according to His perfect will.

## HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

As believers, we have access to God’s throne of grace through Jesus Christ, our great High Priest (Hebrews 4:14–16). We can present our prayers before Him and have confidence that He hears us (1 John 5:14–15). But we may have heard people ask or may have asked ourselves whether or not God hears and answers the prayers of unbelievers. How many times have we heard non-Christians say they’ll pray for us? Or how many times have we seen prayers offered by those who are from a non-Christian religion? Does God hear or answer these prayers? To answer this question, we’ll need to look at our source for truth, the Word of God.

Of course, God can do whatever He wants that is in accord with His will and His nature. So, He could answer any prayer if He so chooses. But Scripture clearly indicates that God does not listen to or answer every prayer. Here are a number of verses from both the Old and New Testaments that would indicate that God does not attend to the prayers of unbelievers.

Isaiah 1:15 – When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; even though you

make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood.

Isaiah 59:2 – But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.

Psalms 24:3–4 – Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully.

Psalms 34:15–16 – The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry. The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

Psalms 66:18 – If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear.

Proverbs 15:8 – The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord, but the prayer of the upright is His delight.

Proverbs 28:9 – One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination.

James 1:5–7 – If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord.

James 4:3–4 – You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

According to these verses, there are several reasons why God may not listen to or answer prayer. He will not answer the prayers of those who are idolaters, who swear falsely, who do evil, who regard iniquity in their hearts, who are wicked, who turn away from His Law, who don't ask in faith, who ask for their own pleasures, and who are friends of the world.

Scripture tells us that all who have not humbly repented of their sin and submitted to the Lordship of Christ are enemies of God (Romans 5:10). They are dead in trespasses and sins and are slaves to sin (Ephesians 2:1; Romans 6:17). They do not have faith,

and thus are unable to please God (Hebrews 11:6). They are idolaters and have substituted the worship of the one true God with the worship of created things (Romans 1:22–23). And because they do not worship the true God, His ears are closed to their prayers.

In our pluralistic society today, such a view would be greeted with cries of intolerance. Who are Christians to say that God doesn't hear the prayers of sincere non-Christians? Don't all religions have access to God? But these complaints are directed at God Himself who has clearly spoken to this in His Word.

The enemy, Satan, loves "religion" and false hope in prayer. He wants people to think that being "spiritual" by praying and being religious are good things in themselves. He is happy with people who think that because they meditate or pray or go to religious services, they are on the right side with God. Satan does not want people to rightly understand the love of God as seen in Scripture through Jesus Christ, the only Savior. Nor does he want them to contemplate and fear the wrath of God promised at the last judgment when God will surely condemn all who have rejected Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son.

The truth is, the only prayer of a non-believer that God will hear and answer with all surety is the prayer of humble repentance for sins followed by the declaration of sincere faith in Jesus Christ, the Savior. This is the prayer of submission to God's will that will bring salvation to the lost soul through the gospel.

And for believers, we can be confident in the one true God and know that the only Mediator between God and man, Jesus Christ, is at the right hand of God the Father making intercession for us (1 Timothy 2:5; Romans 8:34).



## BEFORE THE THRONE

Father God, you are a loving provider of all things good. You want your children to come to you in faith believing that you want the best for us, and you will answer. Help us, Lord to trust you in all things—and bring all things before you in prayer. Show my students the importance of using prayer to adore you, confess sin, thank you, and ask you to meet their needs. They have so many years ahead of them. May they learn early in their lives the wonderful privilege it is to pray. Help them to trust your promise to hear and answer the prayers of your children.



## COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will complete the Memory Verse Review Sheet. If time allows, have the students recite the verse together, to each other, or to you.

*This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity sheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.*



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



## REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



## Pray Without Ceasing Class Notes

### MATERIALS

- Pray Without Ceasing Class Notes for each student
- Pray Without Ceasing Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils

### INSTRUCTIONS

*Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the blanks as you study the lesson.*

- The class notes are designed and written simply. Please encourage and help your students to read them as the class progresses. They are an excellent means to review important lesson principles.

We will write in the answers on our class notes as we study the Bible verses. Do not work ahead. We'll fill them in together.

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we study our lesson today, we're going to learn about something that God wants all of His children to do.



## Studying God's Word

*Refer to Lesson 7 Lesson Theme Poster. When sinners are saved by grace they are forgiven and given eternal life. This is a free gift of God through His grace.*

- ? *Refer to Lesson 8 Lesson Theme Poster. But what else happens to people who receive Jesus as their Savior? What do they become? Children of God.*

- ? *That's right. Believers are children of God. What does that mean? Allow discussion.*

Those of us who believe, receive, and trust in Jesus become children of God. We are now adopted into God's family! Jesus becomes our adopted Brother, AND we become heirs of God!

? What does that mean—that we are heirs of God? What has God promised to all of His children? *Allow discussion.*

If we are believers, then we are heirs of God with God's Son, Jesus Christ. We can be sure that we will receive a wonderful inheritance from God.

? What does that inheritance include? *Allow discussion. Eternal life with God in heaven!*

Becoming a child of God is an amazing gift! And it is available for everyone who repents of his sins and believes all the Bible says about Jesus. Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and rose from the grave on the third day. All who believe these truths and trust in Jesus are adopted into God's family. God becomes their Father, and Jesus becomes their Brother. As members of God's family, they receive an inheritance—a special gift promised from God! That inheritance is perfect in every way. And it is reserved in heaven for all who believe in Jesus.

Today, we will talk about another special privilege we get as children of God.

? How many of you talk to your moms and dads? *Show of hands.*

Of course you talk to them. Well, because God is our heavenly Father, we get to talk to Him, too!

? How do we talk to God? *Allow discussion.*

We talk to God through prayer! We get to go right to God—the Creator! And we can talk to Him whenever we want. The Bible tells us some ways we can pray to God! We are going to read about those today.



➤ Because of the age and ability of 1st and 2nd graders to read and comprehend, we have written these lessons for you to read the Scriptures to the students. However, please encourage your students to bring Bibles to class. And if you have strong readers, by all means have them participate by reading God's Word.

## READ THE WORD

### Philippians 4:6

Let's take a look at something the Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 4:6. Let's see what he said about prayer. Listen to this. *Read Philippians 4:6.*

## EXAMINE THE WORD

### Observe the Text

? This verse starts off with a command for us. What is that? Be what? *Anxious for nothing.*

? That's right. We are not to be anxious about anything. But what does anxious mean? *Allow discussion.*

Anxious means to be worried, or nervous, or afraid! This verse says we are not to be anxious!

➤ Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text.

- ? How many of you have been worried or anxious before? *Show of hands.*
- ? Who can share with us about a time you were worried? *Allow discussion.*  
I am sure that everyone gets anxious or worried about things. But this verse says we are NOT to be anxious. It also gives us a way to get rid of those worried or nervous feelings. Listen to Philippians 4:6 again. *Re-read the verse.*
- ? What does this say to do instead of being anxious? *Pray!*
- ? Right! Instead of being anxious, we should pray. But what does this say we should pray about? *Everything.*
- ? God does not want us to be anxious about anything in our lives. Instead, who should we go to in prayer? *Re-read Philippians 4:6. God!*  
OK. So Philippians 4:6 teaches us something about how to pray. Philippians 4:7 tells us what happens when we pray the way God wants us to. Listen as I read this! *Read Philippians 4:7. Emphasize "the peace of God."*
- ? What will believers get if they pray the way God wants them to pray? *The peace of God.*
- ? What will this peace of God do for us as we pray the way God wants us to? What will it guard? *Philippians 4:7. Our hearts and minds.*

➤ Share with your students a time you were anxious about something. This may encourage them to share their experiences.

## Philippians 4:7

### Discover the Truth

We started off talking about being anxious. Philippians 4:6 says, "Do not be anxious." Then the Bible tells us in Philippians 4:7 that we can have the peace of God to guard our hearts and our minds.

God is sovereign. He is in control of everything that goes on in our lives every day. We can trust God, our heavenly Father. And when we start feeling anxious or nervous or scared about anything, God says here that we can pray to Him about it. But we don't have to wait until we're feeling anxious to talk to God. He wants us to talk to Him about everything! What an awesome God! He loves us and will always be there to help us.

- ? Look at your class notes now. Who will read #1 one for us? When should we pray? *Assign a reader. Feel. Have students complete #1 on the class notes.*
- ? How about #2? Someone read that for us. What should we pray about? *Assign a reader. All. Have students complete #2 on the class notes.*

*Pass out the Lesson Illustrations to several students. Now before we continue, I'm going to pass out some pictures and words to some of you. Hang on to these. You will put them on the board during the lesson.*



➤ Pass out the eight Lesson Illustrations. Students will bring them up and put them on the board during the rest of the lesson.

## READ THE WORD

- Write “ACTS” on the board to show the word.

OK. Let’s move on! The Bible gives examples of different prayers. We can use the word ACTS to help us remember them. This word ACTS can tell us something about the different types of prayers we see in the Bible.

- ? Who has picture #1? Will you bring it up and put it on the board? *Have student attach Lesson Illustration #1 to the board with tape or poster putty.*
- ? What is this girl saying? *“I love you, Lord.”*
- ? And who is she talking to? *God.*

Right! This girl is praying a special kind of prayer. It’s called Adoration.

- ? Who has that word? It’s picture #2. Will you bring it up, please? *Have student attach Lesson Illustration #2 to the board. Say this word with me. Repeat the word together.*
- ? What do you think that is? *Allow discussion.*

Adoration is when we adore God and let Him know that we love Him. It is praising God and worshipping Him because of who He is—the sovereign Creator of the universe! He is the one true God, and He deserves our praise.

### Psalm 146:1–2

Now listen to these verses—Psalm 146:1–2. This is an example of someone praying a prayer of Adoration. *Read Psalm 146:1–2.*

- Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text.

## EXAMINE THE WORD

### Observe the Text

- ? What is the person who wrote this doing? What word does he keep using? *Psalm 146:1–2. Praising God! Praise.*

Yes. He says “praise” several times, doesn’t he? These verses give us a great example of adoring God—and praising Him. This is a prayer of Adoration—adoring God and praising Him for who He is!

- ? OK. Let’s complete #3 on your class notes. Will someone read that? What does Adoration mean? *Assign a reader. Praise. Have students complete #3 on the class notes.*

Now look at the four boxes on your class notes. Put the first letter of our new word, Adoration, in the first box. It is A. *Refer to the letter “A” in the word ACTS you have written on the board.*



## READ THE WORD

- ? Let’s look at another kind of prayer. Who has picture #3? Put that one up for us now. *Have student attach Lesson Illustration #3 to the board.*
- ? OK. What do you think is going on in this picture? *Allow discussion.*

It looks like this boy is thinking about something he did wrong earlier that day.

? What does it look like he's doing now? *Praying.*

? What is he saying? *"I'm sorry, Lord."*

Right. He's confessing his sin to God and telling God he's sorry.

Who has picture #4? Bring that up now. *Have student attach Lesson Illustration #4 to the board.*

This is a prayer of Confession. C is for Confession. Say it with me. *Repeat the word together. Confession.*

There's a verse in the book of 1 John that tells us we should pray prayers of Confession. Listen to 1 John 1:9. *Read 1 John 1:9.*

1 John 1:9

## EXAMINE THE WORD

### Observe the Text

? What is this verse telling us we should do? *Confess our sins.*

? And what does it mean to confess our sins? *To say we did something wrong and that we're sorry for it. To ask for forgiveness.*

? What does God do for us when we confess our sins? What will He do because He is faithful and just? *Re-read 1 John 1:9. Forgive us.*

That's right. When we humbly confess our sins, and we are truly sorry for our sins, God is faithful and just, and He will forgive our sins!

? OK. You can complete #4 on your class notes. What does this word Confession mean? Who will read that for us? *Assign a reader. Sins. Have students complete #4 on the class notes.*

Now put the first letter of this word in the second box on your class notes—the letter C. Remember, "A" stands for prayers of Adoration. "C" stands for prayers of Confession. *Have students fill in the second box on the class notes.*



## READ THE WORD

? Now let's put picture #5 on the board. Who has that one? *Have student attach Lesson Illustration #5 to the board.*

? What is happening in this picture? *Allow discussion.*

? It looks like this person is about to eat dinner. Is he eating yet? *No.*

? What is he doing? *Praying. Thanking God.*

? What is he saying? *"Thank you for our food, Lord."*

? Yes! This would be a Thanksgiving prayer. Who has that word, picture #6? Let's put that one up. *Have student attach Lesson Illustration #6 to the board.*

Say this word with me. Thanksgiving. *Repeat the word together.*

Now listen to one of the prayers of Thanksgiving in the Bible. This is Psalm 95:2. *Read the verse.*

## EXAMINE THE WORD

### Observe the Text

- ? This says to come before God with what? *Thanksgiving.*
- ? And how does it say we should shout? *Re-read Psalm 95:2. Joyfully.*  
That's right. We should joyfully thank God for all the blessings He gives.
- ? What are some of the things you can thank God for in your life? *Encourage students to think about things they can be thankful for.*
- ? Let's take a look at our class notes. Who will read #5 for us? What does Thanksgiving mean? *Assign a reader. Thank. Have students complete #5 on the class notes.*
- ? And what letter should you put in the third box on your class notes? It stands for Thanksgiving. *The letter T. Refer to the word ACTS on the board.*



## READ THE WORD

Adoration, Confession, and Thanksgiving. There is one more type of prayer we are going to talk about today.

- ? Who has picture #7? Bring that up for us, please. *Have student attach Lesson Illustration #7 to the board.*
- ? Hmm. What is this girl doing? *Praying.*
- ? It looks like she's thinking about someone who is sick. What is she saying to God? *"Lord, would you please make Mary well?"*

Yes. She is saying a prayer of Supplication. It means to request or to ask for something. She is asking the Lord to heal her friend, Mary.

- ? Will you bring up picture #8 now? *Have student attach Lesson Illustration #8 to the board. That's a big word. Let's look at it and say it together. Supplication. Repeat the word together.*

The Bible says we should offer prayers of Supplication for ourselves, our families, and our friends. Those are prayers when we ask God for special help for ourselves, our families, and our friends. We can even pray for people we don't know.

When Jesus was teaching His disciples how to pray, He taught them that prayers of Supplication—asking for everyday things—was OK. I am going to read Matthew 6:11. *Read the verse.*

## EXAMINE THE WORD

### Observe the Text

? What did Jesus say we should ask God for in this verse? *Matthew 6:11. Our daily bread.*

? What do you think that means? *Allow discussion.*

It means we are to pray about everything—even the food you need each day to live. God cares about all the things in our life. And everything we have comes from Him—even our daily bread!

Prayers of Supplication include asking God for things in our own lives and also asking for things for other people.

? Who can give me an idea of what a prayer of Supplication might be, either for yourself or someone you know? *Allow discussion. Answers can include many things: health, jobs for parent, grades at school, position on the team, a new dress, salvation for a friend, etc.*

? OK. Let's finish up the class notes now. Who will read #6 for us? What does Supplication mean? *Assign a reader. Ask. Have students complete #6 on the class notes.*

And fill in the last box on your class notes with the letter S.

### Discover the Truth

? What does God want us to pray about? Look at #2 on your class notes for a hint. *All things.*

That's right! Remember, if we are believers then we are children of God. He is our Father, and He wants us to pray to Him. We GET to pray to Him. And He listens to our prayers!

God's Word says to pray about everything. So there are many different types of prayers! And we can see examples of them all through the Bible.

? Refer to the word ACTS on the board. Look at the letters in the boxes on your class notes. What do they spell? Say it with me. *ACTS!*

Refer to pictures on the board. We used the word ACTS to help us remember four types of prayers. We talked about prayers of Adoration—a prayer that adores God and praises Him. And then prayers of Confession—when we tell God we are sorry for sinning against Him. Prayers of Thanksgiving are important, too. We should tell God thanks for giving us all our needs and blessing us in so many ways! And we are also told to say prayers of Supplication—when we ask God for things—things we need or things our friends or our families need.

Remember, God wants us to pray and talk with Him every day. And when we remember ACTS and pray all of these kinds of prayers, then it will be easier to pray about everything like God wants us to do.



➤ Share some things you have been asking God for on your own behalf and also on behalf of others so the students will better understand prayers of Supplication.

➤ If time allows, do a quick review of each point on the class notes.



# Prayer Corners

## MATERIALS

- Prayer Corners Questions
- Four Prayer Corners Illustrations
- Tape or poster putty

## INSTRUCTIONS

*Hang the four Prayer Corner Illustrations in each corner of the room. Have students line up across from you. You will compete against the students.*

*Ask the questions. Give the students time to decide their answer and move to the corresponding corner (you may need to count out loud up to ten). You will receive one point for every incorrect answer—every student who goes to the wrong corner! For example, if the answer is Adoration, but someone goes to the Confession corner, you get one point. The students get one point for everyone in the correct corner. This should encourage each student to make his or her own choice rather than going along with the crowd. Repeat questions as time allows.*

OK. Today we're going to play "Prayer Corners" and review the kinds of prayers we've talked about. The signs in the corners

show the different types of prayers we talked about. Say each one with me: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication. *Move around to each label as you read them.* We are going to play all of you against me! Everyone line up here. When I ask you all a question, you will each decide quietly, on your own, which kind of prayer I tell you—remember, no talking. Then you will quickly move to the correct corner. Don't just go to a corner just because your friend is there. Think about the correct answer. If anyone goes to the wrong corner, then I get the point. You will get points for everyone who is in the right corner. Let's play.

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God loves His children and wants them to talk to Him. He tells us in His Word to pray in many ways and for many reasons.





# Memory Verse Review Game (Optional)

**1 Thessalonians 5:16–18** Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

*If you find you have extra time, please consider reviewing the memory verse with your class by playing this game.*

## MATERIALS

- Memory Verse Poster
- One set of Memory Verse Flashcards
- Masking tape
- Optional: Timer

## INSTRUCTIONS

*Allow students to look at the Memory Verse Poster and say the verse together as a class a couple of times. Remove or cover the poster before the game begins. Tape the Memory Verse Flashcards onto students' backs. Students will work together to put themselves in order according to the memory verse. If you have a large class, make two sets of flashcards and have teams race to put themselves in order. Once they think they are standing in order, check the verse by reading the words out loud according to how they are standing. If you have fewer students, tape more than one flashcard, in the proper order, on some students.*

**We're going to practice our memory verse.  
Let's say the verse together a couple times.  
Cover the poster before starting the game.**

*Tape the flashcards onto the students' backs. Now I am going to tape these Memory Verse Flashcards onto your backs! Once I have done that, I want you to work together to get into the right order. We'll check the verse when you are finished. Most groups may need a time limit to encourage them to move at a quick pace. If so, let them know the limit and use a timer to count down the time. Once the students think they are in the right order, check them by reading the words out loud.*

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

? Do you know why we can rejoice always, and pray and give thanks? *Allow discussion.*

We can do this because God is sovereign—He's in control of all things. God is faithful. And He loves us and wants what is best for us. So we can trust Him. We can always have joy knowing that God is always there. We can pray without ceasing because we know God listens to our prayers about everything. And we can be thankful because we know God's ways are always the best ways.



# Applying God's Word

## WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

*Refer to Lesson Theme Poster.* God's Word tells us to pray about everything! If we are believers in Jesus Christ, then God is our Father. He wants us to come to Him every day and talk with Him about everything. And He gives us all kinds of examples in the Bible so we can know how to pray.

ACTS helps us remember some of the different kinds of prayers that we can pray. A is for Adoration. A prayer of Adoration tells God how much we love Him and adore Him. We praise and worship Him because

He is the one true, Creator God. C is for Confession. We say prayers of Confession when we sin. And God promises to forgive us when we are honestly sorry and confess our sins to Him. T is for Thanksgiving. A prayer of Thanksgiving is telling God “thank you” for being faithful to give us all we need. Then S is for Supplication. God wants us to come to Him with prayers of Supplication and ask Him for things for our family, friends, ourselves, and even for people we may not know. And He promises to give us all we need according to His will.

## GOD’S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

*Refer to the Memory Verse Poster.* Our memory verse says we are to pray without ceasing.

- ? Someone read that from our Memory Verse Poster or say it from memory if you know it. *Have a student say the 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 memory verse.*

God cares about our every need. He wants us to come to Him in prayer with whatever is on our mind. But part of praying to God is also trusting Him! And part of praying to God is asking Him for things that we know will be pleasing to Him. Our requests to God should be according to His will—and not always about what we think will make us happier or more comfortable.

We can’t tell God how to answer us. But we can trust that as our loving Father, He will answer our prayers. And His answer—whether it be yes, no, or wait—is always what is best for us at the time, even if the answer doesn’t make sense to us!



► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



### MEMORY VERSE

**1 Thessalonians 5:16–18** Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.



### GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Pray that God will help us remember to check our hearts when we talk to Him in prayer.
- Praise God because He invites us to pray to Him.
- Ask God to help us remember to pray about everything!