



Date: _____
Series: Prayer Walk Mall
Fall Year 2, Lesson 20

Talking to God Helps Us Have a Closer Walk With Him

Take Home Point: *Receive a closer walk with God through prayer. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Luke 11:1-4. The Lord's Prayer

Key Verse: Matthew 7:7, "Everyone who asks will receive. The one who searches will find, and for the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

We will help kids know:

- Three different kinds of prayer: 1.) 911, 2.) Arrow, 3.) Sit Down and Talk with God.
- Jesus gives us a guideline for prayer in the Lord's Prayer.
- God wants, more than anything else, to have a deep personal relationship with us through our prayer life.

We will help kids feel:

- Quiet and relaxed as they visualize themselves in a close relationship with Christ.
- Challenged to set the goal to be able to pray for an hour.

We will help kids do:

- Visualize themselves doing a one-hour activity with Jesus.
- Recite the Lord's Prayer.
- Decide whether to spend coupons purchased by God on a candy bar or spiritual riches.
- Set prayer goals and record them in a weekly journal.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<p>Small Group Warm-Up</p> 	3	<p>Students discuss how to spend an hour with a friend. Following a relaxation exercise, they will visualize themselves doing the same activity with Jesus.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •coupons or tickets •mini candy bars
<p>Large Group</p> 	4 7	<p>Overview</p> <p>Series Sketch: Prayer Walk Mall Presenter Anita (or Seymour) Prayer informs visitors at the Guest Services Center about how Prayer Walk Mall is set up to teach and inspire kids to pray for an hour. Kids are introduced to praying the Lord's Prayer as a model for spending time with God.</p>	<p><i>Props needed:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •map of Prayer Walk Mall (p. 17) • butcher paper drawing of each store front, including the store name, hung behind presenter on the wall, from an easel, music stand or other tall stand •refrigerator box •step ladder •giant cardboard clock •fire extinguisher (with safety seal on) •large arrow made from a broom handle with two paper triangles stapled to it •five coupons torn from one of the journal books (p. 25-32) •large visual text - Lord's Prayer <p><i>Costumes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •"Welcome to Prayer Walk Mall" button (p.16) for presenter •Shopper #1 – Ragged look •Shopper #2 – Jogger look
<p>Small Group Application</p> 	5	<p>Students set prayer goals and record thoughts in prayer journals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Prayer Journal for each student (<i>Separate file</i>) •pencils <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>IMPORTANT: Copy the journal front to back so when folded and stapled, the pages are sequential.</p> </div>

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

As kids gather: Listen to memory verses from last week and give coupons for memory verses, remembering to bring your Bible, and bringing a guest.

Supplies: coupons and mini candy bars

For a discussion starter, hold up coupons and say:

Today I'm going to give you a chance to win one of these coupons. If you win a coupon, you can redeem it for a mini candy bar. In order to win, you have to answer two questions.

If you had an hour to spend with a friend, what would you do?

If you need to add an example, ask if they would just hang out and talk, go someplace, or possibly watch TV.

This second question is different. But you will get to your answer in a special way. Listen carefully to my directions and I will give you your coupon after everyone has answered.

If groups are easily distracted by the volume of noise from other groups in the room, the Large Group presenter, during this following exercise, should begin everyone at the same time. Find the right cue as to when every group in the room should begin this quiet exercise, such as the lights turned off and on.

First, everyone needs to get very quiet. Now, close your eyes, relax, and lean back if that will help you get comfortable.

Proceed with the question when everyone is set for this visualization exercise.

Imagine for a moment, you and your friend doing that one-hour activity you just shared with the group.

Wait about ten seconds.

Now, replace the image of your friend with an image of Jesus. Can you see yourself doing that same thing with Jesus? Just take some time to think about that for a while.

Wait another ten seconds.

Don't offer an answer yet to my questions, but keep developing the picture in your mind's eye. What does Jesus say? What does he look like? What do you enjoy about your time with him?

Wait another ten seconds.

While still keeping your eyes closed, I'd like you to tell us what you've imagined and are seeing in your mind, and everyone else will listen with their eyes closed, too. Once you have done that, you will all win the coupon for a free mini candy bar.

After discussion, invite students to open their eyes, sit back up and exchange their coupons for the candy bar. Let kids eat it either before going into Large Group or save it for later so it is not a distraction for the presenter, other students and themselves.

Thank you for meeting the Warm-Up challenge today. Over the next several weeks in Kingdom Quest, you will receive another challenge. This one is very serious and I want you to think it through before you respond. How many of you think you can spend a whole hour praying?

Wait a little while and discuss.

I will be your guide in this adventure and my challenge to you is to spend an entire hour talking with God by the end of this series of lessons. I believe that after you do that, you will get better at it and discover that you can have a deeper relationship and enjoy a closer walk with God than you have ever experienced before.

This is a gift to you to be able to **receive a closer walk with God through prayer.*

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes

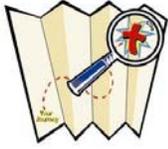


Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Series Sketch: Prayer Walk Mall

Presenter Anita (or Seymour) Prayer informs visitors at the Guest Services Center about how Prayer Walk Mall is set up to teach and inspire kids to pray for an hour. Kids are introduced to praying the Lord's Prayer as a model for spending time with God.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion, but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

What three types of prayer did the presenter discuss with mall visitors? *(The 911 prayer, the arrow prayer, and sit down and talk prayer.)*

Which kind of prayer will be the focus of this series of lessons for the next several weeks as we learn to have a closer relationship with God at Prayer Walk Mall? *(Sit down and talk prayer.)*

How long, in the Garden of Gethsemane, did Jesus ask his disciples to pray for him? *(Matthew 26:40. One hour.)*

What did they do instead of pray? *(Sleep.)*

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

The key verse for today from Matthew 7:7 says, "Everyone who asks will receive. The one who searches will find, and for the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

How does this verse show that God wants to bless us? *(He wants to give us the things we ask for in his name.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Application Activity:

Supplies needed: a prayer journal and pencil for each student

Have kids open their prayer journal to the first page.

This prayer tool will help you apply Jesus' challenge to his disciples to pray for one hour.

Let's begin by setting some goals for our prayer lives.

First, think of how much time you actually and realistically think you can spend talking to God without letting your mind wander. Record this goal in your journal in the appropriate space.

Next, think of a location to accomplish this goal and record it also in the journal. Try to think of somewhere quiet and comfortable, but not too comfortable, because you don't want to fall asleep like the disciples. Find somewhere that is a good place to think without being interrupted. Keep in mind that prayer is not easy to do even under the best of circumstances.

To practice praying at home, choose verses from the Bible and read for a while first before you pray. You might look in the back of your Bible in the index section to find a subject reference to verses and page numbers that relate to common feelings you might be experiencing. After reading and praying, write down the answers to the following two simple questions.

- a) "What do I really want to tell God?"
- b) "What is he saying to me?"

It will be your choice, along with the kids, whether to let them take their journals home or not. The challenge will be to make sure they have them for the following weeks.

If time allows, have kids begin practicing praying and journaling with the suggestions above.

Conclude with the following:

Today we have learned and will continue to discover in the next weeks that we can **receive a closer walk with God through prayer.*

Closing Prayer:

Pray that students take the challenge of this lesson seriously and thank God for the chance to learn about how to pray better. Ask for help in remembering the Lord's Prayer in our daily walk with God and remind students to really think about what each line means. Ask also for guidance as students choose Bible passages at home to read and pray about. Finally, pray that each student feels blessed in his or her time with God, enjoys the journaling experience, and will attend each lesson in this series to receive the full prayer experience and meet the challenge presented.

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Receive a Closer Walk With God Through Prayer

Props needed for:

1. *The mall*
 - *presentation sized map of Prayer Walk Mall with stores labeled*
 - *butcher paper drawing of each store front, including the store name, hung behind presenter on the wall, from an easel, music stand or other tall stand*
 - *Guest Information Center desk or booth*
 - *elevator made from a large box*
 - *escalator represented by step ladder or small moveable wooden steps*
 - *comfortable chair or a desk with a chair (add a lamp for effect)*
2. *The characters*
 - *fire extinguisher (with safety seal on)*
 - *large arrow made from a broom handle with two paper triangles*
 - *giant cardboard clock numbered in a way that divides the circle into five equal parts – one part for each store that will be visited*
3. *Teaching*
 - *large visual text of the Lord's Prayer*
 - *five coupons torn from one of the journal books*

Costumes needed:

- *“Welcome to Prayer Walk Mall” button placed on presenter*
- *shopper one: ripped shirt, band-aids, arm sling, crutch, and messy hair or wig*
- *shopper two: workout clothes with sweatband on head and carrying athletic equipment (like a tennis racket and ball)*
**Tell volunteer to jog in place during his/her part*
- *shopper three: regular kid look*

Each week the Large Group Presenter will take on a different persona or character depicting who will help us on our walk through Prayer Walk Mall. The presenter for this week is either Seymour Prayer or Anita Prayer, depending on gender. For the sake of convenience, this script will refer to Anita Prayer.

Have the shoppers dressed beforehand and standing with the presenter as kids gather in Large Group. Another adult may deliver the introduction to set it up apart from the sketch and to help kids anticipate the challenge to occur in this series.

Prayer Walk Mall

Introduction

Today in your small groups you were told about a challenge that will unfold during the next five lessons so that on the sixth lesson, you will be able to practice what you learned. I hope you are excited by the challenge because it does involve something that is difficult to do. Because each lesson is an important part of the whole challenge, I'd like to make a point that you do your absolute best to be here each week.

The large group lesson today is an introduction to what you can expect to see, learn, and experience in this series and has four parts to it.

- First, enjoy the dramatic sketch that will introduce you to the overall theme of a shopping mall that will be revisited each week.
- Second, during today's sketch you will learn about some different ways that we pray, and one in particular related to the final challenge.
- Third, listen carefully to the teaching points so you see the connection between what the Bible says and the challenge presented.
- Finally, the Lord's Prayer will be recited and discussed a bit during today's presentation because it is also an important part of your weekly lessons and final challenge.

So, without further adieu, please welcome your Large Group Presenter!

Series Sketch

Kids, welcome to Prayer Walk Mall where you can receive a closer walk with God through prayer! I'm glad you are here! My name is Anita Prayer from the Guest Information Center and I will help you find the right destination at Prayer Walk Mall. I see some people right here who look a little bit confused. Let me see if I can help them out.

Shopper #1 – 911 Emergency Prayers:

You sir, hello! Come right over here!

Lead shopper number one over to the Guest Information Center.

I can see that you are at Prayer Walk Mall today and looking for one of the three types of prayer. What kind of prayer are you looking

for?... (interrupting so as not to let him answer)...Oh, I didn't think you knew! But I know. I can tell just by looking at you!

You're here for the 911 prayer. This is for emergencies only. We need to get you on that prayer right away. I can help you do so with this Bible verse from Psalms 50:15, "Call on me in times of trouble."

As one of the three main kinds of prayer, the 911 prayer is what we use when we are in trouble or feel like yelling "HELP!"

You need to go right over here to the elevator for an immediate and direct line to God where he is available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week to help.

Lead volunteer to the elevator.

Go ahead and punch that button right over there. I hope you enjoy the ride and we'll see you on the way back.

Turn in a circle to indicate time passing.

Oh, back so soon! And now you have... (pulls from behind her back or from off-stage, a fire extinguisher...) a fire extinguisher! That sure helps to remind you that God is there to help you and he's there to put out some of the fires in your life. However, if the only time you ever come to Prayer Walk Mall is to ride the elevator up, then you're not really getting the chance to enjoy the God of the Universe. And he wants to enjoy you, too. He certainly wants you to know him more than just as the God of 911. So thank you for your visit today. You look like you'd better have a seat.

Lead volunteer to a seat quickly.

Oh! I have another customer! She definitely looks like she could use my expert information services.

Shopper #2 – Arrow Prayers, On the "Go"

Can I help you ma'am? Come on over.

Lead volunteer to Guest Information Center.

I can see that you are looking for another kind of prayer. But this time it's not a 911 prayer. You don't seem to have an emergency but just a lot of energy! Hmmm, I bet I know exactly what kind of prayer you are here for. Oh, here it is!

Bring out the large arrow.

This represents the arrow prayer. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 says, “Never stop praying.”

I bet you never slow down. But according to this passage from the Bible, you don’t have to slow down in order to pray to God.

Have you noticed that wherever you go, you can have a conversation with God in your mind? Who needs a cell phone with God in your life? Your prayers to him don’t have to be serious or deep, but they can be continual. That’s what it says in the Bible: Never stop praying. So I won’t get in your way or slow you down. Here’s your arrow.

Hand broom arrow to volunteer.

Keep it always pointing up to heaven. Let me lead you over to this section of the mall where you will find the escalator.

Walk volunteer to the stepladder.

This escalator is important because it always takes you up to God and you can ride it all day long and chat with him all you want. Of course, that is certainly a wonderful thing to do. However, if that is the only kind of prayer you pray, you’re not getting to know the God of the Universe.

Sometimes you need to sit down...

Lead volunteer back to others.

... and talk with God and not just on the elevator in an emergency, or casually to him on the escalator when you’re on the “go.” Let’s see who else is looking for something at Prayer Walk Mall.

Shopper #3 – Sit Down And Talk Prayer

You, sir!

Lead the third shopper from the volunteer group to the Guest Information Center.

What is your name?

Have the volunteer say his/her name.

I can tell that you are looking for a closer walk with God through prayer and you have come to the right place!

Motion toward the mall diagram or map.

I've been busy today with several customers looking for help. I referred one of them to the 911 prayer because he looked terrible! He had an emergency and needed immediate, direct contact with God!

Others are here looking for casual conversation with God so they get arrow prayers and can pray anytime during any activity. Now that's multi-tasking!

But in order to really build a close relationship with God or anyone, it is important to demonstrate your commitment and willingness to spend time with them. You can demonstrate this to God through the kind of prayer where you sit down and talk with him intentionally about several things.

Now, what exactly are those several things you should be praying for when you sit down and have a conversation with God? I'm glad you asked!

You will find these things sold in each store we have here at Prayer Walk Mall and you get to visit each one! Now, when you first arrive at the mall, you will get a coupon to help learn to pray with praise. So definitely, you are going to want to shop there at the Praise Warehouse.

Point out the Praise Warehouse.

Let's take a look at what the other stores have that will help you learn to pray.

Point them out on the map as you read:

- 1. Guest Information and Welcome Center**
- 2. Praise Warehouse – Praise**
- 3. Into the Gap Zone – Priorities**
- 4. Daily Food Court – Provisions**
- 5. Forgiveness Unlimited – Pardon**
- 6. Security Central – Protection**

Now, it's going to take you some time to make it through this whole mall. So, I'm going to give you a clock to help you be sure to have enough time for shopping in each store.

Give volunteer the giant cardboard clock and lead him/her back to the volunteer group of shoppers. Thank the volunteers with a round of applause for helping in the sketch and have them return to sit in the audience. Volunteers can return the costumes during the transition back to small groups.

Teaching Points

Now, you've heard the challenge for this series of lessons which has to do with the last kind of prayer, the "sit down and talk to God" prayer. Let's describe your challenge for "sit down and talk to God" time.

To begin, I want to tell you a story about Jesus who prayed by himself in the Garden of Gethsemane. He needed his disciples to pray for him, but instead of praying, which is hard work, just listen to this verse for what they were doing instead.

Matthew 26:40 says, *"When he went back to the disciples, he found them asleep. He said to Peter, 'Couldn't you stay awake with me for one hour?'"*

Instead of praying, what were the disciples doing?...*wait for a general answer....sleeping.* Right. The opposite of sleeping is to be awake and praying. Do you think Jesus expected them to pray for an hour? Do you think it's possible to pray for an hour?

What's the longest you have ever prayed? Just think about that for a second. *No response needed.*

Now, consider this. Perhaps Jesus is challenging his disciples, and us, to pray for at least an hour.

But I bet you have two big questions on your mind when you think about actually doing this.

- The first is, "*How* do I pray for that long?"
- The second is, "Where am I going to find a whole hour for that?"

Let's look at the Bible for our answers.

The Lord's Prayer Connection:

Ask for a student volunteer reader to come up to the front and point out his/her line to read aloud at the appropriate time.

Presenter:

Luke 11:1 says, *"Once Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he stopped praying, one of his disciples said to him..."*

Student:

"...Lord, teach us to pray as John taught his disciples..."

Presenter:

“...Jesus told them, ‘When you pray, say this:’

Although the entire Lord’s Prayer is not recorded in the God’s Word Translation, have it written out as a large visual so everyone can follow along and recite it together.

We can read this prayer together and those of you in the audience may join in as well.

***Our Father who art in Heaven
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done
On Earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day
Our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
And the power and the glory
Forever and ever.
Amen***

The Lord’s Prayer is a very special prayer that you may already know. For the next several lessons, I will refer to it and use it as my tool for teaching about prayer. It might just hold the key to unlock the secret of how to pray for the entire hour that Jesus asks of us.

Sometimes you might think that if you repeat this prayer enough, like every night before you go to sleep, for example, it becomes effective prayer. It truly can be helpful to say this prayer by itself. But if we take that prayer apart and look at it line by line, we find that each part of it holds the key to something very important the Lord wants us to pray about.

Again, let’s review what you can buy at Prayer Walk Mall.

- 1. Praise---there are riches you can receive as you get to know how big and wonderful God is.**
- 2. Priorities---where priorities are plenty, there are riches you receive while praying for other people’s needs.**
- 3. Provisions--- you will pray for your physical needs.**
- 4. Pardon---you will pray for God’s forgiveness and grace.**
- 5. Protection---you will pray for spiritual protection in our lives.**

Grab coupons to hold up.

In the next five weeks, we will learn how to pray The Lord’s Prayer differently, visiting one store for each of these items. If you stay in this store with one of these coupons, you will be able to receive something much better than a candy bar. You will receive huge blessings from God. Now, God has already bought this coupon for you. Although you get it for free, he paid for it with a great price.

What was the price? What did God pay so that you and I could be sons and daughters of God himself and come to him as a Heavenly Father? He paid the price of his own Son Jesus, who gave his life for us.

What does the Bible tell us about shopping for these items at Prayer Walk Mall?

Luke 11:10, *“Everyone who asks will receive. The one who searches will find, and for the person who knocks, the door will be opened.”*

We have presented a lot of ideas today: the mall, different shops, different kinds of prayers, the “sit down and talk with God prayer,” the Lord’s Prayer, and what we should pray for. So you have a lot to look forward to in the next few weeks.

Hold out the coupons toward the audience.

- **Ask for these coupons and you will receive.**
- **Seek and you will find.**
- **Knock and the door will to be opened and you’ll be able to shop there.**

Prayer Challenge:

God has bought these coupons and now he gives them to you and you can spend them or not spend them. If you don’t spend them, you will not receive his riches from each one of these stores.

Of course, you could always choose to do nothing and redeem all your coupons for a mini candy bar. But is that pleasing to God? Will a candy bar provide you with eternity in heaven?

Prayer:

Lord, we know that one of the most powerful things we can ever do is pray. Though we thank you for letting us pray when we have emergencies and we have to say, “911 – call God!” or when we pray without ceasing and

we always, in our minds, are talking to you even while we are doing other things. Those are important kinds of prayers. But the best kind of prayer is sitting down and really visiting with you. Show us how to do that. We know that since this is so important, the devil will do anything he can to keep us from having a powerful prayer life and really getting to know you. Would you please protect us from him when you see that we are tempted to goof around or are not take a big challenge from you? Convict us in our hearts that we need to turn to you. We pray for a closer walk with you in prayer. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



**PRAISE
WAREHOUSE**

**WELCOME
CENTER**

**IN THE
GAP ZONE**

PRAYER WALK MALL

**DAILY FOOD
COURT**

**FORGIVENESS
UNLIMITED**

**SECURITY
CENTRAL**

PRAISE WAREHOUSE

WELCOME CENTER

IN THE GAP ZONE

PRAYER WALK MALL

DAILY FOOD COURT

FORGIVENESS UNLIMITED

SECURITY CENTRAL