



Date: _____

Series: Prayer Walk Mall
Fall Year 2, Lesson 22

In the Gap Zone – Praying for Priorities

Take Home Point: *Pray for priorities—ask for God to work in your life. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Luke 11:2, 11-13, 12:7, 22-31

Key Verses: Luke 12:29-31, “Don’t concern yourself about what you will eat or drink, and quit worrying about these things... your Father knows you need them. Rather, be concerned about his kingdom. Then these things will be provided for you.”

We will help kids know:

- God wants them to pray for his kingdom to come into their lives.
- God wants them to pray for others so that God would work in their lives as well.
- God knows their concerns, but asks them not to worry...rather, talk to him and seek his kingdom.




We will help kids feel:

- Secure in God’s knowledge and love over them.
- Empowered to pray God’s will in their lives and in the lives of others.

We will help kids do:

- As a team try to count the number of hairs in one square inch of a person’s head.
- Consider the love of God that he knows them so well.
- Consider what God would want to do in their lives, and pray for that.
- Consider the spiritual concerns of others and pray for them.
- Record prayers in their Prayer Walk Guidebook.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Kids count the number of hairs on a one-inch section of a person's scalp and compare that to the size of the universe. This shows them how big God is and yet how loving he is to even know the number of hairs on each of his children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pattern of one inch square from for each group of three kids (<i>p. 10</i>) • scissors • toothpicks (<i>optional</i>) • paper or signs showing the number of stars and light years
Large Group 	4 7	Overview Mr. Will B. Dunn from the store "In the Gap Zone," shows kids how to pray for priorities and ask God to work in their lives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • props for a store setting, such as a cash register and sign with "In the Gap Zone" printed on it • fill shelves with lists, gloves, crosses • two oven mitts • a box of Tic Tac candies • 1 x 4 inch paper for "small prayer list" and written on it such things as New TV, Win the soccer game, Gameboy, Invitation to the party, etc. • big hand with finger pointing number one • four big signs saying "Trust Jesus as our Savior," "Share my faith at school," "Give me a servant's heart," "A friend comes to know Jesus as Savior"
Small Group Application 	4	Kids discuss the Luke passage and write their prayer priorities in their prayer journals after time is spent in prayer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praying for Priorities guideline (<i>p. 11-12</i>) • Prayer Journals

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.

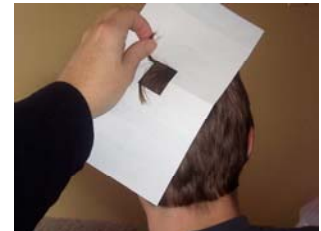
As kids gather: Listen to memory verses from last week and give coupons for memory verses, remembering to bring your Bible, and bringing a guest.

The purpose of this small group is to consider how large God is, but yet how close and personal he is. Both analogies can be pictured in this: God holds the entire universe in his hand, yet with his finger he can delicately count every strand of hair on a person's head. We want kids to see that God is so big, and yet he knows each one of us so intimately. Because of this, God desires the absolute best for us. That is why he asks us to pray for his kingdom to come into our life.

Supplies needed: pattern of one inch square for each group of three kids, scissors, toothpicks (optional), paper or signs showing the number of stars and light years

Divide kids into groups of three. Give each group a half sheet of paper with a one-inch square. Cut the square out of the center of the paper.

Choose one person from the group to be the person whose hair will be counted. The other two people will place the half sheet of paper with the square cut out firmly on the scalp of the first person. Use a toothpick to pull hair through the square hole. Give them two or three minutes to try to count the number of hairs in that square inch. Then say:



Kids, let's compare our hair research. How many hairs do you guess would be in a square inch?

Compare the numbers.

Anyone want to take a guess at the total number of hairs on a person's head? (Blonde people average 146,000 hairs, black hair 110,000, brunettes 100,000, and red-haired people 86,000.)

How hard was it to come up with those numbers? Was it hard to count each one?

Everyone look at the palm of your hand. Imagine that this is the palm of God's hand. With one finger, God can count every hair on your head. Now think about all the things God can hold in his hand. What are some of those things?

Continue this discussion until it expands to the distance of the whole universe.

How big do you think the universe is? There are approximately 400 trillion (400,000,000,000,000) known stars in our universe. It is thought to be 15 billion (15,000,000,000) light years across.

Write these numbers on a piece of paper so they can see how big the numbers are.

What does this tell you about God? He is so big and powerful that he can hold the entire universe in his hand, but yet so loving that with his finger he can delicately count each strand of hair on a person's head.

God wants the very best for you. This big and powerful God wants to take his hand and touch your life. He wants to work in your life in a wonderful way. That is why he asks us to pray, "May your kingdom come." We will discover this today as we learn to **pray for priorities... ask for God to work in your life.*

Clarify the definition of "priorities." They are the really important things.

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.*

Mr. Will B. Dunn from the store "In the Gap Zone," shows kids how to pray for priorities and ask God to work in their lives.

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?

Have the kids open their Bibles and follow along with the following verses.

Luke 11:2 says, Jesus told them, "When you pray, say this:
Father,
Let your name be kept holy.
Let your kingdom come."

We talked about the first part of this prayer last week, “Let your name be kept holy.”

What is the second part of this prayer Jesus is teaching us to pray?
(*Let your kingdom come.*)

Going further in the same book we read in Luke 11:11-13, “*If your child asks you, his father, for a fish, would you give him snake instead? Or if your child asks you for an egg, would you give him a scorpion? Even though you’re evil, you know how to give good gifts to your children. So how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?*”

What kind of gifts did the father give his children? (*He gave good gifts.*)

What good gift does God want to give us if we ask? (*The Holy Spirit.*)

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

If you prayed for the Holy Spirit to come into your life, how would that make your life different? (*The Holy Spirit would help us see things as God sees them.*)

If you prayed for God’s kingdom to come into your life, how is that like praying for the Holy Spirit? (*We would pray for the big things that God sees as the priority prayers.*)

How would your life be different? (*My prayers would be different.*)

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Luke 12:7 says, “*Even every hair on your head has been counted.*”

Then Luke 12:29-32 tells us,

“Don’t concern yourself about what you will eat or drink, and quit worrying about these things. Everyone in the world is concerned about these things, but your Father knows you need them. Rather, be concerned about his kingdom. Then these things will be provided for you. Don’t be afraid, little flock. Your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom.”

What are some things that you worry about?

How do you think worrying about the small things make them seem bigger?

God asks you to pray that he would work in your life. That means you pray for spiritual priorities! When you do this you are asking God to help you follow him and do his will. What are some things you could do to better follow him? (*Share Christ with a friend, stand up for Jesus at school, serve people.*)

Even Jesus, while he was here on earth, asked for his Father's will to be done. That is how he had the power to endure the cross. He was able to see that his suffering would bring eternal life for God's people. When we believe in Jesus as our Savior, he gives us that same power.

Application Activity:

Supplies: Praying Priorities guideline for each, Prayer Journals

Give each student a Praying Priorities guideline. Have them quickly read through the first page to see the big ways God wants us to pray for spiritual priorities.

Let's pray for spiritual priorities using this handout "Praying for Priorities." On each page, each of you will pick one or two of these topics and pray them out loud.

Go to the second page. Begin the prayer, reading the boldface words under the column, *God Working in MY LIFE*. Have kids read two or three responses and then go to the next column and have kids pray for specific people suggested in one or two of the boxes.

Pass out the kids' Prayer Journals and let them record their thoughts and prayers.

Closing Prayer:

After kids have spent some quiet time praying for their priorities, come together as a group and thank God that he is such a big God who loves us enough to send his Son to be our Savior, even knowing the number of hairs on each of our heads. Ask for the Holy Spirit to remind all to ****pray for priorities and ask for God to work in our lives.***

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Visiting In the Gap Zone at Prayer Walk Mall

Props needed for:

The mall

- any props that help picture a store called "In the Gap Zone," such as a sign, cashier's table, or shelves
- presentation sized map of Prayer Walk Mall with stores labeled (from last week), an arrow says, "You are here" pointing to In the Gap Zone (This map is just outside the "store.")
- shelf filled with lists, crosses, praying hands, and gloves
- two oven mitts, and a box of Tic Tac candies on a table
- small piece of paper (about 1 inch by 4 inches) with a list of items written on it, such as new TV, "A" on a test, win the soccer tournament, a Gameboy, get invited to a party, etc.
- oversized hand like the big "#1" hands often seen at sporting events
- big signs that represent a BIG prayer list. On these signs the following is printed, "Trust Jesus as your Savior," "Share my faith at school," "Give me a servant's heart," and "A friend comes to know Jesus as Savior."

The character

- William B. Dunn, for short, Will B. Dunn. This character is the store clerk. It would be fun for him to be a Texan with a southern drawl. He likes to pray for God's will to be done in his life.

Each week the Large Group Presenter will take on a different personality or character depicting who will help on the walk through Prayer Walk Mall. The presenter for this week is Will B. Dunn.

Name and Store Introduction

Well, welcome, ya'll, to the Prayer Walk Mall. This is my store, "In the Gap Zone." My name is William B. Dunn. But you can call me Will B. Dunn for short. Here in my store you can receive a special coupon to pray for priorities and ask God to work in your life. We will pray for his kingdom to come and his will to be done in our lives.

Volunteer Selection and the Itty-Bitty Candy Grab

Select two teams: a team of five girls and a team of five boys. Place five Tic Tac candies for each team on a table and give the first person in each team an oven mitt. Then say:

We are going to play the Itty-Bitty Candy Grab game. Each person from each team has 10 seconds to try to pick up a Tic Tac with the oven mitt on, and put it in his/her mouth before passing the oven mitt

to the next person to try. At the end, we will see which team ate the most Tic Tacs. Ready, set, go!

When contest is finished, have contestants return to their seats.

Itty-Bitty List

Now, I suppose you are wondering why we did this itty-bitty candy game. I just happened to see something sticking out of this young man's pocket.

Pick someone from the audience to come forward. Have the itty-bitty prayer list hidden in your hand and pretend to pull it out of the volunteer's pocket.

I knew you looked like a young man with a prayer list. This sure is an itty-bitty list. Bein' from Texas, I'm not used to seein' such itty-bitty things. Let's see what's on your list.

Read the list out loud.

Now, these are good things, just like the itty-bitty Tic Tacs are good. But are these the most important things to want in life? Maybe not. Maybe these are not the kind of big things God wants us to pray for. He wants us to pray that his kingdom would come and his will to be done in our lives.

Luke 12:7 says, *"Even every hair on your head has been counted. Don't be afraid! You are worth more than many sparrows."*

It is good to pray for all those itty-bitty things, but you don't need to worry about them. There are things, however, that are much more important that God wants you to pray for.

Oversized Hand

Insert your hand into the oversized hand and point up.

Priorities are things that are really important. God wants us to pray for what will last for all eternity. So he want us to pray, "May your kingdom come, and may your will be done." This big hand helps remind us that we need to pray that God's hand would lead us in our lives. Also, that his kingdom come in our world and his will would be done.

Luke 12:30-31 tells us, *"Everyone in the world is concerned about these things, but your Father knows you need them. Rather, be concerned about his kingdom. Then these things will be provided for you."*

God wants us to be concerned about the big things and pray for those, and he will take care of all the little things.

Take out the big signs. Use the big hand to point to the signs.

Here are some examples that are really big things. How many of ya'll have these on your lists to pray for? If you did, it wouldn't be an itty-bitty list. It would be a great BIG list.

Use the hand to point to the signs as you read them.

This sign says, "Trust Jesus as your Savior," next, "Share my faith at school," then, "Give me a servant's heart," and finally, "A friend comes to know Jesus as Savior." This is how you pray for God's kingdom to come in your life.

Audience Kingdom Prayers

I am going to take this big hand around the room and point to some of you. Think about some things to share with us that you can pray for in order for God's will to be done in your life. These are things that would bring about God's kingdom here on earth. I will have a Tic Tac for you if you can share a kingdom prayer with us.

Take a few minutes to allow kids to share as you point to them with the hand. After they share, give them a Tic Tac to eat.

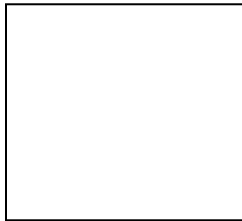
Closing

Luke 12:32 tells us, *"Don't be afraid, little flock. Your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom."* What a comfort. **Pray for priorities... ask for God to work in your life.*

God will take care of needs in our life and wants to give us his kingdom if we ask.

Dear God, thank you for taking care of the small things and the big things in our lives. Thank you that we don't have to worry about the small things because you love us so much that you take care of those things. We pray for your kingdom to come on earth and for your will to be done. We pray that we seek first your priorities and your ways to be done in our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Cut this sheet in half. Give each group of three a pattern. Have them cut out the one-inch square. Try and count the hairs in that one-inch square hole on someone's head.



**Pray that God would work in
my church, my community
and the world.**

My church would lead
people to have faith in
Christ.

Help our nation's
leaders make godly
choices.

This local ministry
would be one that helps
others.

That churches in
town would help
others have faith in
Christ.

My church would fully
help people become
disciples of Christ.

Kids' ministry would
help us become
strong believers.

For This mission project
I heard about.

Shepherd's needs:
*(Ask them what they
want prayer for.)*

For people who are
persecuted for their
faith... that they would
have courage.

For orphans and
widows that the
church would help
take care of them.

For peace in _____

(name the country)

Nations who are
opposed to Christ.
That they would
open their heart to
God's love.

***"Thy Kingdom Come,
Thy Will Be Done..."***

**PRAYING
FOR
PRIORITIES**
(IN THE GAP ZONE)

COUPON

***Good for God working in
my life and in the
lives of others.***

God's Working in MY LIFE

(Spiritual Priorities)

*Dear God, I ask that your kingdom come
in my life so you would...*

Give me joy as I do
my chores.

Give me a deeper
love for you.

Give me faith when I
feel uncertain.

Help me trust you
when I'm worried.

Give me an attitude
of service.

Use me for your
kingdom.

Give me courage to
share my faith.

Help me sit down
and talk to you.

Give me wisdom to
turn from temptation.

Help me pray
when I'm on the
run.

Give me a desire to
read the Bible.

Help me pray
when I'm in an
emergency.

Pray that God works in the lives Of OTHERS around me.

NOTICE: As you pray for God to
work in these people's lives, God
may be asking YOU to be the one to
help them!

For a friend that
doesn't know God.

For someone who
feels alone.

For someone who is
troubled and worried –
needs faith.

For someone who
is sinning and needs
to turn to God.

For someone who is
feels hopeless.

For someone who
feels picked on.

For someone who
needs to feel more of
God's love.

For someone who
has a broken heart
and is sad over a
loss.

For someone who
needs God to guide
them in their
decisions.

For a parent who
doesn't know Jesus
as Savior.

For a neighbor who
needs your help.

For a teacher who is
not respected.