

Prayer

Opening Prayer Heavenly Father, help us to continually receive your gifts and commend our life to Your care. Be with us now as we talk about the gift of prayer. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Fill in the Blank/Questions—Responding to the Talk in the Big Room

- The simplest way to explain prayer is: _____.
- Finish this phrase: "Jesus never taught His disciples how to preach, only how to _____."
- Where do we find the Lord's Prayer in the Bible? _____:1-4.
- The question that the Lord's Prayer help us answer is: _____?
It helps me to daily _____ God's gifts and daily _____ my life to Him.

Questions for Your Crew (*Be sure to write your thoughts!*)

- Who do you have in your life that you feel like you can talk to about anything? How does this make you feel?
- Before we begin, what do you know about prayer?
- What is the hardest part about prayer? How can we help ourselves grow so that this becomes easier?

Reporter Time!

Tonight, we're going to mix things up. We're are going to ask the questions a reporter asks themselves about a story they are working on: Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? Only this time, we're going to mix them up and ask these same questions about prayer. To help us in our discovery, we'll open up our catechisms and see what they have to say.

Here's my hope for you: don't feel like you have to write everything word for word. Rather, I'd like for you to summarize what your catechism says in your own words. You'll also see some blanks to fill in along the way for bible verses, so be sure to keep your catechisms open to help you with this. Let's get started!

- **What** is prayer? (p.174, question #194 [questions are in red])
- **Why** do we pray? (p.174, question #193)

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, "Rejoice always, pray _____, give thanks in _____ circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

- **How** do we pray? (p.174, question #198)

a) _____ the _____ of Jesus

John 16:23, "Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in My _____, He will give it to you."

b) With _____

c) According to God's _____

1 John 5:14, "This is the confidence that we have toward Him that if we ask anything according to His _____ He hears us."

- **When** should we pray? (p.179, question #203)
- **Where** should we pray? (p.178, question #202)
- **For whom** should we pray? (p.178, question #201)

Situation Time

Talk about the following situation with your group. Take notes on what you discuss!

You've found yourself praying more lately (at least it's something you're working on). You have made it a habit to pray every night (and most mornings), you pray before meals (even at school), and you also took a little time after one of your classes the other day to say a quick prayer. Your friend Angie has noticed the change and she asks you about it. She says, "I'm just curious: why do you pray so much? Why do you pray at all? I mean, doesn't God already know what you're thinking?" How might you respond to Angie after what we've talked about tonight?

Share Highs and Lows

Closing Prayer Heavenly Father, help us to always have Your will in mind as we go about our week. Help us to rely on You for every good gift and all of our needs. Remind us daily of the forgiveness You promise us so that we might also be forgiving. Be our guide this week and always and protect us from what may come our way that we might always be held and known by You. In Jesus' name. Amen.