

Prayer

MEMORY VERSE: '...Lord, teach us to pray...' Luke 11:1

STUDY PLAN: We learn about prayer and about having regular times to pray.

To earn the Prayer badge you will need to do the following:

Step 1: Read the story "Larry's Leopards."

Leader's initials _____

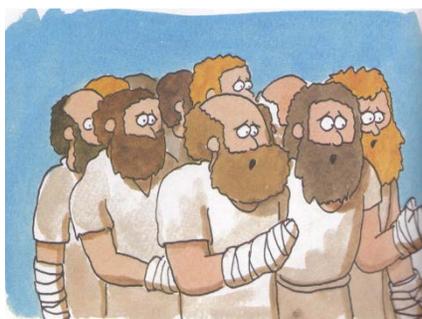


Larry's Leopards

Note: It may be a good idea to read the Bible story of the 10 Lepers before reading this story. You can find the Bible story in the Leader's List at the end of this study guide.

Little Larry had been eagerly looking forward to going to school. Larry and his mother had gone to the store and bought new clothes for the first day of school. But on the very day school opened he was sick, so sick that his mother took him to the doctor.

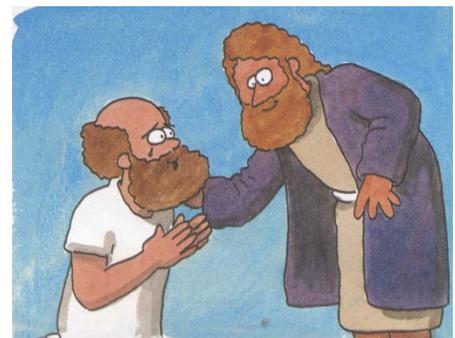
The doctor looked at Larry, shook her head solemnly, and said that Larry had to stay in bed. Poor Larry! What a disappointment! All the other children were going to school while he had to stay in bed.



Every morning when he woke up he hoped he would feel better, but he didn't. Instead he got weaker and weaker. Mother spent all her time taking care of Larry. All day she watched over him with a terrible sadness in her heart, and all night she stayed on a cot by his bed.

Sometimes, when Larry seemed a little better,

she would read stories to him. The ones he liked best were from the Bible. His favorite was the one about the ten lepers whom Jesus healed, and the one who came back to thank Jesus. He loved this story, and asked Mother to read it again and again.



By this time Mother was becoming very worried. She didn't like the look on the doctor's face when she examined Larry. Gradually the awful truth dawned upon her that her precious boy was not going to live much longer. She called Daddy, who was away on a long trip, and asked him to come home at once.

That evening, when Mother was so worn out with sleepless nights and anxious grief



that she couldn't look at Larry without tears running down her cheeks, he opened his eyes and said, "Why are you crying, Mother?" "Because you are so sick," she said, "and I don't like to see you sick." "Then why don't you ask Jesus to make me better like He made the leopards?" "The leopards?" asked Mother. "What leopards?" "The

leopards in the story, Mother," said Larry. "You know. There were ten of them, and one of them came walking back and said 'Thank you, Jesus'. Remember?" "Of course I remember, dear," said Mother, smiling. "The ten lepers. And I should have remembered long ago to ask Jesus for help. I suppose I've been too busy and too tired." "Is it too late to ask him now?" whispered Larry. "Oh, darling, no!" cried Mother. "It's never too late. We will ask Him right away. You and I together."

Folding Larry's hands and putting her own hands over them, she began to pray. But Larry interrupted her. "Please, Jesus," he said very faintly, "make me better like you did the leopards, and I'll thank you. I promise." Then Mother prayed, too.

When Larry opened his eyes, he looked up into Mother's face and said, "I'm feeling better, Mother." Mother could hardly believe her ears, but there *was* a change in Larry. She could see it. When the doctor saw Larry, a strange look came over her face as she looked at Larry. "Something has happened. I believe he is going to get well."

Next day, for the first time in weeks, Larry sat up. Two days later, when Daddy arrived, Larry was able to walk out to greet him. Nobody could understand it. Not Daddy or the doctor or the neighbors. Nobody, that is, except Mother and Larry—and Jesus. Of course, Jesus understood best of all. And what did it matter to Jesus whether Larry said leopards or lepers? Here was a little boy full of faith and love—and Jesus answered his prayer.

Adapted from "Larry's Leopards," Bedtime Stories, vol. 5, pages 158-161, by Arthur S. Maxwell. Copyright (1976) Review and Herald®. Used by permission.



What happened to Larry on the first day of school? _____

Larry liked his Mother to read Bible stories to him. What are your favorite Bible stories? _____

What did Larry and Mother ask Jesus to do? _____

Do you think Larry remembered to say thank you to Jesus? _____

Step 2: Praying to God

Leader's initials _____



We pray to have time with God and to talk with God. We do this because God wants to hear from us and wants us to listen. God always has time for us. The Bible tells us that Jesus prayed and that Jesus told his disciples to pray.



God knows us and loves us all the time. Even when we feel we are unlovable, God loves us. We can pray about anything; God knows and understands us.

In some of our prayers, we tell God how much we love God. Sometimes we tell God that we have done something wrong, that we have not loved God or loved others as we should. Other times, we tell God how happy we are or how sad we are.



We can pray to God when no one else is around. We can pray with our family or with a few friends, and we can pray with everybody in church. We use our *Book of Common Prayer* to help us pray together.



What things do you talk with God about? Share these with your group. Is there anything you cannot talk about with God?



The Lord's Prayer is the prayer Jesus taught his disciples. It's in the Leader's List. Learn this prayer, and pray it from memory. Have your leader sign here after you have said it out loud. _____

Each day we can talk with and listen to God. In the morning, we start our day with God and in the evening we pray before we go to bed. Pray each day in the morning and in the evening, keeping track with a prayer calendar. Use the chart on page 6 of the Leaders List.

Choose two of the following:

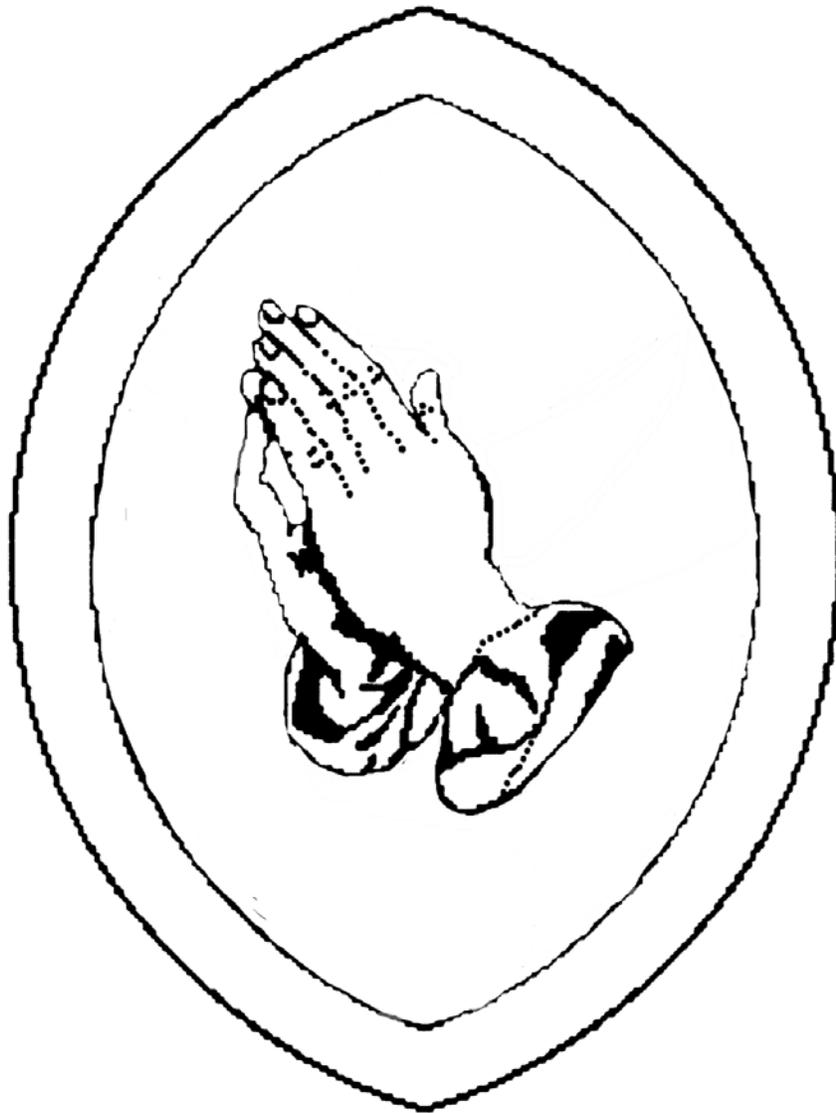
1. God loves a good celebration! In the *Book of Common Prayer* there are two birthday prayers. Read these in your group (they are on page 830). Now write a prayer for someone celebrating their birthday.
2. Before we eat, we can give thanks to God. Why do you suppose we do this? With your group, write a prayer for before you eat (this is called a grace). Pray your grace together before your snack at GFS, and with your family at home before meals.
3. Make a thank you flower. Cut out petals and a center, large enough to write on, from construction paper. In the center, print "Thank you, God". On each of the petals print something for which you are thankful. Glue your flower together on a piece of construction paper. Put it up where you will remember to say thank you to God.
4. Copy the Lord's Prayer and make a frame for it. The frame could be posterboard, then glue on beans or pasta. Or use craft sticks and color them. Or make designs with yarn and fabric.



Challenge Yourself!

Read the story about the ten lepers. It is found in Luke 17:11-19.

Color this badge for your notebook.



Leader's List

Resources:

Book of Common Prayer, The Catechism, p. 856-7

The Anglican Family Prayer Book, Anne E. Kitch. This book has good explanations and examples of prayer.

The story of the ten lepers (Luke 17:11-19)

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Morning							
Evening							

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Morning							
Evening							

Prayers for Morning

Thank you, God, for this new morning. Help me today to remember you in all that I do and say. Amen.

God, you bring the daylight each day. May your light fill my life. Help me to show your light and your love in the way I live, in what I do, and in what I say. Amen.

Prayers for Evening

Thank you, God, for my family and friends, for all the blessing you have given me. Forgive me for the wrong I have done. Stay with me this night, Lord Jesus. In the morning may I awake ready to do your will. Amen.

Be in this place, O Lord; be my companion this night and always. Help me to rest in your love. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.