

The Lord's Prayer

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Scene Summary

This play is about the Lord's Prayer and forgiveness. The scenes include Jesus leading the disciples along a road...the disciples and Jesus stop to rest...Jesus kneels down and begins to pray...the disciples ask, "teach us to pray"...Jesus teaching them about prayer. There is a play within this play that illustrates the parable concerning forgiveness, between a master and servant. The servant returns from hard work in the fields and Jesus narrates the scene to remind us, as obedient servants doing what is expected of us, to forgive one another.

Scripture

(Mat 6:9-13 KJV) Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

(Luke 11:1-13 NIV) One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." {2} He said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. {3} Give us each day our daily bread. {4} Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation." {5} Then he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, {6} because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.' {7} "Then the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' {8} I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs. {9} "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. {10} For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. {11} "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? {12} Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? {13} If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

(Luke 17:1-10 NIV) Jesus said to his disciples: "Things that cause people to sin are bound to come, but woe to that person through whom they come. {2} It would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around his neck than for him to cause one of these little

ones to sin. {3} So watch yourselves. "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. {4} If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent,' forgive him." {5} The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" {6} He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you. {7} "Suppose one of you had a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Would he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and sit down to eat'? {8} Would he not rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'? {9} Would he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? {10} So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'"

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Players

- **Narrator** – The play's "catechist" or teacher should be a good reader with a clear voice.
- **Jesus** – God's One and Only Son.
- **Disciple 1, 2, 3** – One or more students can play these parts.
- **Master** – The disciples could play this part and the Servant.
- **Servant** – A single, but important line closes this play.

Special Props

- Normal items from the prop box such as cloaks, veils, robes and headdresses.
- A gardening tool for the servant.

Script – The Lord's Prayer

Narrator: Jesus teaches us about our Heavenly Father. Jesus shows us His Father and Our Father. Jesus prayed often to His Father. Sometimes Jesus would go out early in the morning to pray. Sometimes Jesus would talk with His Father all night.

[scene: Jesus leading the disciples]

Jesus: Our Heavenly Father is kind and good.

Narrator: Sometimes Jesus taught the disciples as they walked along the road toward a city.

Jesus: God hates wrongdoing. He wants everyone to tell the truth; to treat others fairly; to be helpful and kind.

Narrator: Over and over He taught the disciples about God and showed them God's love.

Jesus: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with your entire mind and with all your strength. Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.

Narrator: The disciples listened carefully and sometimes they asked questions too. The disciples listened when Jesus talked to the people also. They tried to remember everything He told them about God and heaven. They wanted to learn as much as possible so they could help Jesus do His Father's work. Often the disciples told other people what they had learned.

Jesus: Let's rest here for a while. I want to pray.

[scene: The disciples and Jesus stop to rest. Then Jesus kneels down and begins to pray]

Narrator: Jesus showed the disciples how to pray. As the disciples rested, they watched Jesus as He prayed. They were quiet and waited.

[scene: Jesus stops praying and rises.]

Disciple 1: Lord, teach us to pray as John taught his disciples.

Jesus: When you pray say, "Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name."

Jesus: [to the disciples] Say this with me, together. "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, for ever. Amen."

[pause]

Jesus: For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Disciple 2: Jesus, my brother is always doing wrong things. Should I forgive him?

Jesus: If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent,' forgive him."

Disciple 3: It will take a lot of faith to do that! Help us have more faith!

Jesus: If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you.

Narrator: Then Jesus told a story to help the disciples remember this lesson about their duty to forgive one another.

[A play within a play. Have one person be the master, sitting at home, resting and one person be the servant, working hard in the fields.]

Jesus: Suppose one of you had a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. What would he say to the servant when he comes in from the field?

[servant comes into the house, hot and tired]

Master: [kindly] Come along now and sit down to eat.

Jesus: Would he not rather say...

Master: [strong voice] Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink!

Jesus: Would he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, say:

Servant: We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.

The End

Supplemental Information

Jesus prayed. (Luke 5:16 NIV) “But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.” (Luke 6:12 NIV) “One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.”

Jesus taught His disciples to pray. We need to model our lives around prayer as an example to our children. Prayer is fundamental to our fellowship with God.

Children easily understand prayer with their Heavenly Father. We need to teach our children to pray. A note of caution however, prayer for children is as natural as play; therefore as adults we can easily add too much structure resulting in a stumbling block, hindering that precious and natural ability to communicate with their Heavenly Father. (Psalm 8:2, NIV) From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.”

This play attempts to communicate the context of the disciple's question to Jesus about prayer. The disciples saw Jesus praying. They observed and wanted to enter into the conversation, to model the communication between Jesus and the Father.

The play within the play concerns forgiveness. Forgiveness was the one aspect of the prayer that was commented on specifically. (Mat 6:14-15 NIV) “For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

Just tell the story. The sacred story carries its own power to transform the listener.