

Sermon to Children on Prayer

Matthew 6:5-15

Object Lesson Option 1: Use a cell phone and call a friend (or just pretend to be talking to someone) in another town. Say a few words of greeting and a few seconds of just small talk. Hang up. Ask the children a few questions about a telephone. (What is this I'm holding in my hand? Has anyone ever used a telephone? What do you do with a telephone?) The purpose of the telephone is to talk to someone who is away from you. You can talk to someone who is close, that is, in the same neighborhood or city. Or you can talk to someone far away, that is, in a different state or country. A telephone allows you to keep in touch with people that are important to you. You use it to talk to someone. There is someone that we should talk to everyday; someone who is very special and important to us. We need to talk to God. However, we do not need a phone to call Him. How can we talk to God everyday? We talk to God through prayer. Let's look at some verses in the Bible that tell us a little more about what it means to pray.

Object Lesson Option 2: Begin moving your mouth as if you are talking to the children, but do not say anything. Do this for a few seconds until you have everyone's attention. See how long it takes for them to say anything to you. When they do, ask them if they understood anything you were trying to say. The answer of course is no, so ask them why they could not understand you. The reason is you were not saying anything. The children cannot hear you if you do not speak to them. Ask the children to describe prayer to you. Prayer is talking and listening to God, but how can God hear us if we are not speaking to Him? Just like you could not hear me because I was not speaking, God cannot hear us if we do not take the time daily and focus all our attention on Him and speak to Him our prayers. God wants us to speak to Him so we must make time everyday to do so. Let's look at some verses in the Bible that tell us a little more about prayer.

Sermon Outline

1. How We Are To Pray (Matthew 6:5-8)
 - a. We are expected to pray, "When you pray" (v.5)
 - b. Prayer is between us and God (v. 6)
 - c. Attitude of our heart is more important than our words (v. 7)
2. What We Are To Pray (Matthew 6:9-13)
 - a. Recognize the work and authority of God (v.9)
 - b. Pray for the work of God (v. 10)
 - c. Ask God for the needs of our life (v.11)
 - d. Ask for forgiveness of sins (v. 12)
 - e. Ask God to help us recognize sin and give us the strength to avoid it (v. 13)
3. Why We Are To Pray (Matthew 6:14-15)
 - a. God wants us to pray to Him
 - b. Our prayers to God are hindered when we do not forgive others
 - c. Because of God's forgiveness of us we should forgive others
 - d. We can pray to God because of His forgiveness of us

Central Truth: God desires for His children to pray to Him. (Explaining what it means to be a child of God is a great lead in to ask children to accept Christ as Lord and Savior.)