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An introduction to the *Kingship* syllabus, including hints and tips for running lessons, can be found in the file 'Kingship introduction.pdf' on the *Teaching Little Ones: Kingship* CD-ROM.

A list of all activity materials, including photographs, can be found in the file 'Activity materials.pdf' on the *Teaching Little Ones: Kingship* CD-ROM.

More information about teaching Sunday School to young children can be found in Stephanie Carmichael's book, *Their God is so BIG*, available from Matthias Media. For more details visit www.matthiasmedia.com.au.

Jesus teaches us to pray—part 1

Bible reference... Matthew 6:9-10

Lesson aim... To explain the first half of the Lord's Prayer to the children, and see applications for their own prayers. The nature and length of today's story means that there is no *What about us?* today. Instead, please check that the children understand the story.

Please note: be mindful of the family situations of the children in your class as you say this story. You may need to expand your explanation of our 'Father in heaven' for those who are from single-parent families without a father. We also need to be mindful of the fact that some children have an unloving or abusive father—we may never know who these children are, so the statement is made in the story time that 'God is not like our Dads'. Even compared with the most loving human father, God our heavenly Father's love far exceeds that of all human fathers and God, unlike our human fathers, is king of the whole world.

Main message... Some good things to pray when we talk to God are to call God our Father in heaven, and pray that we will treat God as very important, and that more and more people will treat God as king and do what he wants them to do.

Memory verse... There are two options regarding the length of this verse:
Proverbs 15, verse 3, 'The LORD sees what happens everywhere'.
or
Proverbs 15, verse 3, 'The LORD sees what happens everywhere; he is watching us, whether we do good or evil.'
See page 58 for the actions and page 59 for the shorter version of the verse and page 60 for the longer version of the verse.

Vocabulary... prayer—talking to God. God wants us to talk to him and God hears us when we talk to him.
Christians—people who live with Jesus as their king.
holy—a very simplified definition is 'special and good'.
honoured—to treat someone as very important and to do what they tell you to do.
heaven—is where God lives.
God's kingdom—is made up of people who live with Jesus as their

king (Christians). One day all Christians will be together in heaven—in God’s kingdom in heaven.

‘your will’ (God’s will)—what God wants to happen.

Please note...

The Lord’s prayer can be quite difficult for children to understand, but it is helpful and appropriate for us to be reading it with children. It is often prayed in the presence of children and, in some cases, learnt by children to say themselves. We are only spending two weeks on the Lord’s prayer, so it’s just a brief look at what Jesus teaches us about how we should pray to God. When children are older it could be looked at again in more depth.

Each lesson uses cards with each part of the prayer, and also a simplification, written on them. These cards are for you to read to the class, so that you can be reminded of what to say. It is not expected that the children will be able to read them. I realise that the lessons have a strong literary element to them, but this is due to the passage being looked at.

Story preparation...

You will need your class Bible (*Good News Bible*). Print page 63 and 64 and cut out the cards to use when telling the story. Place bluetack on the back of the cards. You will need a piece of cardboard, an easel or board, to attach the cards to in the story.

Introduction...

Talk about the meaning of ‘honour’. Talk about how the Bible says that children should ‘honour their father and mother’. This means treat them as very important and do what they ask you to.

Story...

“Prayer is talking to God. We pray here at Sunday School, and I hope you pray at home too. God wants us to talk to him and he hears us when we talk to him. Jesus taught people how to talk to God. We can read what he said in Matthew 6 verses 9 and 10. [*show card (A) and attach to cardboard at the top on the left-hand side*] Jesus says in Matthew 6, verse 9: ‘This, then, is how you should pray...’

“So here are some good things that Jesus tells us to say when we talk to God. I’m going to read from our class Bible now. [*continue reading verses 9 to 10 from the Good News Bible*] ‘Our Father in heaven: May your holy name be honoured; may your kingdom come; may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.’

“This is a prayer that you might hear people saying in church or your family might say it at home, so it’s good for us to understand what it means. We’re going to look at the

prayer one bit at a time and see if we can understand some of the big words. We're going to talk about some good things that Jesus tells us to say when we talk to God.

[add (B) to the left-hand side under (A)] “First, Jesus says, ‘Our Father in heaven’.

“Heaven is where God lives. Jesus calls God, ‘Our Father in heaven’. So God is not just Jesus’ father, he is our Father in heaven too, for those who are Christians (people who live with Jesus as their king). God, our Father, lives in heaven and is in charge of the whole world. God is not like our Dads. God our Father in heaven is king of the whole world. We need to do what he says. God our Father in heaven is a very loving Father in heaven—he loves us more than anyone else can.

“So the first good thing to pray when we talk to God, is to call God our Father in heaven. *[add (F) to the right of (B)]* and read ‘God, you are our Father in heaven’.

“Jesus then prays... *[add (C) to the left-hand side under (B)]* ‘May your holy name be honoured’.

“When we talk about someone, we use their name. So when the Bible talks about ‘God’s name’, it is just another way of talking about God himself. We should pray that God—who is holy, which means special and good—will be ‘honoured’. We talked before about what it means to honour someone. It means to treat them as very important and to do what they tell you to do.

[add (G) to the right of (C)] “So the next good thing to pray is ‘Please help everyone to treat you as very important and live how you want us to.’

“Then Jesus says... *[add (D) to the left-hand side under (C)]* ‘may your kingdom come’.

“Not everyone in this world thinks that God is in charge of the world and that Jesus is king. So not everyone lives with Jesus as their king. We should pray for more and more people to know that Jesus is king and live with Jesus as their king.

[add (H) to the right of (D)] “The next thing to pray is, ‘Please help more and more people to know that Jesus is king and live with Jesus as their king, and so be part of your kingdom.’

“Jesus also says... *[add (E) to the left-hand side under (D)]* ‘may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven’.

“In heaven everyone loves God and does what he says. On earth many people don’t think that God is in charge and so they don’t listen to what God wants us to do. Sometimes bad things can happen because of that. In heaven God is in charge and everything that happens is what God wants to happen, everything that happens in heaven is good. But on earth, people do wrong things, and do things that make God angry. Jesus prays that people on earth will do what God wants them to do ... that God’s will (that means, what God wants to happen) will be done on earth.

[add (I) to the right of (E)] “The next good thing to pray is, ‘Please help people to do what you want them to do, just like in heaven.’”

Conclusion...

“So here are some good things to pray when we talk to God.

“We call God our Father in heaven

“We can ask:

- that everyone will treat God as very important;
- that more and more people will treat God as king;
- that people will do what God wants them to do.”

Pray...

This prayer is a combination of the Lord’s prayer and what we have learnt about it’s meaning. The teacher could pray it or the children could join in by repeating the lines of the Lord’s prayer (depending on their age). You can read the cards when praying:

“Our Father in heaven:

—God you are our Father in heaven.

May your holy name be honoured:

—please help everyone to treat you as very important and live how you want us to.

may your kingdom come;

—please help more and more people to know that Jesus is king and live with Jesus as their king, and so be part of your kingdom.

may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

—please help people to do what you want them to do, just like in heaven.

Amen.”

Activity suggestions...

1. Bookmark

Print pages 61 and 62 and cut out a bookmark from each page for each child. Paste (well before the lesson so that glue has time to dry) the two sides of the bookmark (one from page 61 and one from page 62) back to back or on either side of a piece of cardboard. In the lesson, the children colour in the patterns at the top and bottom of the bookmark.

2. Poster

Each child will need an A4 piece of cardboard. Print page 66, cut out and paste the caption box in the centre of the cardboard. The children paste pictures from magazines or draw pictures (which show things that God has made, e.g. mountains, sunsets, beaches etc., reminding us of who God is) around the edge.

3. Some good things to pray...

Print page 67 for each child to fill in as follows:

- (i) colour in text;
- (ii) draw great things that God has made...mountains, rainbows, sun, stars, etc;
- (iii) draw or paste on a crown;
- (iv) draw one large crown above all the faces, i.e. people living with God as their king.

4. Box collage

This activity is suitable for younger children. Each child will need a box, for instance a tissue box or biscuit box. If you have no boxes available, you could give each child a piece of paper or cardboard. Before the lesson, print page 65 for each child, cut out a set of captions and place them in an envelope for each child. Decide what your children will do from the options listed below and prepare accordingly. In the lesson you will first need to show a completed activity, read the captions and explain how the children will be doing the activity.

In the lesson the children :

- (i) cover their box by pasting on paper pieces; or
- (ii) are given a blank page of computer address labels to scribble on (younger children) or draw patterns with highlighter pens, and then cover their box with them (you might need to lift the corners of the labels to make it easier for the children to peel them off);

- (iii) then add the caption boxes from page 65 by pasting the caption ‘Matthew 6 verses 9-10’ on the top of the box and one of the other caption boxes on each side of the box.
- (iv) Alternatively, the children could first paste the caption boxes on the top and each side of their box, and then decorate the uncovered parts of the box by pasting on collage materials—including paper pieces—some of which are flat (coloured paper and wrapping paper and patty case segments) and some of which are scrunched up (tissue paper and crepe paper). This option is only suitable for children who will not cover the caption boxes with their enthusiastic pasting!
- (v) Another option for Sunday Schools equipped for painting is for the children to paint their boxes before pasting on the caption boxes. The boxes will need time to dry before commencing pasting.

Memory verse...

There are two options regarding the length of this verse. You could simply learn the first half of the verse, ‘The LORD sees what happens everywhere’. Or you could learn the full verse. Think about the children in your class and whether a longer or a shorter verse would be preferable.

Proverbs 15, verse 3, ‘The LORD sees what happens everywhere’.

or

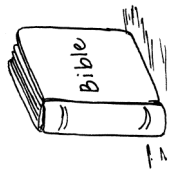
Proverbs 15, verse 3, ‘The LORD sees what happens everywhere; he is watching us, whether we do good or evil.’

Here are actions that can accompany the verse as you say it:

Proverbs 15	<i>open both hands showing 10 fingers, then one hand showing 5 fingers</i>
verse 3	<i>show three fingers</i>
The LORD	<i>point up</i>
sees what happens	<i>put one hand as a shield over eyes and gaze around</i>
everywhere	<i>outstretch arms making an arc</i>

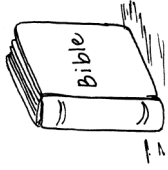
Optional:

he is	<i>point up</i>
watching	<i>put one hand as a shield over eyes and gaze around</i>
us	<i>point to each other</i>
whether we do	<i>point to self</i>
good	<i>nod head</i>
or evil	<i>shake head</i>



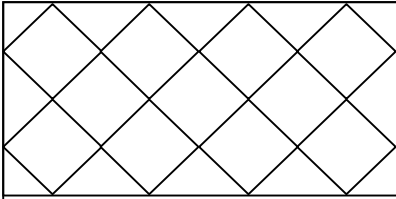
Proverbs 15, verse 3,

'The LORD sees what
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Proverbs 15, verse 3,

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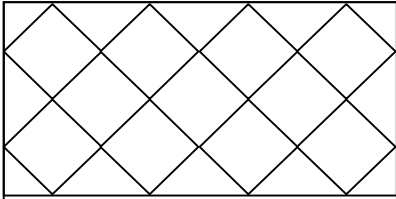
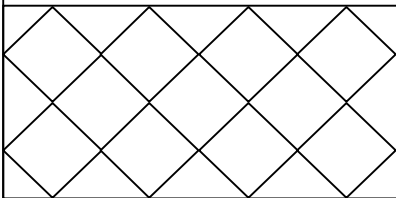


God, you are our
Father in heaven.

Please help everyone to
treat you as very
important and live how
you want us to.

Please help more and
more people to know
that Jesus is King and
live with Jesus as their
King, and so be part of
your Kingdom.

Please help people to
do what you want them
to do, just like in
heaven.

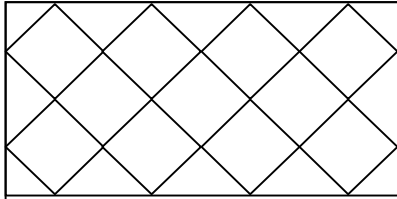
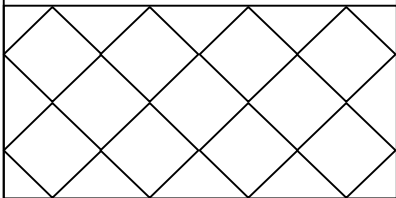


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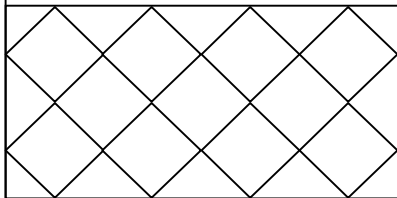


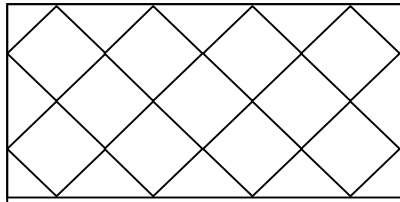
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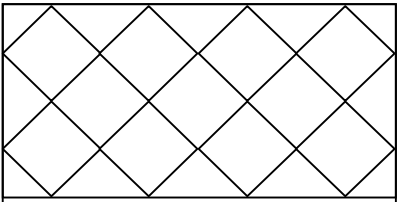
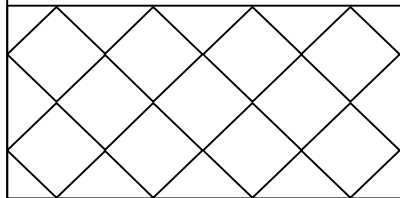
"Our Father in
heaven:

May your holy name
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may your Kingdom
come;

may your will be
done on earth as it
is in heaven."

Matthew 6,
verses 9 and 10



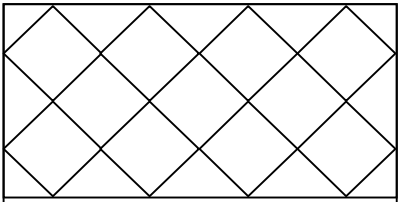
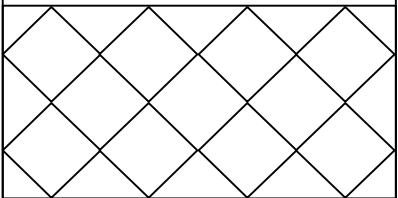
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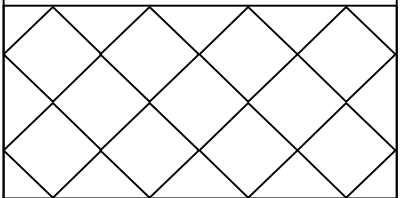
"Our Father in
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may your will be
done on earth as it
is in heaven."

Matthew 6,
verses 9 and 10



(A)



Matthew 6 verses 9 and 10

(B)

Our Father in heaven:

(C)

May your holy name
be honoured;

(D)

may your kingdom come;

(E)

may your will be done
on earth
as it is in heaven.

(F)

God, you are our Father in heaven.

(G)

Please help everyone to treat you as very important and live how you want us to.

(H)

Please help more and more people to know that Jesus is the king and live with Jesus as their king, and so be part of your kingdom.

(I)

Please help people to do what you want them to do, just like in heaven.

Caption boxes for activity #4:

<p>Matthew 6, verses 9 and 10</p>	<p>Matthew 6, verses 9 and 10</p>
<p>Our Father in heaven:</p> <p>When we live with Jesus as our king, God is our Father in heaven</p>	<p>Our Father in heaven:</p> <p>When we live with Jesus as our king, God is our Father in heaven</p>
<p>May your holy name be honoured;</p> <p>Please help us to treat you as very important and to do what you want us to do.</p>	<p>May your holy name be honoured;</p> <p>Please help us to treat you as very important and to do what you want us to do.</p>
<p>may your kingdom come;</p> <p>Please help more and more people to know that Jesus is king and live with Jesus as their king, and so be part of your kingdom.</p>	<p>may your kingdom come;</p> <p>Please help more and more people to know that Jesus is king and live with Jesus as their king, and so be part of your kingdom.</p>
<p>may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.</p> <p>Please help all people everywhere to do what you want them to do.</p>	<p>may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.</p> <p>Please help all people everywhere to do what you want them to do.</p>

Captions for activity #2:

**Our Father in heaven:
May your holy name be honoured;
may your kingdom come;
may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Matthew 6 verses 9 and 10**

God you are our Father in heaven.
Please help everyone to treat you as very important and live how you want us to.
Please help more and more people to know that Jesus is king and live with Jesus
as their king, and so be part of your kingdom.
Please help people to do what you want them to do, just like in heaven.

**Our Father in heaven:
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as their king, and so be part of your kingdom.
Please help people to do what you want them to do, just like in heaven.

Some good things to pray when we talk to God:

Call God our Father in heaven

(i)

our Father in heaven

Pray that people will treat God as very important...

(ii)

Pray that more and more people will treat God as King...

(iii)

Pray that people will do what God wants them to do, just like in heaven.

(iv)

