

FOCUS

DAY
FOUR

FOCUS VBS

ELEMENTARY
SMALL GROUP

BIBLE STORY

The Lord's Prayer
Matthew 6:5-13

MEMORY VERSE

"Let us keep looking to Jesus. He is the one who started this journey of faith. And he is the one who completes the journey of faith."
Hebrews 12:2a, NIV

BOTTOM LINE

You can **PRAY** anytime, anywhere, about anything.

JUST KEEP PRAYING

WHAT YOU NEED: Colored beads; paper; timer or mobile device

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather kids in front of you.
- Place a pile of colored beads in front of the group so kids can reach them.
- Place four different colored beads in a line on the floor or table.
- Encourage kids to focus on the beads for 15 seconds.
- Then cover the beads with a piece of paper.
- Challenge kids to recreate the pattern of beads.
- Uncover the beads and see who got the order correct.
- Play several rounds, increasing the level of difficulty.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"You did a great job staying focused, especially when it was difficult! Sometimes praying isn't easy. There are times it feels awkward and you don't know what to say to God. Did you notice when you had a really difficult pattern you were recreating, it was hard to remember the order of the beads at first? However, the more you focused on the pattern and the more you practiced, the easier it got until eventually you could remember the pattern. It is like that with prayer, too. The more you do it, the easier it will be. God really wants to hear from you, and He doesn't care how you sound. What God cares about is YOU! And God wants you to know **you can PRAY anytime, anywhere about anything.**"

Optional Discussion Questions for Older Kids

- What do you know about God that makes you want to talk to Him?
- Why is prayer important?
- When do you find it easy to pray? Or when do you usually pray, if you do it regularly?
- When do you find it difficult to pray? What can you do when that happens?
- What do you think is the point of prayer?

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You can PRAY anytime,
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PRAYER

WHAT YOU NEED: Focus Notebooks (with 3D glasses) OR index cards; markers; Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask kids to turn to page 15 in their Focus Notebooks.
- Give an example of a prayer using each of the prayer prompts. For example:
 - God, You are . . . (a truth about God to praise Him, such as: amazing, truthful, kind).
 - God, help me . . . (something you may need help with, such as: studying for a test, etc.).
 - God, forgive me . . . (a time you disobeyed God, such as: for being mean to my friend, for lying about a grade, for ignoring the new kid at school).
 - God, today I need . . . (something you may need, such as: patience, kindness, etc.).
 - God, thank You . . . (something you are thankful for, such as: parents, friends, pizza).
 - God, please help . . . (someone who may need help, e.g. a sick relative, a friend, etc.).
- Encourage kids to write a one or two sentence prayer on page 15 using one of the "Prayer Prompts."
- If you have younger kids, instead of writing a prayer, give them markers and invite them to draw a picture of themselves praying.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"You can PRAY anytime, anywhere about anything." There may be times when it is hard to pray. There will be times you just don't know what words to say. Fortunately, Jesus gave us words for the times when we struggle to talk to God and we just don't know what to say. Spend some time memorizing the Lord's Prayer, and you will always have something to say to God. Let's pray.

WHAT YOU NEED: cardboard, foam core, or wooden crosses (cut one out however big you want); supplies to decorate the cross (stickers, paint, yarn, glue, jewels, whatever you have in your home!)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Encourage kids to decorate their crosses in any way they like

WHAT YOU SAY:

[Make It Personal] (Talk to kids about when and where you like to pray.) "Have you talked to God? Where do you like to pray? (Pause for responses.) God loves you so much, and He wants to hear from you anytime and anywhere. Let's say our Bottom Line together. **[Bottom Line]** **You can PRAY anytime, anywhere, about anything.** Why don't you hang your beautiful cross up somewhere you will see it so you can be reminded every day that you can talk to God. **[Bottom Line]** **You can PRAY anytime, anywhere, about anything.**

