

# LESSON 2:

## Talking with Jesus

### LESSON OBJECTIVES:

- To guide young believers to learn about prayer and how it helps them to grow in their new friendships with Jesus.
  - Think about what will change as we grow in Christ.
  - Discuss how prayer helps kids grow.
  - Discover what Jesus did and said about prayer.
- To offer continued assurance of salvation and reinforcement of children's understanding of their new relationship with Christ.
- To discuss some practical ways to begin learning to pray.

### KEY VERSES:

**JOHN 15:13-14 NIV** – “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.”

**ROMANS 8:39 NIV** – “Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

### INTRODUCTION FOR LEADERS

How does a relationship grow? Through conversation. Through spending time together. This is also how our relationship with Christ grows. Today, as you introduce children to scriptures, concepts and principles about prayer, let this be your emphasis. Allow children to feel Jesus' invitation to talk with them anytime, any place, as naturally as they would talk to their best friend. In fact, this best friendship is what Jesus is hoping to see grow in them. Enjoy.

## Lesson Overview

### Welcome, Introduction & Review (10-20 minutes)

Welcome (Review, Mirror & Changes Discussion)  
Prayer

### Scripture, Background & Discussion (20-30 minutes)

Things That Don't Change (Scripture & Discussion)  
How Will You Grow? (Scripture & Discussion)  
What Is Prayer? (Scripture & Discussion)  
When Did Jesus Pray? (Scripture & Discussion)

### Bible Story & Discussion (10-20 minutes)

A Bible Story (The Lord's Prayer, Discussion)

### Response & Application Options (20-30 minutes)

Learning to Pray (P-R-A-Y)  
Something to Do (Journals, Questions, Prayer)

**TOTAL TIME: 60-90 minutes**

## Materials Needed

### BASIC SUPPLIES:

(best for settings with non-readers and limited supplies)

- Lesson Outline for Lesson 2
- A copy of *Your New Life with Jesus* Lesson 2 student booklet for leader reference
- Bible for leader
- An erasable board and writing supplies OR paper and pen/pencil
- A mirror

### ADDITIONAL SUPPLY OPTIONS:

(for settings with students who can read/write and where supplies are more readily available)

- A copy of *Your New Life with Jesus* Lesson 2 student booklet for each student
- A Bible or New Testament/Psalms for each student (easy-to-read for children)
- Blank paper or notebooks for journals for each student
- Pens or pencils for each student

# Welcome, Introduction & Review

(10-20 minutes)

## Welcome (Introductions and stories about changes)

**Materials:** *Your New Life with Jesus* student booklet, Lesson 2 (optional)  
Pens or pencils for each (optional)  
A mirror

### ☺ FRIENDSHIP & CONVERSATION

- Warmly welcome students. Tell them you are glad they have come. Help them to feel at ease. Introduce children to each other if they have not met.
- Ask children about their week. **How is your new life with Jesus?** Have they met other people who are part of God's family? (If students have their circle pages or booklets from last week, invite them to add these new names to the outer, larger circle.)
- Did students write or draw in their journals? Talk about what they have been thinking. If possible, share an example of a lesson learned in your own life in the past week.
- Do students have other questions or thoughts about Jesus? Talk about simple questions. Write others down and plan to discuss them later.

### ?? DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Hold up a mirror (the bigger the better). **Do you look different than you did one year ago? In what ways have you grown?**
- Some changes may not be visible with a mirror. This is especially true of changes taking place inside since we trusted Christ as our Savior. **In what ways have you changed since coming to know Christ?** Guide students to discover truths like these: their sins are forgiven, they are members of God's family, they have eternal life, they are children of God, etc. Some of these changes might not be visible to others.
- Invite children to look in the mirror again. **Do you look different than last year? Or than when you were a baby? Will you look different five years from now? Why?** Because they are growing. Kids' bodies grow, their minds grow smarter, they grow in many ways.
- God wants his followers to grow in another way: spiritually. This means growing in our friendship with Jesus and growing to become more like him. We will learn about prayer (talking with Jesus) and how it helps us grow.

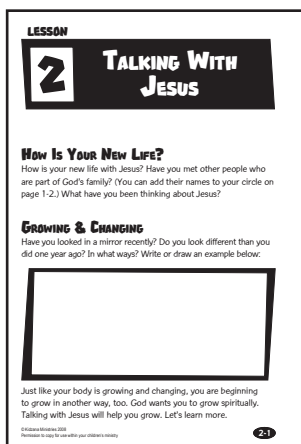
### ♥ PRAYER

- Open with a simple prayer. Ask God to give your students understanding about their friendship with Jesus and the importance of prayer in growing their relationship with him.



### BOOKLET OPTION

- If booklets are available, invite children to draw an example of how they have changed in the past year.
- All lessons are designed to be presented with or without student booklets.
- Teachers may find it helpful to have a copy of the booklet as a reference while leading the discussions, even if students do not have booklets.
- If using booklets, continue to refer to lesson plans for additional notes, comments, scriptures and questions for students to consider.



# Scripture, Background & Discussion

(20-30 minutes)

## Things That Don't Change (Scripture & Discussion)

**Materials:** Bible for leader (and for every reading student, if available)

### 😊 FRIENDSHIP & CONVERSATION

- Remind students that you will learn about talking with Jesus: prayer. First, let's remember some important truths about growing and changing.

### 📖 BIBLE LOOK-UP

- Remind students that God brings good changes to their lives. But there are some very important things that will never change, even as they grow:
  - John 15:13-14** – We are friends with Christ; he is our best friend.
  - Romans 5:8** – God loves us; he loved us even before we were his children, even before we received his forgiveness for sin.
  - 1 John 5: 13** – We have eternal life. We get to go to heaven after we die, where Jesus lives as king. (Remind children they will not have to go to heaven now. Some might be frightened about having to leave their families and friends.)
  - 1 John 1:9** – Our sins are forgiven. Even in the future, we can always confess our sin (tell God) and ask him to forgive our sin, and he will.
- There are many other truths about this new relationship with Jesus. Ask children to tell you which of these verses (truths) is most special to them right now.

## How Will You Grow? (Scripture & Discussion)

**Materials:** Bible for leader (and for every reading student, if available)  
Eraser board or large paper and writing utensils

### 📖 BIBLE LOOK-UP

- This new friendship with Jesus brings good changes to our lives. ***What kinds of changes will grow in you?*** The Bible gives us answers.
- Show Bible. Look up Philippians 1:9-11. (Remind students how to find a verse in their Bibles: book, chapter, verse, etc.) Teach students that the Apostle Paul, one of Jesus' followers, wrote these words as a prayer for another group of Jesus-followers.
- Read the verses once. Then read them again. Together on the erasable board or paper, list some of the ways in which children who follow Jesus might grow:
  - Love will grow
  - Grow in knowledge and depth of insight; to know what is best
  - Grow to be pure and without blame
  - Grow to be filled with the fruit of righteousness (right-living)

### ?? DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Define words in these verses as you discuss them: love, knowledge, pure, fruit of right living, etc.
- Why will we want to grow in these ways?*** It brings praise and glory to Jesus. To bring "glory" to Jesus is to make him famous. When people see that we are Jesus-followers – and we are loving, understanding, pure and full of right living towards others – they are not just impressed with us. They become impressed with Jesus! He becomes more famous than ever (he gets glory). And he deserves to be more famous than anyone.
- Isn't it great? As we grow, we make Jesus more famous by becoming more like him.

**THINGS THAT DON'T CHANGE**

First, let's look at some truths that WILL NOT change as you grow.

**Jesus Is Your Friend**

Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.  
John 15:13-14 NIV

**God Loves You and Always Has**

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.  
Romans 5:8 NIV

**You Have Eternal Life Through Jesus**

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.  
1 John 5:13 NIV

**Your Sin Is All Forgiven**

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.  
1 John 1:9 NIV

Read these words again. Circle or highlight the words that are most special to you today.

**BOOKLET OPTION**

- If using booklets, students may read scriptures on page 2-2.

**HOW WILL YOU GROW?**

How will you grow and change? The Apostle Paul wrote this prayer for followers of Jesus. It helps us answer this question.

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.  
Philippians 1:9-11 NIV

Read these verses again. List some of the ways in which Paul wanted people to grow in their lives with Jesus.

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Why do we want to grow in these ways? To bring glory and praise to God! To bring him glory means to make him famous.

**WOW! Your growing will make God even more famous. Even kids can do this.**

**BOOKLET OPTION**

- If using booklets, students may read the scriptures and list ways to grow on page 2-3.

**WHAT IS PRAYER?**

Prayer is one of the most important ways we grow in our relationship with Jesus. It is simply communicating with him. People can pray out loud or silently. They can pray by singing or writing their thoughts and feelings to God. It doesn't matter. The most important part is learning to communicate openly with him.

As in any relationship, the better we communicate with God, the better our relationship with him will be. Here are some of the things the Bible teaches us about prayer.

**GOD WANTS TO ANSWER PRAYER: Matthew 7:9-11 niv**

Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a scorpion? 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 good gifts to those who ask him!

**GOD TEACHES US THROUGH PRAYER: Jeremiah 33:3 niv**

Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.

**GOD CARES ABOUT OUR TROUBLES: Philippians 4:6-7 niv**

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**GOD HEARS PRAYERS FROM CLEAN HEARTS: Psalm 66:18 niv**

If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.



- How often do you talk with your friends?
- How often will you talk with God?
- How will this help your friendship grow?

2-4 READER WITH JONES

**BOOKLET OPTION**

- If using booklets, students may read these scriptures on page 2-4 and discuss them together.

**WHEN DID JESUS PRAY?**

Our best example for prayer is Jesus! When did Jesus pray? Read each of the verses below, then draw a line from the verse to the mark on the hour line when you think he was praying.

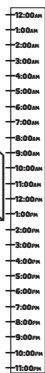
Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.  
**Mark 1:35 niv**

Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.  
**John 6:11 niv**

One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.  
**Luke 6:12 niv**

Do you think these were the only times Jesus prayed? No, he prayed often throughout his days and nights. Many times he went away to be quiet and alone with God. Why do you think he did this?

When will you pray? Circle these times on the time line.

**BOOKLET OPTION**

- If using booklets, students may read these scriptures on page 2-5 consider when Jesus prayed.

**What Is Prayer? (Scripture & Discussion)**

**Materials:** Bible for leader (and for every reading student, if available)

**BIBLE LOOK-UP**

- Prayer is one of the most important ways we grow in our relationships with Jesus. Prayer is simply communicating with him.
- People can pray out loud or silently. They can pray by writing down their thoughts and feelings toward God. They can sing their prayers. It doesn't matter how they do it. The most important part is learning to communicate openly with Jesus.
- As in any relationship, the better we communicate with God, the better our relationships with him will be.
- Read these Bible verses and see what they teach us about prayer:
  - **Matthew 7:9-11** – God wants to answer prayer; he loves to give good things to his people.
  - **Jeremiah 33:3** – God teaches us through prayer; when we ask, he helps us find answers to things we do not understand.
  - **Philippians 4:6-7** – God cares about our troubles; we can tell him about our problems, and he helps us not to worry about them.
  - **Psalms 66:18** – God hears prayers from people with clean hearts, where sin has been confessed and forgiven; he does not listen to selfish or proud prayers.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- Define words in these verses as you discuss them: prayer, sin, evil, worry, peace, Lord, etc.
- **How often do you talk with your friends? How often will you talk with Jesus? How will talking with him help you grow to be closer friends with him?**

**When Did Jesus Pray? (Scripture & Discussion)**

**Materials:** Bible for leader (or for every reading student, if available)

Erasable board or large paper and writing utensils

**BIBLE LOOK-UP**

- Our best example for prayer is Jesus himself. **When did Jesus pray?**
- On the erasable board or paper, show a time line representing all the hours of a day. After reading each of the following verses, invite one student to come and point to the hour they think that Jesus was praying in that verse:
  - **Mark 1:35** - He prayed early in the morning while it was still dark.
  - **John 6:11** - He prayed for food during the day.
  - **Luke 6:12** - He spent the night praying.
- **Do you think these were the only times that Jesus prayed?**
- Sometimes he just talked to God in the middle of an event or experience (like when thanking God for the food), but many times, he went away to be quiet and alone with God. **Why do you think he did this?** He was spending time in relationship with God, the Father.
- **When will YOU pray?** Invite students to mark the hours they might pray in different colors or different types of marks on the same timeline.
- **Will Jesus expect kids to pray in the middle of the night, or to stand up and pray out loud during school?** No. We can pray whenever we remember, whenever it works for us. He hears us anytime, in any place and loves to hear us talk about anything at all. We can pray quietly in our minds **Why?** He is our friend.

# Bible Story & Discussion

(10-20 minutes)

## A Bible Story (The Lord's Prayer: Matthew 6:6-13)

**Materials:** Bible for leader (or for every reading student, if available)



### BIBLE READING

- Read the story from the Bible. Then discuss the story and questions together.
- As you read and discuss the story, children will also begin to notice how to find a passage of scripture, read it (without reading the verse numbers), think about it and consider lessons from it for their lives.
- Do not overwhelm children with every truth about the Lord's Prayer. Remember to teach the basics to your young believers.

### 1. Many disciples followed Jesus.

- Many people followed Jesus as his disciples. Disciples were "learners." They were committed to learning from a master teacher.
- Jesus loved to teach good lessons to his followers, lessons that helped them to grow in their relationship with God.

### 2. Jesus taught his disciples about their attitudes and prayer.

- Jesus first taught his disciples the kinds of attitudes they needed to have in prayer.
- First, they were to go into their room, close the door and pray in private. During Jesus' time, many religious leaders prayed loudly in front of everyone. **Why did they do this?** So that people would see them and think they were important and godly. But God was not impressed with this kind of praying. He hears humble prayers.
- Next, Jesus told them not to pray with lots of fancy or empty words. Jesus told his disciples to pray simply. **Is this good news for kids? Why?** Kids use simple words. They can't pray complicated prayers. God loves simple praying. He hears humble prayers.
- Finally, Jesus told them that God already knew what they needed. **If God already knows what we need, why should we pray?** Because it helps our relationship with him to grow. And he loves to hear us talk with him. When we spend time in prayer, sometimes we also listen. God might speak answers to our hearts as we listen.

### 3. Jesus taught his disciples the kinds of words to pray.

- PRAISE:** He taught them to worship and honor God first, before praying about anything else.
- REPENT:** He taught them to ask for forgiveness – and also for help to forgive others.
- ASK:** He taught them to ask for things they needed, like daily bread and for help not to fall into sin when they were tempted.
- YES:** Above all, he taught them to pray that God's plans would happen on earth (and in their own lives) as they do in heaven. This only happens as people yield to God, and one by one, day after day, choose to trust him. **Will you say "yes" to trusting and obeying God each new day?**

### ?? DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What do you learn about praying from Jesus' lesson?**
- How will this help YOU as you learn to pray?**

## A BIBLE STORY

### JESUS TEACHES HIS DISCIPLES TO PRAY

Jesus' disciples asked him to teach them how to pray. It was a great request. Here is what he taught them:

#### Matthew 6:6-13 NIV

(The Bible-book of Matthew, chapter 6, verses 6 to 13)

"But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and

pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees

what is done in secret, will reward you.

"And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for

they think they will be heard because of their many words. "Do not

be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask

him.

"This, then, is how you should pray:

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

"your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in

heaven.

"Give us today our daily bread.

"Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil

one."



THINK ABOUT THIS

- What do you learn about praying from what Jesus taught his disciples?
- How will this help you as you learn to pray?

2-6 TALKING WITH JESUS



## BOOKLET OPTION

- If using booklets, students may read the Bible story and consider discussion questions on page 2-6.



# Response & Application Activities

(20-30 minutes)

**LEARNING TO PRAY**

Prayer is one of the big ways you can grow to bring honor to God. You will not become an expert all at once, but a little at a time, just like your body grows a little at a time. Here are some of the most important things to do when you pray:

<b>P</b>	<b>PRaise God</b> Thank God for anything good. Tell him what you love about him.	Praise the LORD! O my soul, all my inmost being, praise his holy name. <b>Psalms 103:1-4</b> NIV
<b>R</b>	<b>REpent</b> Ask God to forgive you for any wrongs you have thought, said or done.	If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. <b>1 John 1:9</b> NIV
<b>A</b>	<b>Ask for Help</b> Ask for God's help with problems, people, worries ... anything!	Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. <b>Matthew 7:7</b> NIV
<b>Y</b>	<b>Say Yes to God</b> Tell God you say "yes" to following him again today.	"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." <b>Proverbs 3:5-6</b> NIV

Remember, you can talk to God anytime, in any place, about anything!

- BOOKLET OPTION**
- If using booklets, children may use the guide on page 2-7 to learn more about prayer.

**SOMETHING TO DO...**

**WRITE IN YOUR JOURNAL**  
In your prayer booklet or journal, draw a simple calendar of the coming week (or use the one below). Draw a mark on every day you spend some time talking with Jesus in prayer.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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**ASK YOUR QUESTIONS**  
Do you have questions about your new life with Jesus or prayer? Write your questions here or in your journal. Ask another person in God's family to help you find answers.

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**TAKE TIME TO PRAY**  
Talk to God anywhere. Pray every day, if you can. Remember to: P Praise R Repent A Ask Y Yes to Jesus

**A Bible Verse to Remember**

Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
**Romans 8:39** NIV

- BOOKLET OPTION**
- If using booklets, work through these final activities on page 2-8.

## Learning to Pray (P-R-A-Y)

**Materials:** Bible for leader (or each reading student, if available)

### WRITING/RESPONSE

- Prayer is one of the big ways people grow in their relationship with Jesus. We don't become experts in prayer all at once. We grow in prayer, just like our bodies grow – a little at a time.
- So what does praying look like for us?** Guide children to remember the simple prayer to start out each day: God, this is your day.
- If possible, sometime during the day – morning, afternoon, or evening, spend some quiet time away from everyone, alone with God. Talk to him, but also listen. When Jesus was alone with the Father, he did not talk constantly. He was still and quiet, listening to his Father. And while we will not hear an audible voice, God's Spirit in us may remind us of a Bible verse, or something we need to confess, or someone to pray for, etc. **What time of day will this be for you?**
- When you pray, start to include some of these things in your prayer:
  - P - PRAISE: Thank God for anything good. Tell him what you love about him. (**Psalms 103:1**)
  - R - REPENT: Ask God to forgive any wrongs (sin). (**1 John 1:9**)
  - A - ASK: Ask for God's help with problems, people, worries, anything. (**Matthew 7:7**)
  - Y - YES: Say yes to following Jesus and trusting him for this new day. (**Proverbs 3:5-6**)
- Define words in these verses as you discuss them: praise, faithful, forgive, pure, trust, acknowledge, etc.

## Something to Do: (Journals, Questions, Prayer)

**Materials:** Blank notebook or tablet of paper for each student (optional)  
Pens or pencils

### WRITING/RESPONSE

- Invite children to work in their notebooks or journals, if they have them:
  - Each day (morning or evening) invite children to write down a prayer they have to God. Or, they might write a list of things to remember to pray about. If children do not write, invite them to draw instead.
  - Kids with good memories may decide not to write down anything at all!
  - If possible, show an example of your own journal or prayer list.

### PRAYER

- Remind children that they can talk to God anytime, anywhere.
- Is there something we can pray about together?** Pray for needs and requests. Pray for each other to grow strong in love for Jesus.

### FRIENDSHIP & CLOSING

- As children prepare to leave, remind them that God is always with them. Read Romans 8:39. Realize that no matter where they go, no matter what happens, God loves them. He is always available to listen to them talking with him. Always.