

Rejoice, Pray, and Give Thanks Always.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18



WHAT IS PRAYER AND WHY DO WE PRAY?

Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.

Matthew 7:7

Did You Know: Prayer is talking with God about anything! Sometimes prayer is just in our thoughts, sometimes it is out loud, but no matter how you pray, it is ALWAYS a conversation between you and the Creator of the universe! The Bible talks about prayer more than 375 times! That must mean it is important! The Bible even tells us to pray without ceasing... without ceasing means to NEVER STOP. Woah! That means God wants to hear from us all the time about anything and everything, so this is WHY we pray.

Why I Know: In the book of Matthew we find an example where Jesus teaches us how to pray. 'Our Father in heaven, we pray that your name will always be kept holy. We pray that your kingdom will come. We pray that what you want will be done, here on earth as it is in heaven. Give us the food we need for each day. Forgive the sins we have done, just as we have forgiven those who did wrong to us. And do not cause us to be tempted but save us from the evil one.' Matthew 6:5-13

Pray: Thank God for his great love and for being so good to us and for always hearing our prayers.

Now That I know: Take some time learning the Lord's Prayer.



HOW DO I PRAY?

Because he bends down to listen, I will pray as long as I have breath Psalm 17:6

Did You Know: There is no wrong way to pray! Fold your hands or don't fold your hands; Close your eyes or keep your eyes open; You can talk out loud or say the words in your head; You can pray by yourself or pray with other people. God always listens! You can think and he will listen. You can sing and he will listen. You can write and he will listen. He doesn't care how you talk to him. He just cares that you DO talk to him. So talk to God any way you want and He will listen!

Why I Know: In Luke 11 we find that one day as Jesus finished praying, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray". Jesus told his disciples, "Ask and it will be given; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks the door will be opened." Jesus was teaching his disciples that praying was just talking to God about everything. He taught them to just keep talking to God, in every situation.

Pray: Thank God for his awesomeness and that we can talk to him any way we want!

Now That I know: Spend some time drawing or writing how you plan to pray to God.

MY GOD: PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

1 Chronicles 16:34

Did You Know: Praying is another way to worship Jesus. Just like singing and dancing is worship, so is prayer. God delights to hear from us, and it is so important for us to speak out what we know about Him and how good He is! Just telling God how kind and great he is, how powerful he is, that is all prayer to him!

Why I Know: In acts 16... Paul prays and cries out in thanksgiving to God, even from prison when his situation did not look like something to be happy about. Paul looked to heaven in rejoicing, thanking God for what he did have, and he trusted God for the things he didn't have yet!

Pray: Praise and thank God for who God is, His goodness, power, forgiveness, and love. Thank him for the things you do have, just like Paul.

Now That I know: Take time writing or drawing about what you can thank and worship Jesus for today.

THE WORLD: THE THINGS THAT GOD CREATED

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything.
Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

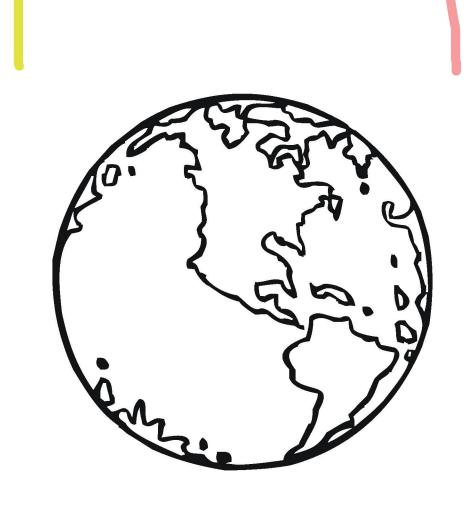
Philippians 4:6

Did You Know: Did you know that there are 7.8 billion people on the planet? We live in a BIG BIG world and even though we cannot pray for every single person, we can learn about some needs people have around the world and pray for them. For example, we can pray for people around the world that do not have anywhere to live or have the things that we have! God asks us to pray for all that he has created. That means, we can pray and give him thanks for the animals, oceans, mountains, sky and more.

Why I Know: In First Timothy, Timothy shares that when we pray we should pray for all people. We need to ask God to help others and pray on their behalf and give thanks for them, even if we don't know them. God uses a lot of different types of people to do a lot of types of things. When we pray for people and places far away, it connects us all as children of God.

Pray: Praise God for all he has created and pray for the needs of countries and people all around the world.

4. Now That I know: List some of the things you would like to pray about for other countries and people around the world.



MY COMMUNITY: THINGS AROUND ME

And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him

1 John 5:14

Did You Know: God cares about everything you are a part of and he has a special plan in all of what He created. This is why we must pray for those around you. He wants you to pray for people you know who are not a part of your family but are a big part of your life. God wants us to pray for people that point you in the right direction like your teachers, Principals, Pastors, Mayors, and Governors. Woah! Those are all very important people! You may not even know what all these people do, and that is ok; God asks us to pray that they help lead us in the right direction and do the work that we cannot right now.

Why I Know: God reminds us many times in his word that He has provided a plan. He has created us each differently with many different skills. He made some of us really good at playing the guitar and others he made others artists who can paint really well. He made some people good at fixing cars and others good at taking care of people who may be sick. He tells us in 1 Corinthians that He designed it this way on purpose so that we could work as a team. This is why it is really important to pray for people who are like you and people who are different from you, we are all on one team.

Pray: Pray for your school, for your church, for the sports or clubs you are a part of, and pray for your city and state. Pray for people who are on your team, but may be different from you!

Now That I know: Take the time to write down or draw the people around you, at your school and church, that you want to keep in your prayers.

MY FAMILY & FRIENDS: PEOPLE I LOVE MOST

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Philippians 4:6

Did You Know: God created families on purpose. He created us to love those that he's given us in a very special way! No matter what your family looks like, God gives us people to love so that we can experience His love and learn how to love others better. I bet you love your family and friends so incredibly much and want the best for them! You can pray for any specific needs that your family or friends may have! God wants to hear from you! Praying is super powerful, so you can pray with great faith that God is going to bless the people you care about when you ask. Because you are very close to your family and friends you can ask God to meet the specific needs they have in their lives.

Why I Know: When Jesus was on earth, His family looked different than some families do. He had a mom and dad that he loved very much, but he also had disciples and a few friends that he loved very much. He loved them so much that in his heart they felt just like family. There is a story in the book of John where Jesus' best friend Lazarus, who was like a brother to him, died. Jesus prayed that God would wake him from the dead, and God heard him and answered his prayer! How cool that God knows our needs and answers in big ways for the people we love!

Pray: Pray for your family and friends by name. You can pray very specific prayers, because God hears you and cares for you and the things that worry you. So ask God boldly for the things your friends and family may need!

Now That I know: Draw your family and friends and spend time thinking of how God hears all your prayers for them.

MYSELF:

(YOUR NAME))								

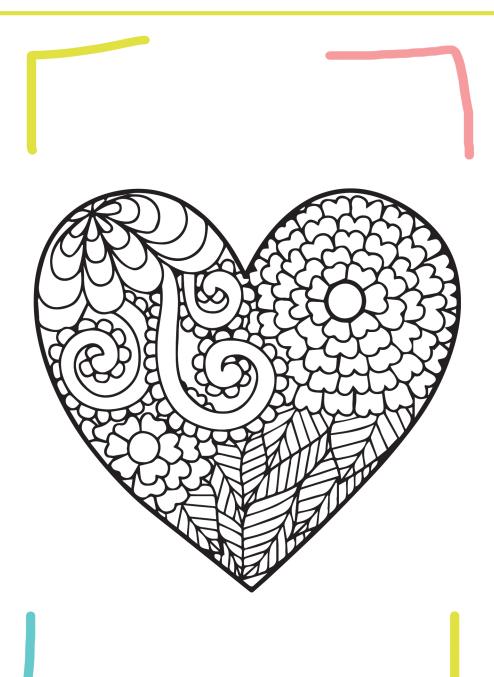
Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you **1 Peter 5:7**

Did You Know: God is our Heavenly Father. God created you special and he cares for you because you are his beloved child. God knows the number of hairs on your head! He created you so perfectly and unique just the way you are. God loves you so much and wants you to be his friend. That is why when you talk to God about your specific needs, he listens and delights to answer you and give you what is best for you!

Why I Know: In Luke 22 Jesus was praying in the garden to His Father in Heaven and was asking His Father for strength. God sent down an angel and gave Jesus the strength he needed before Jesus had to do the hardest thing anyone has ever done. Just like God answered the prayers of Jesus when he was in trouble, he delights to give us the things we need when we ask him!

Pray: Thank God for creating you, ask God to forgive you for your sins, and talk to God about anything you need.

Now That I know: Spend time thinking about how much God loves you! Can you list of the things you want to ask God for?



KEEP IT GOING!

Search for the Lord and for his strength; continually seek him.

1 Chronicles 16:11

Use this Five Finger Prayer method to help you remember how and what to pray for.

You can also pray for all these things while listening to worship music like the ones listed below!

- My God Good Good Father- Chris Tomlin
- My world -Oceans- Hillsong Kids
- My community Cast Your Cares (Psalm 55:22) Seeds Family Worship
- My family and friends Love one another-Orange Kids Music
- Myself Ask Seek Knock- Hillsong Kids

Now that I know: Label each finger with all prayer topics you learned and practice praying!

