

Summertime

UNIT FOUR

Some things that may help

a Bible

Book of Common Prayer
pages 363-364



LET'S BEGIN: We can look at the prayer Jesus taught his disciples and explore ways we can pray.



LET'S PRAY: Thank you, God, for The Lord's Prayer that Jesus gave us through his disciples. Amen.



LET'S CHECK IN: Let's each share the "luckiest" thing that happened to each of us today.



BIBLE STORY: LUKE 1-4. "Teach us to pray," the disciples said to Jesus. So he gave them a model: Praise God, ask God to show us how to make God's way our way. Ask for what we need and for help in forgiving others as we have been forgiven.

WONDERING TOGETHER: Why do we think Jesus told his disciples to begin by praising God? Do we think God needs the praise? If we know God has noticed the times we blow it, why do we believe we need to tell God about these things?



LET'S CHOOSE: We can decide which activities to do.



LEARN THE LORD'S PRAYER: Using the translation we are most likely to use in our church, we could memorize that version of the prayer.



THE LORD'S PRAYER, OUR VERSION. We could paraphrase the words in The Lord's Prayer so we understand them. What might we say instead of "hallowed?" (What word or words would convey awe and wonder for us?) "Kingdom" may not mean much to us, how else could we describe God right here with us? We may not eat bread each day, what do we need? We probably don't rob banks, so what kinds of sins do we need to notice and ask to be forgiven? How does forgiving those who have done yukkier things to us help us as well as it helps them?



PRAYER WALK: As we take a walk in our neighborhood, or in a park, we can look for things that make our world so beautiful and notice that some things seem to just "happen" (wild flowers, for example) and others need people's help to make them happen (swing sets, for example). We can point out to each other what we see, thanking God for what we notice.



COMMUTING PRAYER: If we spend time buckled-up in our cars, we could create a prayer process. At a red light: call out our favorite things (ice cream, puppies, Ipods, etc.). When the light turns green, make up a thank you prayer to God (Way to go, God! for example.) If our time is mostly on freeways, we could see how many things we could name between exit signs. Older children might choose to name things that start with a letter on the sign (Main Street Exit: things that begin with "M").



LISTENING PRAYER: (Best at sunset.) Keeping as silent as we can, we can listen for the sounds of creatures checking back in with God. Birds? Crickets? Maybe it will be mostly honking horns. We can then check back in with God, thanking God for this day in our lives.



CLOSING PRAYER: Thank you, God, for all the ways we are discovering that we can pray to you. Amen.



To Go
© 2010 Helen Barron
CANDLE PRESS
All rights reserved.

www.candlepress.com