

Children's Ministry University

CMU 101:

The Lord's Prayer

Lesson 1: Our Father in Heaven...

Introduction (Video)

G'day mate! Welcome to a new semester at CMU. I'm Professor Semu, Dean of Students at CMU. Y'know, we have lots of strange words for things here in the Down Under. There's one, for example. "Down Under" refers to here in Australia. Don't know where that came from. Another example might be 'lollies'. That's what we call treats. And when I talk about 'me old man', I'm referrin' to my dear old dad. But when Jesus talked about HIS father, he called him "Abba". Do you know what that means, mate? I guess the closest word I can think of is "Daddy". Isn't that something? Jesus referred to HIS father as "Daddy". Isn't that grouse? I mean, "cool". All this time, I thought Abba was a Sweedish rock band. Well, there you go. I guess we're all learning something new at CMU.

Jesus talked to His Father a lot. It was like calling home and the phone was never busy. Matter of fact, they talked pretty much all the time. Like me girl at home. She's on the tellie all the time. Can you imagine? "Oh, hey there Jesus!" "Hello Daddy. I just wanted to hear your voice again."

Yup. And Jesus didn't even need a cell phone! He talked to HIS father through prayer. That's exactly what prayer is, you know? It's talking to GOD right in front of you. And he is, ya know? He's all around us. And Jesus wanted us to talk to HIS father all the time just like he did. So he gave us the model of a prayer that we call "The Lord's Prayer". It's like the phone number to call God. And He always answers! It's found in the Bible in Matthew 6: 9-13; and Luke 11: 2-4. You should check it out.

So, we're going to fair go this thing and see where it leads us, right? Hopefully, we won't end up in the middle of Woop Woop. Oh...that's what we call the middle of nowhere here in the Outback. During these next eight weeks, we'll learn more about God by breaking down the Lord's Prayer. Ya see what happens when you spend a lot of time talking to someone? You get to know them pretty well, eh? So, I guess the point is that we're going to learn more about God by studying the Lord's Prayer. Well, who is going to whinge about that? Crike, mate.

Only one thing to keep in mind then: Praying is talking to God. Say it with me: **PRAYING IS TALKING TO GOD**. Did you say it like an Aussie? Now, if you keep that one thing in mind, you'll do great this semester.

Professor Sparkle Pants will be your teacher for this series. He'll keep things lively, I have no doubt. Meanwhile, I'm going to go get me some snaggers on the barbie. Hooroo mates!

Materials

- DVD (Theme song, Scripture Rep Rap, Offering Song, Professor Semu (Introduction/ Review) Professor Sparkle Pants, Prodigal Pig.)
- CD-rom (Call to Worship, Leader's Outline, Small Group Hand Out, Game, Creative Arts, PPT slides, Family Devotions.)

Syllabus/Outline

Call to Worship

Response: Worship Songs.

Theme Song: Vertical Reality

Offering Song: Poured Out Into My Lap Rap

Scripture Rep Rap: Psalm 19:14, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, oh Lord my Rock and my Redeemer."

Creative Arts: The Lord's Prayer, Part I

Teaching:

- Small Group

- Professor Sparkle Pants
- Prodigal Pig (video)

Closing/Review:

- Review Scripture Memory
- Professor Semu (Review)

Family Devotions (Take Home Tests)

Building Your Media Files

1. Logo PPT
2. Professor Semu Intro Video (mp4)
3. Call to Worship Response PPT
4. Worship
 - a. Song 1
 - b. Song 2
 - c. Song 3
5. Vertical Reality (mp4)
6. Poured Into My Lap Rap (mp4)
7. Scripture Rep Rap (SRR) PPT
8. Logo PPT
9. Professor Sparkle Pants Teaching (mp4)
10. The Prodigal Pig (mp4)
11. Logo PPT
12. Scripture Rep Rap (SRR) PPT
13. Professor Semu Review (mp4)
14. Logo PPT



Call to Worship

The call to worship is a prelude to the worship experience. If worship is a response, we need something to respond to. Generally, this response comes from a revelation about God. In this series, we will use the Lord's prayer as a call to worship. In this call to worship, two readers can be positioned in front of the group and read their parts as indicated. Instruct the children that their response is always "God hears me when I pray." This response also helps reinforce the series' theme: "Prayer is talking to God." You may want to give them a cue to prompt their response; perhaps you nod or point, etc. Additionally, you may want to add motions to the response. For example, cup your ear for "hears" and fold your hands in a prayer posture for "pray". They can do these motions each time they say the response.

Reader 1

Reader 2

Response: God hears me when I pray.

Reader 1: Our father, who is in heaven hallowed be thy name.

Reader 2: The Lord has heard my cry of praise

Response: God hears me when I pray.

Reader 1: Thy kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Reader 2: The Lord has heard my cry for faith to believe.

Response: God hears me when I pray.

Reader 1: Give us this day our daily bread.

Reader 2: The Lord has heard my cry for food and water.

Group: God hears me when I pray.

Reader 1: And forgive us of our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Reader 2: The Lord has heard my cry for forgiveness.

Response: God hears me when I pray.

Reader 1: And lead us not into temptation.

Reader 2: The Lord has heard my cry for mercy.

Response: God hears me when I pray.

Reader 1: But deliver us from evil.

Reader 2: The Lord has heard my cry for help.

Response: God hears me when I pray.

Reader 1: For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Reader 2: The Lord has heard the cry of my heart.

Response: God hears me when I pray.

(Prayer/Invitation to Worship)



Creative Art

(The Creative arts element for this series is an ongoing conversation with God. Initially, God 'interrupts' the teaching on the Lord's Prayer and the dramatist responds with surprise. As the series progresses, it is 'assumed' that God will 'show up' during the prayer and have a dialogue with the leader or dramatist. Whoever the dramatist is must stay very intent on 'listening' to God's voice as if God were (ultimately) in the room. This dramatic convention can lose the kids if the actor does not stay actively engaged in the conversation since there is nothing for the kids to 'watch'.

*Director's Note: The God Voice does not have to be the same person each week. As a matter of fact, it might be interesting to play different voices speaking as God. You will want to keep them concealed from view and let them speak over a microphone. If your sound system allows, you may want to add some effects on the voice to change it. In any event, the dramatist reading the 'everyman' should **never** look to the source of the God Voice during the acting out of the piece. Just look around the space as if trying to figure out where the voice is coming from. Anytime that specific names are mentioned in the script, like "Mike", change it out for the name of the person playing the 'Everyman'.*

Characters:

Mike (M): Everyman

Voice (V): An offstage voice, the "God" voice.

The lead-in for this piece should be an ad-libbed introduction having to do with a teaching on the Lord's Prayer. Perhaps you could make note of the reference in Matthew or Luke and a statement like, "The teaching on prayer needs to begin with an understanding of the prayer as Jesus taught to HIS disciples. He said..."

M: Our Father who art in heaven...

V: Yes.

M: Our Father who art in heaven.

V: Yes, I'm here.

M: Who is that?

V: Your Father in heaven.

M: Uh, I was just praying here.

V: Uh, I was just listening here.

M: This is strange.

V: Which part; me listening or you praying?

M: It's just, uh, strange. I'm hearing voices.

V: It wouldn't be so strange if we talked more often...Mike (*insert the name of the dramatist instead of Mike from here on out in the script.*)

M: God?

V: Bingo!

M: What are you doing here?

V: I just can't help myself. I'm everywhere.

M: I'm just surprised. I was going to teach the kids about prayer.

V: Good. Mind if I listen in?

M: (Unsure) Okay. Where was I?

V: Our Father who are in heaven.

M: Right. Our Father who are in heaven...

V: What does that mean?

M: It's just the start of the prayer; like Dear Sir.

V: No. Dear Sir...is the beginning of a letter. This isn't a letter. It's a conversation. What do you call your wife?

M: Honey....Sweetie...(any other names? The kids would love to hear some romantic names that will make them giggle.)

V: What do you call your kids?

M: Well, it depends on what I want.

V: Right. What do you call them if you're mad?

(Mike sternly yells the name of one of his children; preferably first, middle, and last.)

V: Do you call them something different when you are cheering for them from a sport's sideline?

(Mike yells out their name is if cheering them on to make a score, etc.)

V: I'm just saying that how you address someone says something about the relationship. When Jesus was teaching his disciples how to pray, he used a Word that He calls me all the time.

M: Lord?

V: Nope. Too formal.

M: Father?

V: Warmer.

M: Dad?

V: Daddy.

M: That's nice.

V: Well, that was the idea. But for some people, the word "Daddy" isn't a good word. Their fathers are absent, or abusive, or well... not the kind of Father I am.

M: You're our heavenly Father.

V: Yes. A father in heaven...

M: Hallowed be thy name.

V: We'll do that one next week.

M: So, I'll talk with you next week?

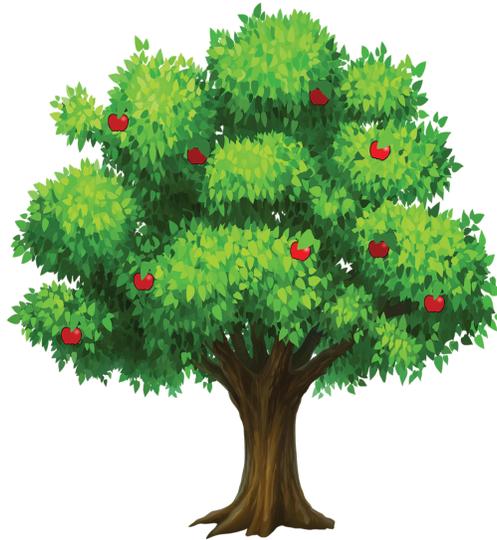
V: How often do you like to talk with YOUR kids?

M: Oh. All the time!

V: That would be nice.

M: Right. Let's talk again soon.

V: I'm right here.



Teaching

(The teaching element is broken up into a small group element, a video teaching by the faculty professor for the series and sometimes, an additional video clip of a Bible story that helps reinforce the idea of the teaching.)

Small Group:

Introduction:

People have a lot of different ideas about God. Our view of God is called Theology. Let's start with a simple thought about your 'theology'. What does God look like?

(Break into small groups. Use the following outline to lead the discussion)

What does God look like? Do you think God is a man or a woman? (Discussion) Actually, the Old Testament doesn't give us any indication of God's gender. Perhaps God is both male and female. Perhaps God is neither. While the Bible says BOTH male and female were made in God's image, it doesn't mean that God looks like us or is like us.

In the Old Testament, God is described as a King, a Potter, a Rock, a Fortress, and a Shepherd. He is also described as a Consuming Fire. In other places he's described as a mother bear that protects her young or a mother eagle that takes care of her nest.

In the New Testament, we know that Jesus was a man and that he referred to God in the masculine by calling him "Father" consistently. What do you think of what you hear the word "Father"? (Discussion) Not everyone has a dad that is around and some kids don't have dads that are very loving. That means that they may have some very strange views of God because they do not have good fathers.

The word that Jesus uses for "Father" is Abba. Do you know that means? (Discussion. It means "Daddy". It's a loving and respectful word for 'father'.)

Jesus told a story about a son who abused his father's love, took advantage of his wealth, and ran away to squander his money on wild living. Do you remember what happened to that boy? (He ended up working in a pig pen!) The Bible tells the whole story in (Luke 15: 11-32. Feel free to

read the story aloud if you have the time.) What would your father do to you, if you stole your allowance, and ran away from home? (Discussion) Then one day, you showed up on the front porch ringing the doorbell. You were broke, ashamed, really dirty, and smelled bad, AND you needed some help. (Discussion)

When the prodigal son finally made it home, how do you think his 'daddy' responded. (Read the Biblical account.) He called for his servants to place a ring on his son's finger, put a royal robe on him and the best sandals in the house. Then, he called for the prize cow to be slaughtered and he held a feast in his son's honor. Can you imagine that? The God that Jesus knew was a loving Father/Abba who only wanted what was best for his children. You're Heavenly Father only wants what is best for you.

Leader: Professor Sparkle Pants is going to tell us more about how we see God as father.

Teaching: Professor Sparkle Pants (Video)

Hello mon amies. J'ai suis Professeur Sparkle-Pants. I am the Prayer Professor here at CMU. As you can tell, my accent is French, oui? My parents came to this country before I was born and made me promise I would speak French. So I speak English with a French accent! Ho ho....Think of me as Lumiere from "Beauty and the Beast". Au oui. So romantic. (Sings a clip from "Be My Guest..."). Enough of that. WE are talking about prayer-which is talking to God, non? Our first lesson in the series is "Our father who are in heaven." How many of you have a father? Aha! It was a trick question, non? Oui. You all have fathers! But not everyone has a daddy, eh? Let me tell you about my papa. (He picks up a teddy bear) He was like this teddy bear without the stuffing; all soft and cuddly. (Speaking to the bear) Oh, papa. It is me, Pierre! I am teaching the children on our first day of CMU. So, I can not talk to you now. (He puts down the bear.)

So my little mon cheries...some people hear the word "father" and they get some very strange ideas about God, since Jesus also called him 'Father'. It is obvious, non? My friend growing up was named Thomas. His father was a police officer. (He pulls out a policeman's cap and a whistle). He would blow the whistle around the house and bark orders like he was in charge of a parade or something. (Blows the whistle and bark out orders.) He was quite stern and not cuddly like my papa. So, what do you think Thomas hears when God is called Father? Hmm? What if your Father acted like this? (He pulls out a military cap and barks off orders like a drill sergeant) Oh ho. You would think that God is a drill sergeant who makes you clean the latrines and do pushups until you die. What about this? (He puts on a sports cap!) What if you're daddy was a loud sports fanatic, like these crazy soccer fans in Germany! You may think, "I do not want to lose because my daddy will stop cheering for me." And this? (Fireman's hat.) You might think God shows up only when things get really hot. I like this one the best. (He puts on a Santa hat.) God must be like Santa because my Daddy is never around unless it's a holiday. You see children? People have strange ideas about God because of their own papas.

But non! Jesus taught us everything we need to know about God. He said, "If you have seen me, you have seen the Father. He called his Father, Daddy. I call my father, Papa. (Cell phone rings).

Oh, hello Papa! No, I did not call you. You called me. (Pause) You heard me say it on the television? Oh ho. I am teaching the children about God. (Pause) Odd? No. non. I said

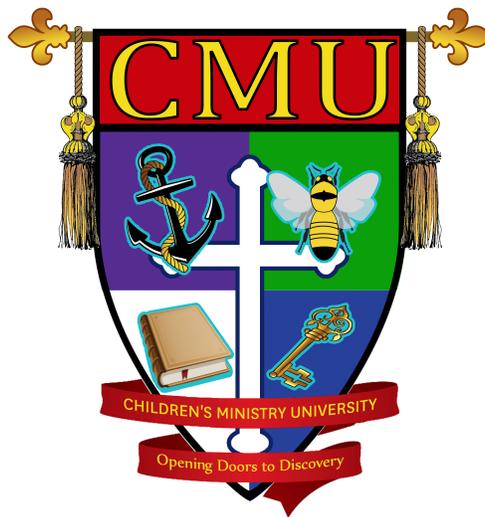
GOD. He is not odd. (He whispers to the kids.) I have to go children. Study your lesson! (He continues to talk as he walks off.) I'll see you next week.



Closing/Review

Review the Scripture Memory Verse: Psalm 19:14, “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, oh Lord my Rock and my Redeemer.”

Video Review: (Professor Semu is eating some beef jerky or something similar.) Eh, mate! Just finishing up the last of my jerky. I think I overcooked it a bit. So how did it go, today? Should have learned something about God as Father, right? What’s the name of God that Jesus used to describe his Pappy? (ABBA) Eh, there you go. And remember that prayer is a simple thing: it’s just talking to God. I was just talking to Him a little while ago when I had the chicken on the spit. Couldn’t remember how long to cook it for. Maybe he said 15 minutes instead of 50. Guess I wasn’t listening very well. Oh well...Next week, we’ll talk about what ‘hallowed’ means and I’ll give you a clue: It’s not scary like Halloween. In the meantime, your homework this week is to talk to God like he’s right beside you. And don’t forget to listen!



Family Devotions (Take Home Tests)

Thank you for enrolling your child at CMU (Children's Ministry University). This semester, we are studying PRAYER. We are using the model of The Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6: 9-13.

At CMU, we understand that we are only part of your child's spiritual formation and that most of the real learning takes place at home. So, we want to provide you this outline to 'continue' the discussion of what we talked about at 'school' today.

Each of these devotions is formatted like a 'take home test'. There is always a series theme which you should review each week; a weekly theme, which is unique to the lesson for that day and then three review questions formatted as

- fill in the blank
- multiple choice
- True or False

Next is an 'open book' question, which briefly examines a scripture passage in the Bible associated with the lesson. You can "open your Bible" to that text and answer the question we give you.

Lastly, there is a family discussion question, which will take the theme for the week and break it down into a question or activity that you can do on your way home from church or around the dinner table one night.

All in all, it's not a lot of HOMEWORK for you to consider and a great way to reinforce what is happening at CMU.

Series Theme: Prayer is _____ (Talking to GOD!)

Lesson Point: "Our Father who are in heaven". How you relate to your father may affect how you view God.

Questions:

- In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus refers to his father as _____ (Abba, which means "Daddy".)
- God is referred to by many other names in the Bible. Which one of these names is not a Biblical name for God?
 - King
 - Shepherd
 - Firefly

(Firefly!)

- (T/F) Jesus loved his Father. (VERY true.)

Open Book: Read Moses 3: 13-15. This is the account of God speaking to Moses at the burning bush.

Discussion Question: Where did you get your name? Tell the story behind each person's name in your family. Perhaps it has meaning in an original language. Perhaps, it is a name that was passed down. After you have told the story, state the full name of the person and add, "Is a child of God". So you might say something like, "Benjamin Robert Smith is a child of God."