

*Prayer (Lesson 2)*  
**How Should We Pray?**

**LESSON OBJECTIVE**

This second lesson of a series of three will introduce children to the different ways in which we can pray.

**AS KIDS ARRIVE**

Kids love to write on the board. As they arrive, tell them to write as many ways they can think of that they can pray, such as how, where or when. They may come up with standing, walking, kneeling, bowing, singing, quietly, lying down, in bed, with hands together, with outstretched hands, in the morning, at night, etc. After the opening prayer, have a short discussion about their suggestions. (If you do not have a board use sheets of white poster board taped to the wall with masking tape.)

**OPENING PRAYER AND PRAISES**

**MEMORY WORK**

**"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart" Jeremiah 29:13**

Before class write each word of the verse on separate index cards. Say the verse together as a group several times. Divide the kids into two teams and have a race to see which team can put the verse in the correct order in the shortest amount of time.

**SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION**

**Introduction:**

Last week we learned that prayer is communicating or talking with God. So how should we pray? When we pray, God wants us to pray with all of our heart (Jeremiah 29:13) We should pray earnestly and not half heartily. We should not pray just so other people will think we are godly.

**Jeremiah 29:11-13**

Have the kids find Jeremiah 29:11-13 in their Bibles. Ask for volunteers to read the passage or if you prefer read the passage to the children yourself.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Will God listen when we pray?
2. What kind of plans does God have for us? (Plans to prosper and keep us from harm, hope and a future)
3. How can we seek and find God?
4. God wants to give us hope and a \_\_\_\_\_? (Future)
5. When we pray we should pray with \_\_\_\_\_? (All of our heart)

**CLASS EXERCISES**

## **Human Robot (Activity)**

### **APPLICATION**

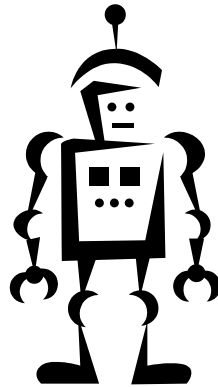
God does not want us to pray mechanically like robots. He wants us to pray heart-felt prayers. He wants us to tell Him our desires, our fears, our hopes, and He wants us to sing songs of joy to Him when we are happy. Praying before meals and bedtime is good, but He wants to hear from us more often than that. He wants to be involved in our lives, to comfort us when we are sad, strengthen us when we are scared and laugh with us when we are happy. God will give true meaning and direction to our lives. We need to make Him part of our lives throughout the day by reading His Word, the Bible and seeking Him through prayer.

# Human Robot

*When we pray, God does not want us to be like human robots*

## **Materials:**

Jar of peanut butter  
Few slices of bread  
Paper plate and plastic knife  
Two adults



## **What you will do:**

One of the two adults will be the human robot. Inform the kids that the object of this exercise is to get the robot to make a peanut butter sandwich. The robot cannot do anything on its own. The robot must get every instruction from the kids. To be successful, the children must give very specific instructions to the robot.

For example, a specific command may be, "robot, pick up and hold the jar of peanut butter with your left hand. Grasp the lid of the peanut butter jar with your right hand and twist the lid counter clockwise. Let go of the lid with your right hand. Pick up the knife with your right hand and put it into the peanut butter in the peanut butter jar."

Vague commands such as "make a peanut butter sandwich" will not work. The robot will look confused and shrug its shoulders. Vague commands such as "put the peanut butter on the bread" may cause the robot to put the jar of peanut butter on top of the bread. If too many kids talk at once, the robot will get confused. The other adult, if needed may help the children with giving specific commands. Let the human robot ham it up, the kids will love it.

Afterwards, explain to the children that God does not want us to be like human robots. When we pray, He wants us to pray from deep within our hearts and talk to Him as our father, telling Him everything. We are not just to repeat prayers we have heard, as a robot would do. Robots may be funny at first, but they quickly become boring. A robot just does what you tell it to do; it cannot love you or befriend you.