

Lord's Prayer Lesson #4 – Let Your Name Be Kept Holy

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This free Bible lesson is part 4 of 10 in our Lord's Prayer study. The theme of God's name and holy character is introduced. All proper prayer is deeply respectful to God.

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Main idea: God is perfect, and as Christians, we must act in such a way that keeps his reputation good in the minds of people who don't know Him.

Teacher preparation:

- Read Scripture references and Amos 2:6-8, Micah 4:1-7, 2 Timothy 2:14-19, Psalm 113, Philippians 2:9-11.
- Gather: Bible, index cards, ribbon, hole punch, scissors, markers or crayons, dry erase markers or chart paper and markers.
- Write "may your name be kept holy," (Matthew 6:9b, NLT) on a regular sheet of paper. Make sure it takes up the whole page, so it can easily be read. Fold it up and place it in an envelope.
- Take time to meditate on this week's Scripture and think about your own life. How do you respect God's reputation? Do you think, speak, and act in ways that show you love God? As you consider hallowing God's name, be careful not to think that God somehow needs us to keep his reputation pure. God is strong enough to keep his own name holy. Our role in hallowing his name is a matter of our own sanctification. We say we follow God, so let's act like it!
- See <http://christianity.about.com/od/biblestudyresources/qt/namesofgodjesus.htm> for a list of many of the names of God, along with Scripture references.
- If you have the time and interest, do some research on the effect of names. Studies show that our names affect how society views us and even the careers we choose.

Scripture references:

- Leviticus 22:31-32
- Mark 12:30-31
- Leviticus 20:7
- 1 Peter 1:14-19

Game:

Action Name. Have all the kids stand in a circle facing in. Each person says their name and comes up with a simple action that they feel describes them well. After everyone has a chance to say their name with their action, go around the circle and repeat them. Except his time, you have to repeat the names and actions of everyone who went before you before you say your own. With younger kids, help remind them of the actions of previous kids. For older kids, you could have them be out if they miss a name.

Message:



Open in prayer, then say,

Last week we started to learn about a very special prayer that Jesus used to teach his disciples how to pray. Does anybody remember what we call this prayer? The Lord's Prayer, that's correct! Last week we looked at the first part of this prayer. We are going to work over the next several weeks to memorize this prayer. Who memorized the first part of the prayer, that we learned last week? "Our father in heaven." That's right. Last week we learned that God is the King of heaven, and we are his children whom he loves very much. So in the Lord's prayer, we are talking to God. Let's open up today's special message from God. (Pull out the envelope you prepared earlier. Either open and read it yourself or have a student do so.) Today's special message is "may your name be kept holy." Whose name is to be kept holy? God's. God is holy, perfect, or set apart from everyone else. Today we will look at what it means for God's name to be kept holy in our own lives, and by next week, we will have this part of the prayer memorized. First, let's think about names. In today's game, we had to memorize the names and actions of everyone in our group. It was kind of tricky, wasn't it? But didn't it feel great when someone remembered your name and the action that you chose to represent who you are? Our names are special and important to us, and it feels good when people remember our name and use it often. Another way to look at names is to think of the different names we have to different people. Some names represent different roles we have. For example, I am your teacher and you are my students. You may also be daughters, sons, brothers, sisters, baseball players, musicians, or artists. We may call our parents Mommy or Daddy. This isn't the name their parents gave them, but it's still a very important name. I am sure that your parents love it when you call them Mommy or Daddy. Mom or Dad is a job, a reputation that they have. A reputation is a way people view you. I view you as students, so I expect that as students, you will listen and learn something from me, your teacher.

Did you know that even God has different names in the Bible? It's true! Back in Bible times, the Jewish people chose names for their babies based on who they wanted their kids to be when they grew up or what the babies looked like or acted like. Similarly, the different names of God in the Bible show his different characteristics. Some names of God you may have heard are God Almighty, Father, Christ, Deliverer, Beginning and the End, Good Shepherd, Lamb of God, Lion of the Tribe of Judah, Judge, and Refuge. These are just some of the many, many names used for God in the Bible. All these names refer to GOD, who came to earth as the perfect man JESUS CHRIST to save us all from our sins. He took our punishment so we wouldn't have to, and because of this, his name, his reputation should be kept holy or set apart. In Leviticus 22:31-32, God says, "You must faithfully keep all my commands by putting them into practice, for I am the Lord. Do not bring shame on my holy name, for I will display my holiness among the people of Israel. I am the Lord who makes you holy." Here, God is telling us that as Christians, we are supposed to keep his name holy by following all the commands he gives us in the Bible. That's a whole lot of stuff! Jesus sums it up like this: "'And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these." (Mark 12:30-31) Basically, we can sum up all the commands of the Bible by saying, love God first, and take care for others just like you take care of yourself. When we do this, people who don't believe in Jesus see us keep God's name holy. They see that God is set apart and different. It makes people want to get to know Jesus, which is exactly what we want! As children of God, we want everyone we know to love Jesus as much as we do! So it is important to follow the commandment of Leviticus 20:7. "So set yourselves apart to be holy, for I am the Lord your God." Our job in keeping God's name holy is to be holy ourselves. Will we be perfect at this all the time? Of course not. Sometimes, we will still sin. But God's name will still be holy. Remember in Leviticus 22:32 it says God will display his own holiness. He doesn't need our help to be holy. WE need HIS help to be holy. Thankfully, he gives us this help every day, and he has covered our sins with the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Before we start the craft, let's have a sword drill to look up one more passage on holiness. When I say go, open your Bibles to 1 Peter 1:14-19. GO! (Read it out loud, or have a student read it.) "So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then. But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. For the Scriptures say, "You must be holy because I am holy." And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So you must live in reverent fear of him during your time as "foreigners in the land." For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver. It was the precious blood of Christ, the

sinless, spotless Lamb of God.” Jesus paid the ultimate price of his life so we could live holy and spotless lives for God. When we live holy lives for God, we help fill the prayer “may your name be kept holy.”

End in prayer.

Craft:

As we study the Lord’s Prayer, all of our games and crafts will be related to communication, because prayer is all about communicating. Today we are making I.D. Badges. Many jobs have identification badges showing a picture of the employee, their name, job title and sometimes security clearances. Our I.D. badges today will be very simple. Each child will get an index card with a hole punched out near the top and a length of ribbon to make a necklace. After explaining what an I.D. badge is to the kids, take them through the following steps to make a badge.

- At the very top, write your name.
- Along the left, draw a picture of your face.
- Along the right, add your nickname, your favorite Bible verse, your favorite food... etc. Color the border of the I.D. in your favorite color.

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