Week 22: Prayer

Subject Matter
This lesson is week 22 of a 24 week unit. (If the curriculum is being shortened, this lesson would be week 13 of 15.)

Near the end of the series of theological thinking, the students will spend one week on prayer and one week on worship at the close of the curriculum. This lesson is about prayer, looking at various ways to engage in prayer in the life of faith.

Main Idea
Prayer is our personal expression of love to God. When we pray we are calling on God with confidence that God hears and answers our prayers. Just as Jesus Christ prayed for himself, his disciples and all whom God loves, we are encouraged in prayer for ourselves and others. Even when we do not know what to or how to pray, God hears us through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Using the children’s books When Daddy Prays and The Lord's Prayer, introduce the students to prayer through the eyes of children. The students will also look at prayer through the eyes of Jesus Christ, and finally experience forms of prayer for themselves.

Lesson Goals
By the end of this lesson, the students will be able to:
- Recognize Jesus’ prayers for all whom God loves as told in Scripture
- Participate in forms of prayer as part of the life of faith
- Acknowledge when others are praying on their behalf
- Commit to praying for another person(s) for the coming week

Space, Setup & Materials
- Copy of When Daddy Prays and The Lord’s Prayer
- Post-It easel and markers
- Journaling pads and pens, one for each student
- Copy of the church prayer list for the week, one for each student
- Bible at each station
- Copy of the Presbyterian Hymnal, marked to specific hymns to use as prayers
- CD and headphones to play some of the hymns
- Three tables with three chairs at each table set up as stations around the room

Learning Style & Multiple Intelligences
- Creative Encounter
- Intrapersonal, Linguistic, Musical

Opening (5 minutes)
- Welcome
- Announcements & Topic Introduction
- Morning Prayer

**Explaining the Day (7 minutes)**
Take a few minutes to introduce the students to the stations available around the room for their participation in the lesson. Walk them to each station and give a brief overview of what each station entails and what they will do at each station. Ask for any questions.

**Introduction to Prayer (8 minutes)**
Read John 17:1-5, 17-26 aloud to the class as a way of introducing prayer. Explain that the entire chapter is an example of how Jesus prayed for himself, his disciples and all whom God loves. Ask them to share any other examples they may have about Jesus praying in Scripture. Read any that are shared.

Let the students know that the Prayer Wall (the Post-It easel) will be up throughout the class today for them to write prayers on. These will be the closing prayer for the day.

**Prayer Stations (35 minutes)**

**Station One – Prayer in and through Stories**
- Provide the copies of *When Daddy Prays* and *The Lord’s Prayer* at this station
- Lay an open Bible to Matthew 6:9-13 on the table
- Leave an instruction sheet that tells the students to read the stories and reflect upon them and their personal, past and present experiences with prayer
- Include a sheet of faith questions for consideration

**Station Two – Prayer through Song**
- Include a copy of the Presbyterian Hymnal, marked to specific hymns, on the table
- Have a CD and headphones to play some of the hymns
- Lay an open Bible to some of the Psalms of David
- Leave an instruction sheet that tells the students to read and listen to the hymns and reflect upon songs and hymns they know and love and how they can be used as prayers
- Include a sheet of faith questions for consideration

**Station Three – Prayer Journaling**
- Provide a notepad and pen for each student to use as the start of a personal prayer journal
- Give prayer samples by teachers and/or theologians that have been hand written in a journal
- Provide a copy of the church prayer list for the week, one for each student
- Leave an instruction sheet that tells the students about using a journal to keep a list of prayers, and how it is good to occasionally return to see how prayers are answered by God
- Encourage the students to begin a prayer journal of their own, using this time to start
Reflection & Closing (5 minutes)

- Encourage the students to share their experience, but do not require sharing
- Close in prayer using the prayers from the Prayer Wall, asking a student to lead the prayer

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