



## **Do you have to use special words to pray so God will hear you?**

What is prayer?

Prayer is where we talk to God. Just like talking to your friends, there are many ways that you can talk to God. What are some different ways that you can talk to your friends?

You can see them in person, face to face. You can call them, facetime or video chat with them, you can send a text message, you can write a letter or card. There are so many ways that you can talk to your friends.

There are also many ways to talk to God! You can pray out loud, you can pray in your head, you can write it down, you can have other people pray for you or with you.

Just like there are many ways for your friends to talk to you, there are also ways for God to talk to you. We are going to spend time everyday this week talking about how we pray to God, pray for others, and hear from God ourselves. It's going to be a lot of fun!

Today we would like for you to talk to God in a couple of different ways. When we pray, we can talk to God about anything! If you are worried, talk to God about it. If you are happy, thank God for all he has done for you. If you need help with anything, ask God. He loves to help you! Just like talking with your friends, you don't have to use big or fancy words. You just have to be honest and tell God about what you are thinking or feeling. God wants to be your friend and he wants to help you.

Jesus told his disciples that they were now friends of God. Jesus was also saying that we get to be friends with God. We get to know what God is thinking about and we also get to talk to him any time!

**John 15:15**

I **no longer** call you **servants**, because a **servant** does **not** know his master's business.

Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

Now we are going to talk to God ourselves! First we want you to spread out a little bit and write out a prayer to God. We want you to thank him for one thing and ask for his help with one thing. We are going to give you a few minutes to do this.

Encourage the kids to do their best with writing. If you have younger kids in your group, have them draw a picture of something that they are thankful for.

Next, if time allows, have the kids practice praying out loud for each other. Have them share with each other, one thing that they need God's help with. Then have them take turns praying out loud for each other. Encourage them to be brave and pray out loud. Remind them that God loves to hear from them and he loves to help!

Have the kids check the room for a clue