

Here is a simple guide to help your family pray together.



Pray for **FAMILY MEMBERS.**



Pray for your **NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS.**



Pray for **OUR CHURCH.**



Pray for **OUR MISSIONARIES.**



Pray for **PEOPLE WE KNOW WHO DON'T KNOW JESUS.**



Pray for **OUR GOVERNMENT AND LEADERS.**



Pray for **OTHER CHRISTIANS AROUND THE WORLD**—especially those who are treated badly because they are followers of Jesus.

**For questions, contact:**

Wheaton Bible Church Director of Children's Ministry Ginny Stair  
gstair@wheatonbible.org, 630.876.6636

Tri-Village Church Children's Ministry Coordinator  
Jennifer Westering, jwestering@trivillagechurch.org, 630.876.6657



**Church and Family Partnering Together**



**Today's Big Idea**

Parable of the Sower

Read about it: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23



**The Main Point**

Jesus told a parable about how people respond to the Gospel.



**What Did We Learn?**

- ▶ Jesus taught a parable about a man who scattered seeds.
- ▶ Jesus told about four kinds of soil, but only one produced a crop.
- ▶ Each type of soil represented a way people respond to the Gospel.
- ▶ Not everyone who hears the gospel believes it.

**TODAY'S CHRIST CONNECTION**

Jesus is the Sower who shared the truth about God's kingdom. His followers continue to share the truth today, and those who understand and accept the gospel become more like Jesus.



# LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT WEEK

## PREPARING FOR SUNDAY

*Open your Bible to Matthew 18:21–35 and read together as a family about the unmerciful servant. Or read the children's version of the passage below.*

Jesus told Peter a story to help him understand what forgiveness in the kingdom of heaven is like.

Jesus said, "One day, a king asked all his servants to tell him how much they each owed the king. One of the servants owed the king fifty million silver coins! The servant did not have any money to give the king, so the king ordered for the servant and his family to be sold as payment for the debt.

"But the servant fell on his knees and begged the king, 'Please give me more time. I will repay you everything I owe!' The king felt sorry for the man, so he let the man go and forgave the debt.

"As the servant was leaving, he ran into a man who owed him one hundred silver coins. 'Give me the money you owe me!' he demanded.

"The man fell to his knees and begged the servant, 'Please give me more time. I will repay you everything I owe!' But the servant refused, and he threw the man into jail.

"The king called for the servant he had forgiven. 'I forgave what you could never repay, and you did not forgive the small amount.' The king punished the official and made him pay his debt."

Jesus said, "This is what My Father in heaven will do if you do not forgive each other."

## DISCUSSION STARTERS

- ▶ Can we pay God the debt our sin owes? Why or why not?
- ▶ How has God shown mercy to sinners?
- ▶ How can you forgive others when their debt against you is great?

## FAMILY ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Obtain a few rolls of pennies. Use them to help your family visualize the difference in value between a penny and a larger bill. Talk about what it would be like to pay a large debt with pennies.

## CHRIST CONNECTION

Nothing we do is enough to pay the debt we owe God and take away God's punishment for our sin. Jesus came and died on the cross to pay for our sin and take the punishment we deserve. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin completely. We can forgive others because God has greatly forgiven us.

## BIBLE READING THROUGH THE WEEK

Take time this week to read the Bible together as a family. Breakfast, dinner, or bedtime—you choose when and where.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Matthew 18:21–22	Matthew 18:23–25	Matthew 18:26–27	Matthew 18:28–30	Matthew 18:31–35

As you read, ask these questions:

- ▶ What is God teaching us?
- ▶ What does this show us about who God is?
- ▶ What do we need to ask God's help for to change?
- ▶ How would you share this with a friend?

## UNIT MEMORY VERSE

When Jesus ... saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things. —Mark 6:34