













# Prayer Bear

Items needed to begin:

1. Print out the prayer bear cards on colored cardstock and laminate.
2. Cut the bears out following their shape, leaving a little extra on the edge.
3. Purchase a cuddly, large-sized teddy bear to use in class.

Instructions:

- Explain Prayer: Prayer is talking to God. We can talk to God anytime. Today we are going to say thank you prayers to God for all the good things He gives us.
- Explain Prayer Bear: With everyone sitting quietly, I will pick one of you to come up and pick a prayer bear card. You then get to sit in the chair and hold my prayer bear while we say a thank you prayer to God. Pick a child to come up and take one Prayer Bear Card from your hand. (Let the children know that everyone will get to do this.)
- Teacher: Read the word on the card and show the rest of the class. Most will not be readers.
- Have the child who drew the card sit in a chair at the front of the class and give him the bear to hold.
- Instruct: We are going to say a thank you prayer for the person or thing that was on the card the child drew. If they drew the dog card, ask if they have a dog, and if so, what is its name? This allows a more personal prayer to God.

Help them say the simple thank you prayer to God. (Repeat after me until they understand the concept and can do it alone.)

*“Dear God, thank you for my dog, Scooby. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”*

*“Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the flowers. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”*

Continued growth: You can teach your toddler or preschooler to pray 'thank you' and 'please' prayers. If a dog is sick or there is a problem with a parent, they can pray, “Dear God, please help my mom to get better. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

\*Children enjoy this activity and it can be used on a weekly basis. I suggest using it for 6 to 8 weeks and then using another option to teach prayer for the same length of time. You can go back to the Prayer Bear!