

# ***The ABCs of Prayer***

(Psalm 55:17, Philippians 4:6, 1 Timothy 2:8,  
James 4:3, Jeremiah 29:11, Psalm 66:19–20)

## **PREPARATION:**

- Select **“Praying”** from the music CDs.
- Write the letters A–Z in large print on 8 ½" × 11" **sheets of light-colored construction paper**, one letter per sheet.
- Several weeks before the program, select 16 students for the individual speaking parts. Help the class memorize Psalm 55:17, the speaking parts marked All Students, and the songs “Jesus, Jesus Always Hears Me,” from the script, and **“Praying,”** from the music CDs.



Direct the class to form a line across the back of the stage, with students standing side by side. Add a second row if necessary, depending on class size. Each student will display a letter of the alphabet and recite the designated part. If the class size is small, some students may need to present more than one letter.

Ask the first five previously selected students to come to the front of the stage and stand in a line, one behind the other. The first student should recite his or her part and then return to the original class line. Student 2 should stay in line after saying his or her part. Students 3 and 4 will alternately poke their heads out from behind Student 2, on opposite sides, as they take turns saying their part. Students 2, 3, and 4 return to the class line after saying their parts.

**Student 1:** Prayer is just talking to God.

**Student 2:** We can pray to God.

**Student 3:** Any time.

**Student 4:** Any place.

**All students** recite Psalm 55:17.

**Student 5:** Here are places where we can pray to God.

For the next part of the program, direct students to take turns stepping forward, displaying their letter, and reciting the specified phrase. Instruct students to hold their letter just under their chin. Encourage them to speak slowly, loudly, and clearly as they say their part. Letters should be presented in alphabetical order. After students say their part, they should step back in line.

A	at the airport	N	in the nursery
B	at the bus stop	O	at the office
C	at church	P	on the playground
D	at the doctor's office	Q	in a quiet place
E	in an elevator	R	at the restaurant
F	on the farm	S	at school
G	at the grocery store	T	at the toy store
H	at home	U	upstairs
I	at the ice-cream shop	V	at the vet's office
J	in the jungle	W	at work
K	in kindergarten	X	in the x-ray room
L	at the library	Z	at the zoo
M	in music class		

Lead students in reciting or singing "Jesus, Jesus Always Hears Me" to the tune of "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" or another familiar tune.

Jesus, Jesus always hears me,  
Always hears me when I pray.  
Jesus, Jesus always hears me,  
Always hears me when I pray.

Jesus, Jesus how I love you,  
Love you, love you every day.  
Jesus, Jesus how I love you,  
Love you, love you every day.

Have Students 6–9 come to the front of the stage, say their part, and then return to their original place.

**Student 6:** The Bible says to "pray without ceasing."

**Student 7:** What does that mean?

Have Students 10–16 come to the front of the stage, say their part, and then return to their original place.

**Student 10:** I can talk to God anywhere. At home, at school—just anywhere.

**Student 11:** When I run and play in the middle of the day,

**Student 12:** When I climb a tree or am stung by a bee,

**Student 13:** When I work in the yard, even though it's hard,

**All students:** I can talk to God!

**Student 14:** When I'm sick with the flu; when I go to the zoo,

**Student 15:** When thunder and lightning are very frightening,

**Student 16:** When it's dark at night and there is no light,

**All students:** I can talk to God!

**Teacher:** Boys and girls, praying isn't hard to do. It's just talking to your heavenly Father. You can tell Him anything and everything (Philippians 4:6) and talk to Him wherever you are (1 Timothy 2:8). He loves to hear your prayers!

When you pray, remember that God always knows what's best for you. Sometimes you may pray for things you don't really need (James 4:3). Or you may pray for something you are sure is for the best. If God doesn't answer your prayer right away, be patient. He will answer at just the right time. Sometimes God may not answer your prayer because He has a better plan for you (Jeremiah 29:11). When God does answer your prayer, make sure to praise and thank Him for what He has done (Psalm 66:19–20)!

Have students sing “**Praying**” from the music CDs.

Close in prayer.