



We pray through drama

The following drama helps to explain the meaning of the Lord's Prayer as well as highlighting the connection between prayer and the way we live our lives.

Choose two students to prepare and perform the skit for the class. Alternatively, present it as a puppet show using sock puppets.

Challenge the class to write and perform their own skits so as to impart a message about prayer and mission.

'Our Father who art in heaven...'

Yes?

Don't interrupt me, I'm praying...

But you called me.

Called you? I didn't call you. I'm praying...
'Our Father who art in heaven...'

There. You did it again.

Did what?

Called me. You said, 'Our Father who art in heaven'. Here I am. What's on your mind?

But I didn't mean anything by it. I was, you know, just saying some prayers for the day. I always say the Lord's Prayer. It makes me feel good, kind of like getting a duty done.

All right. Go on.

'Hallowed be thy name...'

Hold it. What did you mean by that?

By what?

By 'Hallowed be thy name'?

It means - it means, good grief, I don't know what it means. How should I know? It's just part of the prayer. By the way, what does it mean?

It means honoured, holy, wonderful.

Hey, that makes sense. I never thought what hallowed meant before. 'Thy kingdom come, they will be done on earth as it is in heaven...'

Do you really mean that?

Sure, why not?

What are you doing about it?

Doing? Nothing, I guess. I just think it would be kind

of helpful if YOU came down here and fixed up all our problems so that the world is as good as heaven.

And you? What are you doing about it?

Well, I go to church.

Good on you! That's a great start. Now, what about outside church? How's that bad temper of yours? Do you think we might do something about that?

Stop picking on me! I'm as good as some of the rest of those phonies at church.

Excuse me. I thought you were praying for my will to be done. If that is to happen, it will have to start with the ones who are praying for it, like you, for example.

Oh all right. I guess I do have some weak points. Now that you mention it, I could probably name some others.

So could I.

I haven't thought about it very much until now, but I really would like to cut out some of the negative stuff. I would like, you know, to be really free.

Good...now we're getting somewhere. We'll work together. You and I, some victories can truly be won...I'm proud of you.

Look, Lord, I need to finish here. This is taking a lot longer than it usually does. 'Give us this day our daily bread...'

You're very privileged, you know. You have bread on your table each day. AND you have the Bread of Life when you go to the Eucharist on Sundays. By the way, don't even *think* about missing Mass - it's a really special way to stay close to me.

Hey, wait a minute! What is this? Criticise Me Day? Here I was doing my religious duty and all of a sudden you break in and start hassling me.



Praying is a dangerous thing. You could wind up changed, you know. That's what I am trying to get across to you. You called me, and I am here. It's too late to stop now. Keep on with your praying. I'm interested in the next part of your prayer. Well, go on...

I'm scared to...

Scared? Scared of what?

I know what you'll say.

Try me and see.

'Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us...'

What about Beverley?

See? I knew it! I knew you would bring her up! Lord, she tells lies about me, and she cheated me out of some money. She never paid back that debt she owed me. I've sworn to get even with her!

But your prayer. What about your prayer?

I didn't mean it.

Well, at least you're honest. But it is not much fun carrying that load of bitterness around inside you, is it?

No, but I'll feel better as soon as I get even.

You won't feel any better, you'll feel worse. Revenge isn't sweet. Think how unhappy you already are. But I can change all that.

You can? How?

Forgive Beverley, then you will know how much I have forgiven you. The hate and sin will be her problem and not yours. You may lose money, but you will have settled your heart.

But Lord, I can't forgive her.

Then you won't be able to experience the forgiveness I offer you.

Oh, you're right. And more than I want revenge on Beverley, I want to be close to you.... All right. I forgive her. Help her to find the right road in life, Lord. She's bound to be awfully miserable now that I think about it. Anybody who goes around doing the things she does to others has to be feeling pretty rotten inside. Someday, somehow, show her the way.

There now! Wonderful! How do you feel?

Hmmm. Well, not bad at all. In fact, I feel pretty good! You know, I don't think I'll have to go to bed uptight tonight for the first time I can remember. Maybe I won't be tired from now on because I'm not getting enough rest.

You're not through with your prayer. Go on.

Oh, all right. 'And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.'

Good. I'll do that. Just don't put yourself in a place where you can be tempted.

What do you mean by that?

Change some friendships. Don't use me for an escape hatch.

I don't understand.

Sure you do. You've done it a lot of times. You get caught in a bad situation, you get into trouble and then you come running to me saying 'Lord, help me out of this mess and I promise I'll never do it again.' You remember some of those bargains you tried to make with me?

Yes. I'm ashamed. Lord, I really am. I'm sorry, Lord. Up until now I thought that if I prayed the Lord's Prayer every day, then I could do what I liked. I didn't expect anything to happen like it did.

Go ahead and finish your prayer.

'For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.'

Do you know what would bring me glory? What would really make me happy?

No, but I'd like to know. I want to please you. I can see how often I shut you out of my life, and I would like to be one of your followers.

You just answered the questions.

I did?

Yes. The thing that would bring me glory is to have people like you truly love me. There's no telling what we can do together.

Lord, let's see what we can make of me. Okay?

Yes, Let's see. And remember: I love you!

Adapted from material used by the Scouts, Central Coast of NSW, Founder's Day, (February, Village Twin Cinema).