



Prayers!

At camp, we do LOTS of prayers. We sing silly ones before meals and a return of thanks after meals. We each have a part during Bible study and cabin devos, but say them together during worship. Some are silent and some we draw. Some have actions and others we find a “prayer posture” that helps us focus on God.

The message? There are lots of ways to talk with, and listen to, God. Below are just some of the ones we do.

As a family, try coming up with a new one (and then share it with us this summer!).

2 Meal Prayers (before eating)

Addams Family (cross arms, snap fingers, to the tune of The Addams Family Theme Song)

We thank you for our food, Lord
For mom and dad and you, Lord
We thank you for our food, Lord
To help us through the day.
Amen (xx) Amen (xx) Amen, Amen, Amen! (xx)

OR

Be present at our table, Lord
Be here and everywhere adored.
These mercies bless and grant that we
May strengthened for thy service be.
Amen (xx) Amen (xx) Amen, Amen, Amen! (xx)

Superman (to the tune of the Superman Theme Song)

Thank you God, for giving us food. (pump right fist in air)
Thank you God, for giving us food. (pump left fist in air)
For the food that we eat (both fists in air, sway to right)
For the friends that we meet (keep fists in air, sway to left)
Thank you God! (fists in air, straight up)
For giving us food. (fists on hips)

Return of Thanks Prayer (after eating - from Summer 2019)

We thank you, Lord, for everything: for fun and friends and birds that sing.
For those who grew and made our food, we thank you, Lord, for all them, too.
We thank you Lord, for earth, our home, help us love it as our own!
Amen.

Arrow Prayer

This is typically done at campfire. We start with some silent time to reflect on our day and our world and to think about what we would like to bring to God. It can be something we're thankful for, something we're struggling with, a confession, a prayer for someone else... anything. After a bit of time, everyone "strings their bow" (i.e., pretends that they're getting ready to shoot a bow and arrow). The arrow contains their prayer to God and, when they're ready, they release it (by pretending to shoot it).

Tree Prayer

This is usually done during morning worship. It's a call-and-repeat prayer. A camp counselor (for you, anyone who's going to lead the family) comes up with 4-6 lines of a prayer - almost always a prayer of thanks to God. So the 4-6 lines could be 4-6 things you're thankful for. Everyone starts by squatting down as low as you can go (still on your feet). The first line is said by the leader at a whisper and everyone repeats it. Then you stand up just a little and the second line is said just a little bit louder and repeated at the relevant volume. You stand up just a little bit more and the third line is said a little louder and repeated at that volume. And so on until you're completely upright, arms stretched upwards and you're shouting the prayer, with the last line being a triumphant "Amen"! It's meant to mimic the growth of a tree as you pray. :)

Lord's Prayer

(There are a couple of versions of this - do which one is known to you.)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.
Amen.