



Pumpkin Prayer Challenge: 4-Week Preschool Curriculum

The **Pumpkin Prayer Challenge Preschool Curriculum** helps little ones (ages 3-5) learn that they can talk to Jesus anytime! Over four weeks, preschoolers will discover that prayer is like planting a special seed that grows when we talk to Jesus every day. Through simple Bible stories and fun activities, children will learn that Jesus loves to hear from them and is always listening.

Main Idea: Jesus loves when I talk to Him!

Memory Verse: Philippians 4:6 NiRV

Don't worry about anything. No matter what happens, tell God about everything. Ask and pray, and give thanks to him.

4-Week Lesson Overview

Week 1 - Jesus Loves When I Talk to Him!

- **Bible Story:** The Mustard Seed (Matthew 17:20)
- **Summary:** Talking to Jesus is like planting a tiny seed! This week, we learn that Jesus loves when we talk to Him every day. Even little prayers can grow into something wonderful.

Week 2 - Jesus Listens Every Day!

- **Bible Story:** Daniel's Prayer Time (Daniel 6:10)
- **Summary:** Daniel talked to Jesus every single day! This week, we learn that Jesus always listens when we pray. We can talk to Him in the morning, at dinner, or anytime we want.

Week 3 - Jesus Helps Me When I'm Scared!

- **Bible Story:** Jonah and the Big Fish (Jonah 1-3)
- **Summary:** Sometimes we feel scared or worried, but Jesus is always with us! This week, we learn that when we pray, Jesus helps us feel brave and safe.

Week 4 - Jesus Makes Me Happy!

- **Bible Story:** The Man Who Said Thank You (Luke 17:11-19)
- **Summary:** Jesus gives us so many good things! This week, we learn that saying "thank you" to Jesus makes Him happy and makes us happy too.

Simple Prayer Activities for Preschoolers

Week 1: Starting to Talk to Jesus

- Sunday:** Say "Good morning, Jesus!" when you wake up
- Monday:** Draw a picture and tell Jesus about it
- Tuesday:** Pray before you eat lunch: "Thank you, Jesus, for my food!"
- Wednesday:** Pray for your family: "Jesus, I love my family!"
- Thursday:** Say "Jesus loves me!" three times
- Friday:** Say "Good night, Jesus!" before bed
- Saturday:** Tell Jesus about your favorite part of the week

Week 2: Talking to Jesus Every Day

- Sunday:** Pray at church: "Jesus, help me listen!"
- Monday:** Pray for a friend: "Jesus, help my friend!"
- Tuesday:** Say "Thank you, Jesus!" before dinner
- Wednesday:** Ask Jesus to help you be kind
- Thursday:** Tell Jesus something that makes you happy
- Friday:** Pray for sweet dreams
- Saturday:** Say "Jesus, you are good!" with your family

Week 3: Jesus Helps When I'm Scared

- Sunday:** Pray: "Jesus, help me be brave this week!"
- Monday:** When you feel scared, say "Jesus is with me!"
- Tuesday:** Pray for courage: "Jesus, help me not be afraid!"
- Wednesday:** Tell Jesus about something that worries you
- Thursday:** Pray for someone who needs help
- Friday:** Say "Jesus keeps me safe!" before bed
- Saturday:** Thank Jesus for taking care of you all week

Week 4: Saying Thank You to Jesus

- Sunday:** Start the day saying "Thank you, Jesus, for today!"
- Monday:** Thank Jesus for your toys
- Tuesday:** Pray with someone you love
- Wednesday:** Thank Jesus for your home
- Thursday:** Say "Thank you, Jesus, for making me special!"
- Friday:** Draw a thank-you picture for Jesus
- Saturday:** Tell Jesus all the things that made you happy this week



Philippians 4:6 NIV

Don't worry about anything. No matter what happens, tell God about everything. Ask and pray, and give thanks to him.



Week 1 – Jesus Loves When I Talk to Him!

Bible Story: The Mustard Seed (Matthew 17:20)

Summary: Talking to Jesus is like planting a tiny seed! This week, we learn that Jesus loves when we talk to Him every day. Even little prayers can grow into something wonderful.

Video Bible Stories: Use this link to access recommended Bible story videos and bonus content for this curriculum series. <https://linktr.ee/PumpkinPrayerChallenge>

Parent Connect: Print extra copies of this overview page to share with the families in your ministry.



Week 1 – Supply List

Arrival & Guided Play

- Play kitchen toys
- Small toy seeds & cups of dirt
- Toy phones
- Stuffed animals
- Blocks

Group Game

- 1 small plush pumpkin (or a lightweight plastic pumpkin)
- Worship-music track (optional)

Bible Story

- Printed picture of a Jesus holding a tiny mustard seed
- Printed picture of a small sprouting plant
- Printed picture of a big beautiful tree with birds

Craft Activities

- Tree template (provided below) one per child
- Green construction paper leaves (pre-cut or torn – no scissors for children)
- Glue sticks
- Crayons or markers

Coloring Page and Activity Sheet

- make 1 copy per child (provided below)



Arrival and Guided Play (5-10 minutes)

This week's focus is learning, "*Jesus loves when I talk to Him!*" Use the following guided play ideas to introduce this concept. This flexible time helps everyone get settled into the classroom and ready for the day's lesson!

Toy/Activity Ideas (suggested teacher talking points)

- **Play Kitchen** – Let's cook something yummy! While we cook, we can talk to Jesus. Just like a tiny mustard seed, our little prayers grow big when we talk to Him!
- **Small Toy Seeds & Cups of Dirt** – Let's pretend to plant seeds! When we plant tiny seeds, they grow. Talking to Jesus is like planting seeds too!
- **Toy Phone** – Let's call Jesus on the toy phone and tell Him something. Jesus loves when we talk to Him, even if it's just a tiny prayer!
- **Stuffed Animals** – Let's tell our stuffed animals about Jesus. We can tell Jesus anything, and He loves to listen!
- **Blocks** – Let's build something tall with blocks! Just like a tiny seed grows, our little prayers grow when we talk to Jesus.

After the children have arrived and had time to explore the play area, gather everyone together.

TEACHER: Let's clean up our toys and come sit in a circle to play a game together!

Group Game (5 minutes)

Pumpkin Prayer Pass

Supplies Needed

- 1 small plush pumpkin (or a lightweight plastic pumpkin)
- Worship-music track (optional)

Setup Sit children in a cozy circle. Hand the pumpkin to the first child.

TEACHER: Did you know pumpkins grow from tiny little seeds? When we talk to Jesus, even our smallest prayer grows into something wonderful. Let's pass this pumpkin gently around. When you hold it, say a little prayer like "Hi, Jesus!" or "Thank You, Jesus!" Remember, even little prayers are special to Jesus, just like tiny pumpkin seeds turn into big pumpkins!

*Play soft music or sing "Jesus Loves Me" as the pumpkin moves around the circle. Stop the music every so often, and whoever has the pumpkin shares their little prayer. **Jesus loves hearing our pumpkin prayers!***

That was so fun! Let's remember that Jesus loves when we talk to Him! Now let's gather together to hear a story that Jesus told about prayer!

Bible Story (10 minutes)

The Mustard Seed (Matthew 17:20)

Main Idea: Jesus loves when I talk to Him!

Summary: Talking to Jesus is like planting a tiny seed! This week, we learn that Jesus loves when we talk to Him every day. Even little prayers can grow into something wonderful.

SUPPLIES:

- Printed picture of a Jesus holding a tiny mustard seed
- Printed picture of a small sprouting plant
- Printed picture of a big beautiful tree with birds

TEACHER: Look at this tiny little seed.

Teacher holds up the picture of Jesus holding the tiny mustard seed.

Can you hold your fingers close together to show how small it is? It's called a mustard seed. It is one of the smallest seeds you can find!

Jesus told a story about this tiny little seed. He said when you plant it in the ground, it grows... and grows... and grows! Even though it starts so small, it becomes a big, strong tree.

Show the picture of the small sprouting plant.

When you plant the seed, it looks like this at first—a tiny sprout. But it keeps growing because the sun shines on it and the rain helps it.

Show the picture of the big beautiful tree with birds.

Look! The tiny seed grows into a great big tree! Birds can sit in it, and people can stand under its branches. All that from a tiny seed!

Talking to Jesus is just like that. When we say little prayers—like “Thank You Jesus” or “Help me today”—it’s like planting a tiny seed. And guess what? Jesus loves when we talk to Him! He helps those little prayers grow big in our hearts.

Every time you talk to Jesus, your friendship with Him grows stronger. Just like the mustard seed grows into a tree, our little prayers grow into something wonderful!

Let’s all say this together: ***Jesus loves when I talk to Him!***

PRAYER TIME:

Let’s talk to God together right now. You can repeat after me.

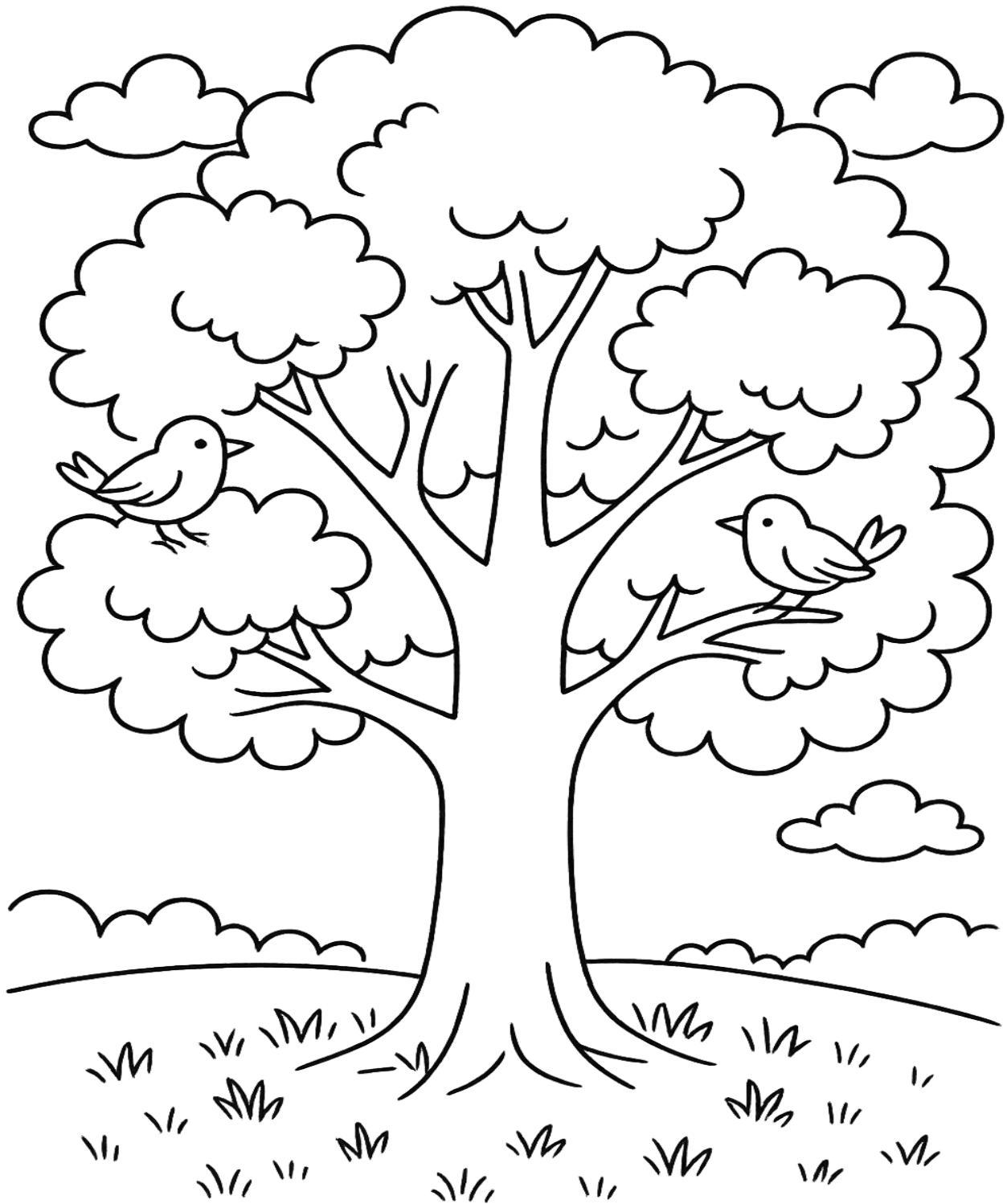
Thank You, Jesus
That I can talk to You
Even with little words
You love to hear me pray
Please help my prayers grow
And help me love You more
In Jesus Name, Amen.







The Mustard Seed (Matthew 17:20)



Craft (10 minutes)

Prayer Tree Poster

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Large sheet of paper with a simple tree trunk and branches drawn ahead of time (one per child or a big class poster)
- Green construction paper for leaves (pre-cut large leaves, or tear green paper into leaf shapes – no scissors for kids)
- Glue sticks
- Crayons or markers

TEACHER: Let's make a prayer tree!

Hold up the poster with the tree trunk and branches.



This tree is waiting to grow leaves! Each time we add a leaf, it's like a little prayer we are giving to Jesus. Remember – even little prayers are special and grow big in our hearts, just like the mustard seed in our Bible story!

Give each child green paper leaves. Help them glue leaves onto the tree.

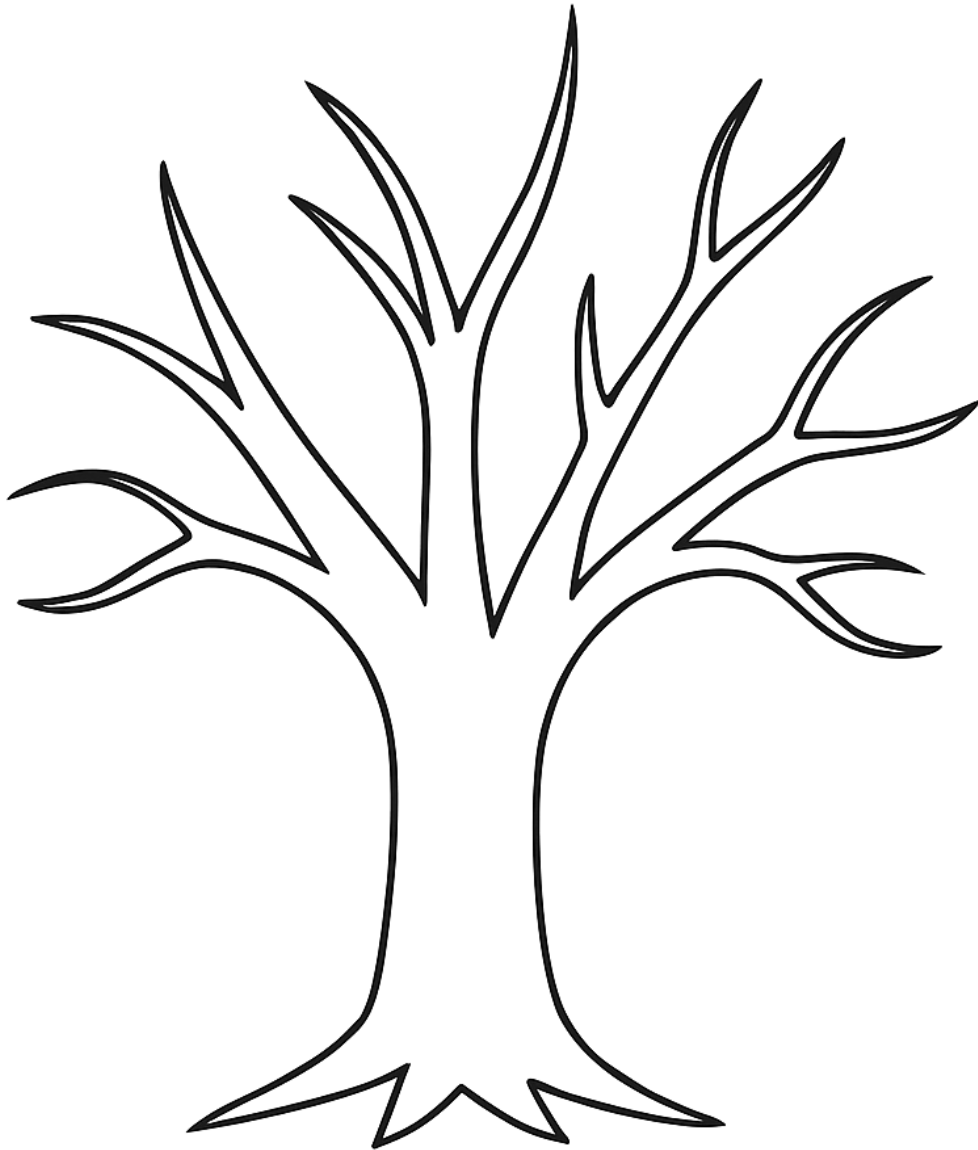
As you glue, you can talk to Jesus. You can say: "Thank You, Jesus!" or "I love You, Jesus!"

Encourage them to repeat simple little prayers as they place each leaf. Help children decorate the poster with crayons or markers if desired.

When we talk to Jesus, it's like planting little seeds that grow, grow, grow! Jesus loves when I talk to Him!

Jesus Loves When I Talk to Him!

Prayer Tree



Name: _____

Week 1: Jesus Loves When I Talk to Him!

Can you draw a Praying Hand?

