

# Praying as Jesus did



## Read it from the Bible

**Matthew 6:8-12; Luke 11:2-4**

'... Your Father knows what you need before you ask.' *Matthew 6:8*

## Tell the story

Jesus' friends wanted to pray just like Jesus did! But they were never sure what to say to God. So one day they asked, "Jesus, how should we pray?"

"I'll help you," Jesus told them. So Jesus' friends sat down with him and listened.

"When you pray," Jesus said, "talk to God in just the same way as you'd talk to someone who loves you and cares for you – a mother or father or someone else who looks after you. You wouldn't worry about talking to your dad or your mum. Just say how you feel. Ask for things you need. Tell God you love him. Thank him for what he's given you. You can say you're sorry too for anything you've done that was wrong. Your Father in heaven loves you and knows just what you need."

And Jesus taught them a prayer to say. It begins, "Our Father in heaven..."

## Talk to God

Thank you, God, that we can talk to you like we would talk to a mum or dad or someone else who looks after us. You are so kind, and you know everything that we need.

## Use the picture

**1** You can use the picture as an introduction to the Bible story or to help you review the story together.

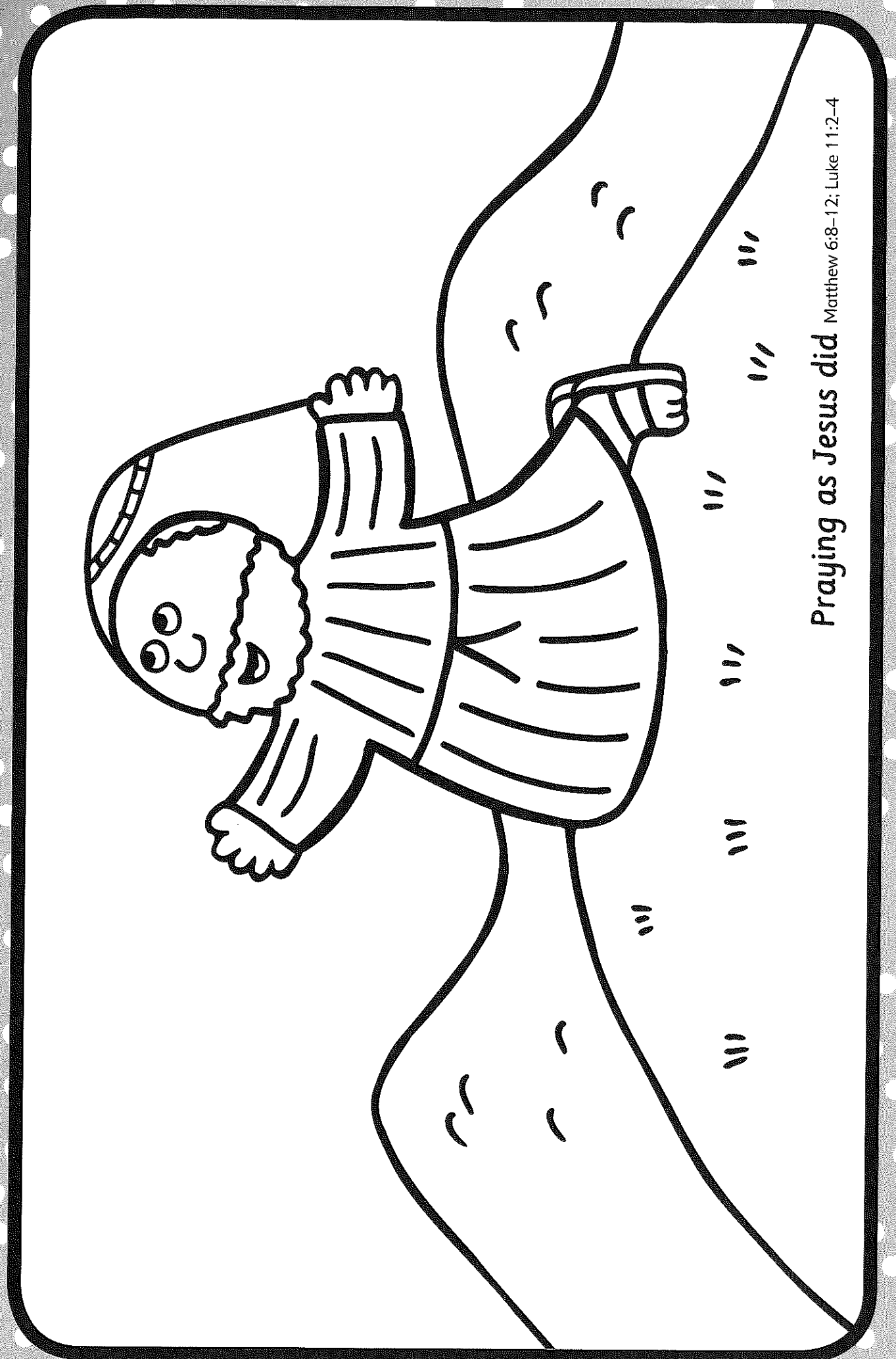
**2** Give out the story pictures to the children. Tell them that the person in the picture is Jesus. How does Jesus look? (Happy and trusting.)

**3** Read the story together. How does Jesus say we should talk to God? (Like someone we love and trust: a mum or dad, or someone else who looks after us and loves us.)

**4** Set out an area of your meeting space as a 'prayer corner'. Make the area comfortable, with cushions and rugs to sit on. Provide things to look at, admire and handle

**5** Encourage the children to colour or decorate the picture in the prayer corner. Provide a calm atmosphere, with some soothing music playing softly in the background.

**6** Arrange to have a leader available to join any children in the prayer corner, to listen and encourage their exploration and to suggest ways to pray, as appropriate. Keep this low-key, welcoming, unpressured and optional.



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