

CONTENTS

Lesson 1	Why Pray	Pg 5
Lesson 2	The Lord's Prayer	Pg 17
Lesson 3	How to Pray	Pg 31
Lesson 4	What to Pray	Pg 44
Lesson 5	Pray for Others	Pg 57
Lesson 6	How God Answers Prayer	Pg 67
Lesson 7	What Blocks Prayer	Pg 77



Prayer

Why Pray



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To teach that prayer nourishes our spirit.
- To show the importance of praying in tongues everyday.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

1 Corinthians 14:2-4; Romans 8:26



MEMORY VERSE

Jude 1:20: Dear friends, keep building on the foundation of your most holy faith, as the Holy Spirit helps you to pray.

Materials Needed:

Laptop (to play videos)



RECAP

- What did we learn about last week?
- Recite the Memory Verse for last week.

Note to the Facilitator

There are **at least five reasons** why we pray. This lesson discusses **only one in detail**:

We pray:

- To present our requests before God.
- To get to know God and hear from Him.
- To partner with God in establishing His kingdom in our families, our schools, our neighborhoods, etc.
- To both avoid and overcome temptation.
- To nourish ourselves spiritually.

[The first four points are taught in detail at the Primary and Junior levels (Standards 2-7)].



ATTENTION GETTER

Display a little doll and make this statement:

“This little doll can have a very good future or a very bad future. It all depends on whose hands I place it in.”

Video Presentation

- How Children play with dolls – Humorous video 1
Duration: Play the first 30 seconds of the Video (*the rest of the video is NOT relevant*).
- How Children play with dolls – Humorous video 2
Duration: Play the Video for just a few seconds(*the rest of the video is NOT relevant*).

Ask:

The first video showed a little girl playing with her doll, and lovingly covering it with a blanket. The second video showed two little boys flinging their dolls across the room.

- What do you think will happen if I give this little doll to the two girls in the video? What kind of a future will this doll have?
- What do you think will happen if I give this little doll to the two boys in the second video? What kind of a future will the doll have?

Explain:

Your life is like this delicate little doll. If you place your life in the wrong hands, terrible things will happen to it.

Through Prayer you can make sure that your life stays in the right hands!



TEACHING CONTENT

Ask:

What are some of the main reasons why we pray?
(Allow the children to come up with as many reasons as possible for praying).

Explain:

There are so many reasons why we pray. However, the most important one is to get to know God personally. When we begin to develop a personal relationship with the Lord **through effective prayer**, it changes our whole lives.

So today, we will take a closer look at HOW we can pray effectively, and HOW effective prayer changes our lives.

Read Aloud:

Romans 7:15-17: ... I don't understand why I act the way I do. I don't do what I know is right. I do the things I hate. Although I don't do what I know is right, I agree that the Law is good. So I am not the one doing these evil things. The sin that lives in me is what does them.

Ask: What is Paul saying in these verses about himself?
(Allow the children to express their opinions).

Observe:

In these verses, it almost looks as though Paul has two persons living inside his body. One part of him believes that God's laws are good and longs to obey them. But the other part of him makes him do the evil things that he hates.

Explain:

All of us go through this same battle.

Prayer Plays a Very Important Role in Winning this Battle.

Let us begin by learning some basic facts:

- All of us are spirit beings. Even if our human bodies were to suddenly dissolve and disappear, we wouldn't stop existing. We would continue living, because we are spirit beings.
- The human body is just an outer shell and we live inside it.
- Also, each spirit-person has a 'personality.' Our personality is made up of our thoughts, our feelings and our choices. It is called the 'soul.'

So each of us **IS** a spirit being; each of us **HAS** a personality; and each of us **LIVE IN** a human body.

Paul: A spirit-person

On the road to Damascus, when Paul accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior, he was 'joined' to the Lord. (Paul was a spirit being. So, technically speaking, his spirit was joined to the Lord's Spirit).

God forgave all the murders that this 'spirit-person' had committed. God forgave all the other sins he had committed as well. And God made this 'spirit-person' completely holy and righteous.

So, in the fraction of a second, this spirit-person was transported from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of Light. Now he had only holy desires. He hated sin and wanted to follow God completely.

Paul: A spirit-person with a Soul (Personality)

Paul became perfectly holy in the fraction of a second! But sadly, his personality didn't change. (Our personality is made up of our thoughts, our feelings and our choices)

Paul continued to experience sinful thoughts of pride, jealousy, lust and anger (because his personality hadn't changed). And he continued to experience sinful feelings like selfishness, hatred and ingratitude (because his personality hadn't changed).

Paul's Battle

- Whenever Paul's spirit controlled him, he did holy and righteous things (because his spirit was completely holy and righteous, joined permanently to God's Spirit).
- But whenever Paul's soul controlled him, he did unholy and sinful things (because his personality hadn't changed).

So **Paul decided to make his spirit so strong** that it would **control his soul**. He did it by "praying in the Spirit."

Who is Controlling you?

Your life is in whose hands? In the hands of your spirit? Or in the hands of your soul?

Whoever is stronger, that one will control you:

- If your spirit is stronger, it will control you and help you to do good.
- But if your soul is stronger, it will control you and make you do sinful things.

Your spirit must **become so strong that it can control your soul**, and begin to ‘renew’ it.

The spirit becomes strong **through praying in tongues**. 1 Corinthians 14:4 says, “Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves.” Praying in tongues is a spiritual exercise that **STRENGTHENS** your inner man (spirit), it edifies you. It is a means of building yourself up spiritually.

Praying in tongues will ensure that your life is **always controlled by your spirit** (Your spirit which is joined with God’s Spirit). You will then have a secure future at the center of God’s will.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

Some people have the ability to pray in tongues. But in spite of this, they live sinful lives. Why do you think their spirits haven’t grown stronger?

Galatians 5:25 says, “Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”

Many people are living in the Spirit, because they have been baptized in the Spirit. But even though they have been Spirit-baptized, they are **unable to “keep in step”** with the Holy Spirit, because their spirits are weak.

The spirit needs to be strengthened through a prayer life filled with regular prayers of praise, thanksgiving, confession, supplication, meditation and praying in tongues. Those who fail to do these things every day, continue to remain weak in their spirit.

So even though they may have the ability to pray in tongues, **they are NOT praying**. As a result, they are unable to lead a more victorious Christian life.

When praying in tongues, we can't even understand what we are saying. So how can we say that it is useful?

Allow the children to express their opinions.

Video Presentation

Video: Speaking in Tongues

Duration: Play the video only from “2min:30sec” to “5min:00sec.”

(If you wish to, you can play the rest of the video as well. There's a brief mention of how prayer in tongues differs from Buddhist or Catholic prayers).

Explain:

1 Corinthians 14:2 says that when you pray in tongues, “... God will understand what you are saying, though no one else will know what you mean. You will be talking about mysteries that only the Spirit understands.”

Romans 8:26 says, “...the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.”

According to these verses, the Holy Spirit helps us pray in a supernatural way—in a way we could never pray in our own natural languages.

When we pray in tongues, it is our spirit praying “by the Holy Spirit” within us. It is the Holy Spirit within us giving us the utterance and we speak it out of our spirit. We do the talking, He gives the utterance. By this method, the Holy Spirit helps us to pray according to the will of God as things should be prayed for.

So, we end up praying for the things that will edify and strengthen our spirit. And we end up praying for things that will help others.

Andrew Wommack says, “One thing I experienced was that when I prayed in tongues, people I hadn’t thought of for years would come to my remembrance. I’d start praying for them, and within a day or two, they would contact me

and I'd find that something miraculous had happened. This happened so many times that I finally began to put these things together and realize that when I was praying in tongues, I was praying with wisdom that went beyond my mental ability. My spirit that knew all things and had the mind of Christ was praying for people in ways that I could never do with my own physical understanding."

So praying in tongues is definitely useful—useful for us and for others as well.

Is it enough if we pray in tongues once a week? How often must we pray?

When we pray in tongues, our spirit is in direct contact with God. Continuing to pray and worshipping God in tongues help us to be ever conscious of His indwelling presence. If I can be conscious of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit every day, it is bound to affect the way I live.

A minister's 12 year old daughter once lost her temper and was talking very rudely and hatefully to her mother. A visiting evangelist overheard the scene and when the girl looked up and saw him, knowing that he witnessed her tantrum she was embarrassed and broke into tears. The evangelist asked her if she was filled with the Spirit. When she replied that she was, he reminded her that the Holy Spirit was in her. They prayed together and she asked the Lord's forgiveness. While praying she began to worship God in tongues. When they were finished praying, the evangelist said to her, "There is one secret that will help you curb your temper. **If you will pray and worship God every day in tongues, it will help you to be conscious of the indwelling presence of the Holy**

Spirit. If you will remember that He is in you; you won't act that way."

Some years later when that evangelist returned to preach at that church, the pastor's daughter told him, "I have never forgotten what you said. Every day for the past few years I have prayed and worshipped God in tongues, and I never lost my temper again."

Unfortunately, we all know people who have been filled with the Holy Spirit, yet still lose their temper and, say and do things they shouldn't. This is only because they haven't been walking in the Spirit as they should. It is so easy, when we are not conscious of His presence, to become irritated and frustrated. But if we will take time to fellowship with Him, we can be conscious of His indwelling presence.

So we must pray in tongues **every single day**, for at least ten minutes. It will strengthen our spirits and change our lives.

It is difficult to concentrate when praying because our minds wander off to other subjects. This problem becomes even more prominent when we pray in tongues. Can you think of any ideas that would help us concentrate better?

Listening to worship songs helps a lot. It brings our spirit in tune with the Spirit of the Lord, even as we focus on Him. So when we pray in tongues, with praise songs playing in the background, it helps us stay focused on Him.

Some people focus on a mental picture of the Lord seated in heaven, with angels surrounding Him and worshipping Him. And they picture themselves joining with the angels in praise and prayer.

Some people focus on the Holy Spirit living inside of them. They pray in tongues, as though speaking with Him directly. By making themselves conscious and aware of His indwelling presence, they are able to concentrate better.

Ask the Lord to help you stay focused on Him while praying in tongues. Different methods of concentration work for different people. He may show you some method which others have not tried yet.

Whatever the method used to concentrate, make a commitment to pray every day in tongues. And stay with the commitment. You may not see immediate results. But gradually, over time, your spirit will grow stronger, **if you do it regularly.**



APPLICATION

This week, make a commitment to pray in tongues every day, at least for 15 minutes. Even if you are unable to concentrate at first, do not give up. Continue doing it until you experience changes in your spiritual walk.

For next week, pray that you will come with a testimony of how praying in tongues has improved your spiritual life.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER





The Lord's Prayer



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To familiarize children with the pattern of the Lord's Prayer.
- To teach how to do Spiritual Warfare Prayer.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Ephesians 6:18; Mark 9:29; John 14:12



MEMORY VERSE

Ephesians 6:18: And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Note to the Facilitator

In Lesson 2, we briefly dwell on the second half of the Lord's Prayer:

- Give us our food for today.
- Forgive us for doing wrong, as we forgive others.
- Keep us from being tempted.
- And protect us from evil.

[The First Half of the Lord’s Prayer is covered in detail at the Junior Level (Std.5-7)].



RECAP

- What did we learn about last week?
- What did Peter do to strengthen his spirit, so that he could live in victory?
- This week did you pray in tongues daily? How did this help you? Give examples.
- Recite the Memory Verse for last week.



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we discussed the reason for prayer. Today, we will take a closer look at the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples to pray.

The twelve disciples lived with Jesus for three years. In His life, they saw a power that they had never seen in anyone else. And they realized that the answer lay in Jesus’ prayer life, in His communion with God the Father. So one day, when Jesus finished praying, the disciples said, “Lord, teach us to pray.”



ATTENTION GETTER

Ask: Ask the children to open their Bibles to Ephesians 6:10-20.

Show: Show them the Coloring Page of the Armor of God (Attached at the end of this Lesson).

Challenge:

- Challenge them to identify the different pieces of “spiritual armor” being worn by the soldier on the coloring page (taking help from their Bibles).
- Challenge them to identify the **missing piece of armor** in the coloring page (taking help from their Bibles).

Explain:

Ephesians 6:17 says, “Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

- This verse speaks of two pieces of armor, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit.

The next verse says, “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people” (v.18).

- The word ‘and’ at the beginning of v.18 clearly indicates that the previous verse is being continued. Yet many people mistakenly assume that the description of the armor stops with v.17.

Without the seventh piece of armor, the soldier is NOT ready for battle. No wonder so many Christians fail when Satan attacks! They are not properly prepared to defeat him.

Today, we will study the vital link between prayer and successful spiritual warfare.



TEACHING CONTENT

Jesus taught His disciples to pray in this way:

Our Father in heaven help us to honor Your name

We must begin our prayer with an attitude of respect, praising and worshipping God.

Come and set up Your kingdom so that everyone on earth will obey You, as You are obeyed in heaven

Also, we must pray with a desire to put God first. Our prayers must be in line with the will of God, not our own selfish will.

Give us our food for today

The Lord wants us to pray for our personal needs. Philippians 4:19 says, “ ... my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus.” So the Lord wants us to present all our needs before Him, instead of worrying about them.

- We must pray for both physical food (material needs) as well as spiritual food (spiritual needs).

Forgive us for doing wrong, as we forgive others

He also wants to forgive all our sins. So, if we confess our sins, He will forgive and forget them. And because He is showing us such great mercy by doing this, He expects us to show the same level of mercy to others, by forgiving them.

Keep us from being tempted

Jesus also specifically teaches us to pray against temptation. What temptations trouble you the most? Are you usually tempted to lie? Do you have trouble with the temptation to lose your temper and lash out at people?

Whatever it may be, pray and ask God to keep you from it. The Lord will listen to your prayer, and help you avoid getting into situations where you'd be tempted by that particular issue.

DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE

Sometimes, satan—the evil one, harasses us through spiritual strongholds, sicknesses and blocked prayers. When this happens, we use “spiritual warfare prayer” to receive deliverance.

Spiritual Warfare Prayer is specifically used when we cannot break satan's stronghold in any other way. We use it to set a person free, whom satan has tied up.

Let us look at some examples:

Spiritual Strongholds

Some Christians foolishly allow themselves to be 'tied up' by satan. The more and more they commit a particular sin, the more satan ties them up. They reach a stage where they can't get free from that sinful practice even if they want to. This is called a 'spiritual stronghold.'

For example, a Christian student at school may secretly start smoking cigarettes. The more frequently he does it, the more satan 'ties' him up. In this way, he becomes a prisoner of satan; and even if he wishes to stop smoking, he finds himself unable to stop.

In such a situation, he needs the Lord to deliver him from the evil one.

Sickness

In the same way, some people are 'tied up' by a sickness. Sometimes, the sickness may be a result of something sinful they have done. Sometimes, the sickness may be the result of a generational curse (with the same sickness being passed down from one generation to the next). There may be other reasons too.

Whatever may be the cause, the person is unable to get healed. She has been 'tied up' by the sickness, and she is unable to break free.

In such a situation, she needs the Lord to deliver her from the evil one.

Blocked Prayer

Likewise, some prayers are deliberately blocked by the evil one. A good example is that of Daniel's prayer which was blocked by the demon-prince of Persia.

Once a person becomes aware that there is a 'spiritual blockage' to the prayer, he must ask the Lord for deliverance from the evil one.

Demon Possession

Some people are 'possessed' by demons that live inside their bodies. The demons control their actions and they are helpless to free themselves. Such people also need deliverance from the evil one.

Spiritual Warfare Prayer

People generally think that spiritual warfare is all about binding, breaking and commanding evil spirits to leave.

However, Jesus taught us to first pray to Him. He didn't teach us to start talking to the evil spirits. In Mark 9:29, Jesus said regarding the deliverance of a demon-possessed person, "This kind can come out only by prayer." So we must first pray to the Lord for deliverance. If necessary we can do 'fasting prayer.'

Every day, even as we pray regarding the issue troubling us, the Lord will reveal to us whether or not demonic interference is involved. He will use the three knowledge gifts (word of knowledge, word of wisdom and discernment of spirits) to show us exactly where the problem lies.

We can then renounce the evil spirits and their effect on our lives, in the authority and power of Jesus. John 14:12 clearly teaches that we have been given the authority and power to do these things.

So Spiritual Warfare Prayer basically involves three things:

- We pray for deliverance and seek clear guidance from the Lord regarding the issue.
- Depending on what the Lord reveals, we pray and command in Jesus' Name, that in those specific areas, satan's activities be bound (tied up).
- Next, we speak out God's Word (declaring whatever God's Word says regarding that particular issue), telling the Lord that we choose to believe His Word and stand upon it (even if Satan puts doubts in our minds).

God will immediately bring about deliverance, when we take authority in Jesus' Name and speak out in faith. However, it may take a little time for us to see the physical outworking of the deliverance.

So we must stand firm and hold on, until the victory is seen. (A soldier is never supposed to give up half way through the battle. This is why it is called 'spiritual warfare prayer'.)



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.

Video Presentation

Humorous Video: Prayer is Spiritual Warfare

Duration: 3 minutes and 35 seconds

What is this video trying to convey? WHO is fighting the actual battle in this video? Jesus or the guy who is praying?

According to Ephesians 6:12, 'WE' are fighting the battle. Jesus only supplies us with the power and authority to do so.

If we choose to ignore this important fact and refuse to do battle on our knees, on a daily basis, we will experience extremely limited victory in our lives.

How would I use the three steps of Spiritual Warfare Prayer to 'Overcome Temptation?'

Pray for deliverance/guidance: Ask God to show you what is preventing you from breaking free of the stronghold (strongholds of violent anger, TV addiction, smoking, etc.).

- Sometimes the Lord may reveal that certain people/things/places are constantly tempting you and dragging you into the sinful habit. In such a case, it is your responsibility to avoid these things in future—so that the pull of temptation is reduced.
- However, the Lord may also reveal that satan has gained control over your life due to certain specific acts/events (Eg., anger emerging out of a root of bitterness against somebody; or a specific TV program that allowed satan to gain a firm foothold in your life). In such a case, you must repent of those specific wrong

acts and renounce the satanic forces controlling you in those root areas.

Bind Satan's activities: "Lord I repent of what I specifically did. And now because you have forgiven me, I break the works of satan and his forces in Jesus' Name. They have no more authority to control me in this area of my life."

Declare God's Word back to Him: "Lord, you said in Psalm 107:14, that you would break my chains and set me free from my imprisonment to sin. I claim this truth for myself and I refuse to allow satan to control me anymore in connection with this particular temptation."

The Lord will begin to show you "ways of escape"(1 Corinthians 10:13) so that you can overcome the temptation that has been troubling you. The 'stronghold' will no longer have any more power over you and you will be FREE.

How would I use the three steps of Spiritual Warfare Prayer to 'Overcome Sickness?'

Pray for deliverance/guidance: Ask God to show you what is preventing your healing from coming through. He will show you whether there is any demonic interference, or any other root cause for the sickness (e.g., spiritual attack to stop you from achieving something/unforgiveness/idol worship, etc). Resolve these things once they are revealed to you; and then command the demons to leave in Jesus' Name.

Bind satan's activities: "Lord now that I've dealt with the root cause of my sickness, there is nothing more blocking my healing. So I command this sickness to leave in Jesus' Name. This sickness has no more authority to control my body."

Declare God's Word back to Him: "Lord, you said in Isaiah 53:54 that you made me completely well when you died on the cross and rose again. I claim this truth for myself, and I refuse to allow this sickness to control me anymore."

When you order the sickness to leave in Jesus' Name, it may happen immediately. Or it may take place progressively, over a period of time. But you will definitely receive complete healing. This is guaranteed!

How would I use the three steps of Spiritual Warfare Prayer to deal with "Unanswered Prayers"?

Pray for deliverance/guidance: Ask God to show you what is preventing your answer from coming through. He will show you whether there is any demonic interference, or any other root cause for the delay. Resolve things that need to be resolved, and if any demons need to be commanded to leave, then do so.

Bind Satan's activities: "Lord, now that I've dealt with the root causes blocking my answered prayer, now please let me receive what I must, in your perfect time. I break the works of Satan and his forces in Jesus' Name. I release the answer to my prayer in Jesus' Name, so that I will receive my answer in God's perfect timing."

Declare God's Word back to Him: "Lord, Psalm 145:15 says that You will meet our needs and provide for us when the time is right. I claim this truth for myself, and I choose to believe that Your answer will reach me when the time is right. No evil force will be able to delay it."

When you break satan's works in this way, your answered prayer will come to you in God's perfect time, without delay.



APPLICATION

Today, we briefly looked at the second half of the Lord's Prayer. Apply the truths that you have learnt to your personal prayers.

We also looked at the teaching that lies behind Jesus' final line, "Deliver us from evil." Wage war against satan, so that he does not succeed in his evil schemes against you.

Next week, try to come with a testimony of the spiritual battles that you fought and won.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Spiritual warfare does NOT involve:

- talking to satan/demons,
- cursing them and mocking them,
- or binding them (we only bind the 'works' of the demons).

We simply bind a "specific work" of Satan that we have been given authority over.

Examples:

- Binding an 'addiction' (by prayerfully declaring and claiming that Jesus delivered me from the control of every sin on the Cross).

- Binding a high fever/cancer/allergy, (by prayerfully declaring and claiming that Jesus already took all my diseases upon Himself on the Cross, to grant me healing from every disease).
- Binding the obstacle that is delaying my prayer (by prayerfully declaring and claiming that Jesus will answer every prayer in His perfect time and perfect way, and nothing has the authority to stop this).

Casting out a demon that is possessing somebody (so that the person can have the opportunity to commit his/her life hundred percent to Jesus ... If the person chooses not to do so, the demon has the right to repossess the person).



Armor of God





Prayer

How to Pray



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To teach an attitude of ‘Total Trust’ when praying to the Heavenly Father.
- To show the importance of submitting to the Lord’s will when we pray.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Matthew 6:10; 1 John 5:15; 1 Kings 3:5; Matthew 6:25-34



MEMORY VERSE

1 John 5:14,15: We are certain that God will hear our prayers when we ask for what pleases Him. And if we know that God listens when we pray, we are sure that our prayers have already been answered.

Materials Needed:

- Two plastic bottles: Cello tape and scissors
- Laptop (to play Video)

Note to the Facilitator

There are **at least six right attitudes** to observe when praying. This lesson mentions **two attitudes only**.

The right attitudes include:

- Attitude of Thankfulness
- Attitude of Respect towards God
- Attitude of Humility
- Attitude of Selflessness and ‘others-centered’ prayer
- **Attitude of Total Trust and Security**
- **Attitude of Total Submission**

[The Attitudes of Thankfulness and Respect are covered in detail at the Primary Level (Std.2-4). The Attitudes of Humility and Selflessness are covered at the Junior Level (Std.5-7)]



RECAP

- What did we learn about last week?
- For what kind of situations do we use Spiritual Warfare Prayer?

[Spiritual Warfare Prayer is specifically used when we cannot break Satan's stronghold in any other way. We use it to set a person free whom Satan has tied up through Spiritual Strongholds, Sickness, Blocked Prayers or Demon Possession].

- This week did you use Spiritual Warfare Prayer? How did this help you? Give examples.
- Recite the Memory Verse for last week.



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we discussed the general pattern of the Lord's Prayer with special focus on Spiritual Warfare Prayer. Today, we will look at the Right Attitude to have when we pray.



ATTENTION GETTER

Prepare beforehand:

Write the word 'FEAR' in block letters on a piece of paper and cut it into a label. Also, take two bottles with you. Fill one completely with water, while leaving the other empty. In the class, take the children's help in pasting the 'Fear Label' onto your fist, with cello tape.

Activity: What's Inside?

Slam the empty bottle with your 'FEARFUL' fist. It will get crushed.

Next, try to crush the water-filled bottle with your fist. You will not be able to crush it.

Ask:

Why was it so difficult to crush the second bottle? (Allow the children to express their opinions).

Observe:

When a bottle is full, it is stronger. It cannot be crushed easily.

Explain:

When we are facing difficult times, fear comes to crush us (just like my fist did, in the demo). Those who have only a little faith inside them or no faith in them get easily crushed. And they may not get to see the answer to their prayers.

But those who are full of faith (like the bottle filled with water) are stronger. Fear cannot crush them! They hold on to God trustingly and they see their prayers answered in the end.

Challenge:

Are you full of faith on the inside? Do you trust your Heavenly Father? The more you trust Him, the longer you will be able to hold on when fears and doubts hit you.

So, for our prayers to be answered, an **Attitude of Total Trust** in the Heavenly Father is very important. When the answer to prayer gets delayed, we will not be overcome by fear if we trust the Lord completely.



TEACHING CONTENT

In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus taught His disciples a very interesting phrase: "Your will be done, on earth **as it is** in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). In other words, He said to them, "You should pray that the Lord's will is done in your life **to the same extent that** the Lord's will is done in heaven."

Ask:

To what extent do you think the Lord's Will is done in heaven?

- Do the angels do 50% of what the Lord wants and 50% of whatever they feel like doing?
- Or do they do 90% of whatever the Lord wants and only 10% of whatever they personally want?

(Allow the children to come up with their answers)

Explain:

In the Book of Job, we see God's will being done a 100% in heaven.

Read Aloud:

Job 1:12: The Lord replied, "All right, satan, do what you want with anything that belongs to him, but don't harm Job." Then satan left.

Observe:

God ordered Satan not to harm Job's physical body in any way. And satan obeyed God's will a 100%. Not even he had the guts to disobey God!

Read Aloud:

Job 2:4-7: Satan answered, “There’s no pain like your own. People will do anything to stay alive. Try striking Job’s own body with pain, and he will curse you to your face.” “All right!” the LORD replied. “Make Job suffer as much as you want, but just don’t kill him.” Satan left and caused painful sores to break out all over Job’s body—from head to toe.

Observe:

Satan wanted to destroy Job very badly. But in spite of this deep desire, he harmed Job only after God gave clear permission. He realized that God’s Will must be obeyed 100%.

Read Aloud:

Genesis 6:5-6: The LORD saw how bad the people on earth were and that everything they thought and planned was evil. He was very sorry that he had made them ...

Observe:

In heaven, God’s will is obeyed a 100%. But here on earth, people do what they want!

Explain:

This is why Jesus taught that we must do God’s will “to the same extent” that it is done “in heaven.”

How this applies to our Prayer Life

When we pray, the Lord expects us to pray **in line with His will**. Our prayers must not be what we want, but rather what God would approve of. Many a time, our prayers remain unanswered because we do not pray according to God's will.

So the question we need to ask ourselves is this: "Am I praying 100% in line with God's will?"

For example, what if you plan for a 'cricket match' with your friends over the weekend, but your parents refuse because the exams are nearing? How will you pray regarding this?

You could pray: "Lord, I want to have fun with my friends. So please make my parents change their mind and permit me to go for the cricket match."

Or you could pray: "Lord I'm willing to submit to your will 100%, just like in heaven. If you think my parents are right, then help me to cheerfully obey them and not grow upset. On the other hand, if it's really your will for me to join my friends for the weekend, then you cause my parents to change their mind. Either way, let your will be done 100%."

If you are praying the second prayer, then your behavior will need to match the prayer. You must not sulk or pressurize your parents into agreeing with you. You must remain cheerful and submissive, leaving the outcome in the Lord's hands.

This is the kind of submissive attitude that the Lord expects from us, when we pray.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

Video Presentation

Video: Solomon prays according to God's will

Duration: 3 minutes and 16 seconds

How many of you would like a Genie to say to you, "I can grant you one wish. Ask anything you want—absolutely anything with no limits?"

(Ask them to raise their hands, if interested).

Does God make a similar offer in the Bible? Can you think of any verses that say, "Ask anything you want and it is yours?"

There are many verses which make this offer:

- **Mark 11:24:** Everything you ask for in prayer will be yours ...
- **John 14:13,14:** Ask me, and I will do whatever you ask ... I will do whatever you ask me to do.
- **John 15:7:** ... pray for whatever you want, and your prayer will be answered.
- **John 15:16:** ... my Father will give you whatever you ask for in my name.
- **1 John 5:15:** ... if we know that God listens when we pray, we are sure that our prayers have already been answered.

All of these verses say that God will grant all our wishes.

Don't you think it was risky for God to promise Solomon 'ANYTHING?' What if Solomon had asked for something dangerous or silly?

The Lord said to Solomon, "Solomon, ask for ANYTHING you want, and I will give it to you" (1 Kings 3:5). The Lord said this because He knew Solomon's heart. He knew that Solomon loved God more than anything and wanted to please Him alone. So the Lord knew that Solomon would not ask for anything dangerous or silly.

Today, don't you think it is risky for God to include promises like "Everything you ask for in prayer will be yours" (Mark 11:24)? What if someone asks for something dangerous or ridiculous?

There are two important differences between God and a Genie:

- While a Genie is imaginary, God is totally real.
- While a Genie doesn't care what happens to the person he is granting the wish to, the Lord cares very deeply about our personal lives.

So the Lord attaches a condition to the promises He makes. Let us look once again at the same verses that we read earlier:

- **Mark 11:24:** Everything you ask for in prayer will be yours, *if you only have faith.*

(We must trust completely in God, that He will give us only the very best. We must have faith that God will not deprive us of anything good).

- **John 14:13,14:** Ask Me, and I will do whatever you ask. ***This way the Son will bring honor to the Father.*** I will do whatever you ask Me to do.
(Jesus answers our prayers so that His Father is honored. So obviously, He'll not answer anything that dishonors the Heavenly Father).
- **John 15:7:** Stay joined to Me and let My teachings become part of you. **THEN** you can pray for whatever you want, and your prayer will be answered.
(WHEN we stay joined to the Lord, we will not feel any desire to pray selfishly or greedily).
- **John 15:16:** You did not choose me. I chose you and sent you out to produce fruit, the kind of fruit that will last. **THEN** My Father will give you whatever you ask for in My name.
(WHEN we begin to bear fruit in our lives, THEN the Lord will answer 'all' our prayers—because THEN our priorities will be in the right order).
- **1 John 5:14,15:** We are certain that God will hear our prayers ***when we ask for what pleases Him.*** And if we know that God listens when we pray, we are sure that our prayers have already been answered.
(The Lord promises to answer only those prayers that are according to His perfect will).

A Genie wouldn't mind granting even a nuclear bomb to a terrorist who makes a wish. But on the other hand, the Lord will not grant us things that will hurt us. God cares deeply

about how our prayers affect our own lives and the lives of others. That is why we call Him an All-Wise and Loving God.

According to this video, what will God do if we pray “according to His will?”

As long as we pray according to God’s will, He will take care of ALL our needs. This is clearly seen in Matthew 6:25-34, which the video discusses.

In fact, Matthew 6:32 says that unbelievers desperately run after the necessities of life, trying to acquire them. But we do not have to run desperately after anything, because our Heavenly Father already knows what we need. We just have to stay put and live in a way that pleases God, and all the other necessities and luxuries will be automatically added to our lives.

So there is a big advantage in praying according to God’s will. If we do this, the Lord will take care of ‘ALL’ our needs, whatever they may be.

How can I know whether my prayer is according to God’s will or not?

2 Corinthians 1:20 says, “Christ says ‘Yes’ to all of God’s promises. That is why we have Christ to say ‘Amen’ for us to the glory of God.”

So, if my prayer is directly related to a promise in the Bible, then I can confidently expect a ‘Yes’ from God.

- God will say ‘Yes’ if I ask for victory over temptation (1 Corinthians 15:57,58).
- God will say ‘Yes’ if I pray for the salvation of family members (1 Corinthians 7:14).

- God will say ‘Yes’ if I pray for healing (Isaiah 53:4-6).
- God will say ‘Yes’ if I pray for safety in times of danger (Matthew 10:29-31).
- God will say ‘Yes’ if I pray for basic needs like food, money for school fees, good friends, etc. (Philippians 4:19).
- God will say ‘Yes’ if I pray for a good future (Jeremiah 29:11).
- God will say ‘Yes’ if I pray for wisdom (James 1:5).
- God will say ‘Yes’ if I pray for unity (John 17:23).
- God will say ‘Yes’ if I pray for spiritual growth (Matthew 5:6).
- God will say ‘Yes’ if I pray for forgiveness for my sins (1 John 1:9).

When it comes to material possessions, first rank in school, etc., these prayers will be answered with a ‘Yes’ if your attitude is not selfish or greedy. If there is greed, then God may say ‘No’ or delay answering until your motive changes.



APPLICATION

Today, we saw the importance of having the right attitude when we pray. We saw the need for:

- Attitude of Total Trust and Security
- Attitude of Total Submission

So this week, make it a point to trust your Heavenly Father completely. Place all your desires before Him, and allow Him to decide what is best for you. If you pray with this attitude, you will see all your needs being met lavishly.

Next week, try to come with a testimony of how your changed attitude led to answered prayers.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER





Prayer

What to Pray



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To show children the different aspects of prayer.
- To teach the importance of forgiveness during prayer.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Matthew 6:14,15; Mark 11:25,26; Isaiah 59:1,2



MEMORY VERSE

Mark 11:25,26: Whenever you stand up to pray, you must forgive what others have done to you. Then your Father in heaven will forgive your sins.

Materials Needed:

Blank Sheets of Paper and Pens/Pencils



RECAP

- What did we learn about last week?
- This week, did you make any conscious effort to pray “according to God’s will?” Give examples.
- What will God do for us when we pray “according to his will?”
(Hint: What did God do for King Solomon? What does Matthew 6:33 promise?)
- Recite the Memory Verse for last week.



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we learnt about the Right Attitude to have when we pray. This week we will look at the different things that God wants us to pray for.

Prayer involves more than asking God for things. It involves acknowledging God as the Lord of our lives; it involves confessing sins; it involves asking for power and strength to live a godly life; and it involves praising God for who He is.

Today, we will learn how to do some of these things in greater detail.



ATTENTION GETTER

Distribute sheets of blank paper and pens/pencils. Ask the children to jot down their answers even as you call out the questions. (Explain that the children don’t have to show their paper to anybody else. Whatever they write will not be seen by anyone—not even the teacher).

List of Questions:

- Mention one object that is very precious to you (it can be an accessory or gadget, a favorite book or CD, etc.).
- Mention one person that you love very deeply.
- Mention one person who has hurt you deeply or treated you very badly.
- If you were asked to give your most precious possession (the item you mentioned earlier) to the person who hurt you deeply, would you be willing to do it? Write down 'Yes' or 'No.'
- If you were asked to give the same precious possession to the person you love the most, would you be willing to do it? Write down 'Yes' or 'No.'
- Mention one bad thing that you have done in your life that dishonored God greatly.
- Mention one object that you have always dreamed of possessing (that is, you don't possess it yet).

Reflect:

Ask the children to bow their heads and reflect on what they have written down:

(They don't need to close their eyes. But keeping their heads bowed down will help them concentrate better).

Instruct as follows:

- Think for a minute about your most prized possession. Think about how deeply you treasure it and value it. Think about how much joy it brings to your heart.
- Next, think about the person who has hurt you deeply or treated you very badly. What would be your response if that person came to you and asked you to freely give away your precious treasure to them? How would you feel about a request like that?
- Next, think about the person you love most deeply. How would you feel if this person whom you love, made the same request? How would you feel about giving your treasure to them?
- Now think about the one thing you have always longed to possess. Do you think God will give it to you, if you pray to Him?
- Next, think about the most terrible sin that you have committed in your life time. If you ask God for the special thing that you long for, do you think He'll immediately remember your most terrible sin?

Observe:

When someone treats us badly, we find it difficult to be nice to them. Yet, in spite of whatever terrible things we might have done against a perfectly holy God, we expect Him to be nice to us and answer all our prayers.

Conclude:

When the Lord taught His disciples how to pray, He concluded with the words: “If you forgive others for the wrongs they do to you, your Father in heaven will forgive you. But if you don’t forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins” (Matthew 6:14,15).

Ask:

Why do you think Jesus concluded His teaching on prayer with these words? What is the connection between prayer and forgiveness?

(Ask the children for their opinions).

Later, we’ll take a closer look at this issue, because the answer to our prayers depends on this important issue.



TEACHING CONTENT

For our personal Prayer Time to be meaningful and effective, we need to include the following aspects. We will look at each briefly.

Begin with Thanksgiving and Praise

We must begin by expressing our love and gratitude to the Lord.

Second: Ask the Lord for a submissive heart

When we go to the Lord in prayer, we need to ask Him, “Lord, in my life, am I doing what you want me to do? Are you displeased about something?” Accept correction from Him.

Third: Seek His forgiveness and strength

- Ask the Lord to forgive you in the areas where you have displeased Him.
- Promise Him that you will not repeat those things again. Truly mean it when you make this promise.
- And ask Him for the divine strength that you need to keep your promise, so that you don't repeat those sinful things.

Fourth: Forgive in the same way that you have been forgiven

Because the Lord forgives us so completely, He expects us to forgive in the same way. I can't continue to hold a grudge against someone who has wronged me.

Fifth: Pray for every single need in your life

No prayer request is too small in God's eyes. Look upon God as your own Heavenly Daddy and confidently place all your needs before Him.

Sixth: Pray against temptation

What temptations trouble you the most? Pray specifically about these temptations.

Include these six aspects in your personal prayer time, so that your prayer brings honor to God, and blessings to you. We will now look at the link between Forgiveness and Prayer in greater detail.

Link between Forgiveness and Prayer

When the Lord taught His disciples how to pray, He concluded with the words: “If you forgive others for the wrongs they do to you, your Father in heaven will forgive you. But if you don’t forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins” (Matthew 6:14,15).

Why do you think Jesus concluded His teaching on prayer with these words? We will now look at the important connection between prayer and forgiveness?

Read Aloud:

Mark 11:25,26: Whenever you stand up to pray, you must forgive what others have done to you. Then your Father in heaven will forgive your sins.

Ask: In this verse, what does Jesus specifically teach us to do while praying?

(You must forgive what others have done to you).

Read Aloud:

Isaiah 59:1,2: The LORD hasn’t lost His powerful strength; He can still hear and answer prayers. Your sins are the roadblock between you and your God. That’s why He doesn’t answer your prayers or let you see His face.

Ask: According to these verses, what blocks our prayers from getting answered?

(Our sins).

Explain:

God doesn't block the answer to my prayer. Sin blocks it!

Sin blocks answers to prayer. When there's sin in my life, the answer to my prayer request doesn't reach me, because the sin inside me "blocks out" the answer.

I can get rid of the sin inside, only when the Lord forgives me and cleans it up. But He says that He will not forgive my sin and clean it 'IF' I refuse to forgive someone else. (And if the Lord doesn't forgive and clean up the sin inside me, then this sin will continue to block the answer to my prayers).

So God doesn't block the answer to prayer. Sin blocks it!

Therefore, I must forgive the sins that people have committed against me; then God will forgive the sins I have committed against Him. He will clean up all the sins I have confessed to Him and there won't be any dirt left inside to block my prayers.

In this sense, forgiveness of people and the answer to my personal prayers are directly connected.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Note: *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

When God says to 'forgive' the wrongs done to us, does He also mean to 'forget' (to stop thinking) about these wrongs? In other words, does true forgiveness involve 'forgetting' the painful incident?

(Allow some time for discussion. Then play the video Clipping).

Video Presentation

Video: Forgiveness involves Forgetting

Duration: Only play the video from “3min:00sec” to “6min:09sec” (approx. 3 minutes).

[The rest of the video is NOT relevant].

According to the Video, HOW do we ‘forget’ the wrong done to us? Do we literally wipe the memory out of our minds?

According to the video, ‘forgetting’ involves three things:

- Not revisiting the incident in our minds (not dwelling upon that negative memory again and again).
- Not reminding that person of what they did.
- Treating the person just as if they had never, ever hurt us at all.

In what way is ‘forgetting’ a wrongdoing linked to answered prayers? If you “forgive but not forget” will it block your prayers?

At the beginning of the class, we did a simple reflection exercise, to assess our feelings about the person who has hurt us. Some of us probably felt very hesitant about giving away our most treasured possession, freely and generously to such an undeserving person!

So “not forgetting” an incident does affect our giving. It affects the way we behave around that particular person. We may not be as helpful to them as we are to others.

But God, on the other hand chooses to forget what we did to Him. So, when we go to Him with a prayer request, He asks Himself, “Shall I grant this request to my most treasured child?” He DOES NOT ask Himself, “Shall I grant this request to the person who betrayed me on such-and- such a date, by sinning so terribly?”

When He looks at my face, the sinful incident doesn’t come to His mind. He chooses not to think about it anymore. This is why my prayer gets answered so generously. He pours out His answer upon me, as though I had never, ever betrayed Him.

In the same way, it is very important for me to forget the other person’s wrongdoings too. When I see the person, even if negative memories come back, I must make a conscious choice not to think about them. I must treat the person as though he/she had never, ever hurt me.

If I maintain this attitude, then my prayers will be answered. On the other hand, if I’m still nursing a little resentment inside, my “subconscious grudge” will tend to block the answer to my prayers.

What if something very terrible has been done to me by someone I trusted deeply? How can I forgive or forget such a terrible wrongdoing?

I may see myself as a good person who has only committed a few minor sins in my life. So my attitude may be something like this:

“I’ve only sinned a few times; so I deserve God’s forgiveness. But this person has sinned against me far too horribly. So they definitely don’t deserve my forgiveness.”

I think of my sins against God as being ‘minor’ compared to the sins committed by the other person against me. (For example, I might have spoken a few lies against God, but the other person deliberately spread false rumors about me in the entire school and I got expelled from the school). So I decide that while I **deserve** God’s forgiveness, the other person **doesn’t deserve** my forgiveness.

I fail to realize how terrible my own sins are:

- Because of that person who spoilt my reputation with lies, I got expelled from school. That’s an extremely serious matter!
- But the one or two lies I’ve spoken against God, made Jesus end up on the Cross. The wrath of God killed a perfectly innocent Jesus because of my few lies!

So what I did to Jesus is equally serious. If God is willing to forgive me in spite of this, then I have no right to withhold forgiveness from any other person.

If I cry out to the Lord for His strength, He will give me the power to consciously choose to forget what was done to me. “I can do all this through Him who gives me strength” (Philippians 4:13)



APPLICATION

Today, we looked at some of the important aspects of prayer:

- Begin with Thanksgiving and Praise.
- Ask the Lord for a submissive heart.
- Seek His forgiveness and strength.
- Forgive in the same way that you have been forgiven.
- Pray for every single need in your life.
- Pray against temptation.

To what extent are these aspects present in your own personal prayers? Make sure that in future, you will include those aspects that you had neglected earlier.

Also, ask yourself if there are any people whom you have not yet forgiven completely. Pray for the strength to both forgive and forget. Make a commitment to specifically pray for these persons, that God may bless them richly. The more you pray for them, the more your resentment will fade away.

Next week, try to come with a testimony of the changes you have made in your prayer life and how this has benefited you.



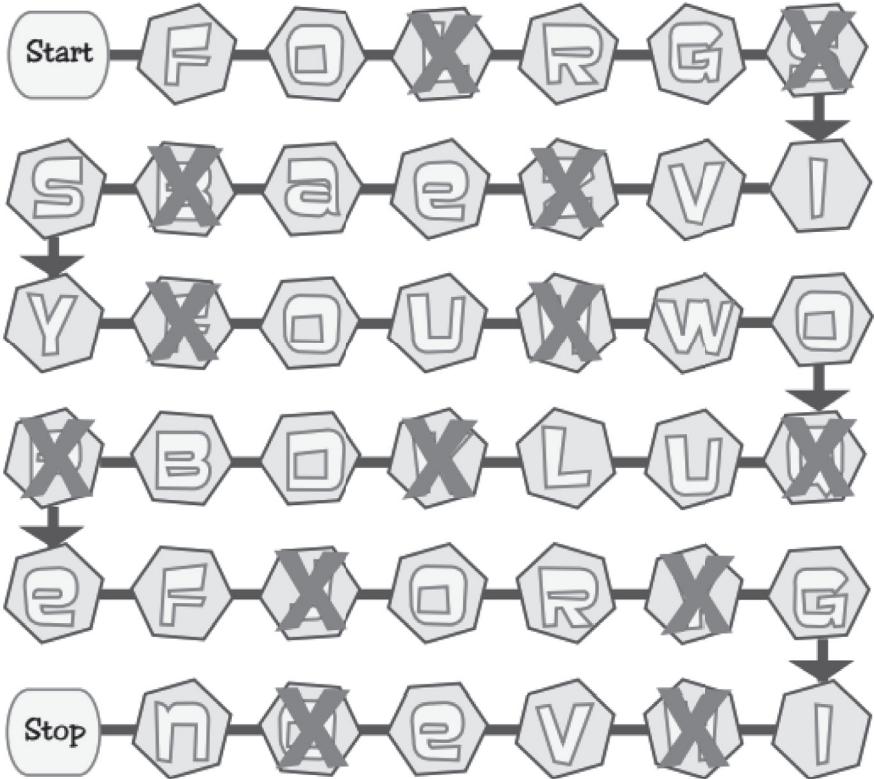
CLOSE WITH PRAYER





TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

The Hidden Message is as follows:



Answer: F O R G I V E A S
Y O U W O L D B E
F O R G I V E N .



Prayer

Pray for Others



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To teach children whom to pray for.
- To encourage a commitment to regularly pray for at least some specific people.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Romans 10:1; 1 Timothy 2:1-6; 3 John 1:2; 1 Timothy 2:2



MEMORY VERSE

1 Timothy 2:2: Pray for kings and others in power, so that we may live quiet and peaceful lives as we worship and honor God.

Materials Needed:

Large polythene packet

Note to the Facilitator

There are at least **eight categories of people** that we should pray for. This lesson mentions **four categories only**.

We must pray for:

- all Christians
- family/relatives
- ministry people
- your enemies
- **the Unsaved**
- the Sick and Suffering
- **Government (Politicians and Officials)**
- **Persecuted Believers**

[The first four categories are covered in detail at the Primary and Junior Levels (Std 2-7)].



RECAP

- What did we learn about last week?
- What are the six aspects of prayer that we covered last week?
- Did you specifically forgive someone last week? How did this change your prayer life?
- Recite the Memory Verse for last week.



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we looked at some of the important aspects of prayer. Today, we will look at one last aspect of prayer—prayer for others.

Have you ever found yourself frightened and alone? Have you ever felt pain and sorrow? In times like these, you hope there is someone praying for you.

During these hard times you need someone to pray for you, because your problem can only be solved by God. Likewise, you need to be praying for others who are going through difficult times. Today we are going to talk about how we can do that.



ATTENTION GETTER

Prepare beforehand: Take a large polythene packet to the class (Make sure that it isn't transparent).

Activity: Whose Is It?

Hold up the polythene packet and Explain:

Each of you must drop an item, belonging to you, into this packet. Then, you will take turns guessing whom the object belongs to.

To make the activity more interesting, plan carefully what you will drop into the packet (Your pen, your watch, something that you are wearing in your hair, your shoelace, something from your pocket, etc.).

All the children must close their eyes while the packet is being passed. When the packet is given to you, open your eyes quickly and drop the chosen object into the packet. Then close your eyes once again.

Guess whose it is:

Once all the items are in the packet, the guessing game can begin. Each person will reach into the packet, and pull out one object. They must try to guess whom it belongs to. Pass the packet around till everybody gets their turn.

Commit to Pray:

Each child will commit to pray for the person whose object they picked out of the packet. (Encourage the children to ask the person for prayer requests after the class). They must pray for that person during the rest of the week.



TEACHING CONTENT

Why we pray for Others

- At the most basic level, we pray for others because we love them. We desire their good, we desire their growth; we desire their conversion and conformity to Christ.
- We also pray for others because this is the example that Jesus set for us in John Chapter 17. He prayed for all of us and we must do likewise.
- Another reason why we pray for others is to glorify God. Paul said, “Please help us by praying for us. Then

many people will give thanks for the blessings we receive in answer to all these prayers” (2 Corinthians 1:11). Many will praise God when they are blessed through our prayers.

Whom to Pray For

Pray for the Unsaved

Read Aloud:

Romans 10:1: Dear friends, my greatest wish and my prayer to God is for the people of Israel to be saved.

Ask: According to this verse, what was Paul praying for? (For more Jews to be saved).

Explain: Paul used to pray for the salvation of people. We must do the same.

Read Aloud:

1 Timothy 2:1-6: First of all, I ask you to pray for everyone This kind of prayer is good, and it pleases God our Savior. God wants everyone to be saved and to know the whole truth....

Ask: According to these verses, why should we pray for people’s salvation? (Because God wants everyone to be saved and to know the whole truth).

Read Aloud:

Matthew 9:37,38: He said to his disciples, “A large crop is in the fields, but there are only a few workers. Ask the Lord in charge of the harvest to send out workers to bring it in.”

Ask: According to these verses, what should we pray for?

(Ask God to raise up more people willing to testify and bring people into the Kingdom).

Explain: It is not enough to simply pray for everybody to get saved. We must also pray that God will raise up more and more people, to share the Gospel with the Lost.

Read Aloud:

Romans 10:14: How can people have faith in the Lord and ask Him to save them, if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear, unless someone tells them?

Ask: According to this verse, what should we do?

(We must share the Gospel with people).

Explain: It is not enough to simply pray for everybody to get saved. We must also share the Gospel with them. Our prayer should be backed up by practical witnessing.

Pray for the Sick and Suffering

Read Aloud:

3 John.1:2: Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you ...

Ask: In this verse, what is John praying for?
(For the health of the person).

Explain: We must pray for those who are sick.

Pray for Government and Persecuted Believers

Read Aloud:

1 Timothy 2:2: Pray for kings and others in power, so that we may live quiet and peaceful lives as we worship and honor God.

Ask: According to this verse, what should we pray for? (For those in authority; so that they don't persecute Christians but give us freedom to worship and preach).

Explain: There can be peace and freedom of religion only if we specifically pray that God will touch the hearts of political leaders/authority figures.

Read Aloud:

Ephesians 3:16: God is wonderful and glorious. I pray that His Spirit will make you become strong followers.

Ask: In this verse, what did Paul pray for the Ephesian believers?

(He prayed that the Holy Spirit would strengthen them on the inside, so that they would continue to stand for God).

Explain: We must pray for persecuted believers, so that they remain strong in the Lord and not backslide.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist **the teacher during the discussion.**

Video Presentation

Video: Permission Slip to an Angel

Duration: 2 minutes and 58 seconds

What does the Video mean by the words “Permission slip to an angel?” What does the angel receive permission to do? Will the angel do whatever I tell him to do?

God’s angels act directly under God’s directions. So, if I pray for something that goes against God’s Word, the Lord will not send out any angels.

But when I pray in line with the Word of God, the angel will begin to do whatever is needed to fulfill God’s Word. For example, if I am praying for the healing of a sick person, the angel may start bringing situations into the person’s life that will increase his/her faith in God. This increased faith will ultimately lead to the person’s healing.

In the same way, if I pray against the persecution spreading in a certain village, the angels may begin to work in the village, to change the hearts of the anti-Christian activists there. Or God may send angels to set up special guard duty, to protect the believers from being tortured or murdered.

My prayers make it possible for the angels to start arranging circumstances and situations, so that God’s purposes are fulfilled.

What about prayers for somebody’s salvation? If I pray for my friend’s salvation, will angels force my friend to get saved?

When we pray for a person’s salvation, the angels will not force that person to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior.

They will simply start arranging all the circumstances in that person's life, so that the person begins to feel a deep need for Jesus. The Lord also uses our prayers to prepare the heart of the person. His/her hardened heart may start to grow softer, so that the person becomes more willing to listen and respond when the Gospel is preached.

Our prayers are important, because they help prepare the person and the circumstances, so that when the time comes for the person to make a lifetime commitment to the Lord, he/she will find it easy to do so.

So, is this Video teaching me to pray to the angels?

Hebrews 1:14 explains that "Angels are merely spirits sent to serve people who are going to be saved." When the Apostle John fell down to worship an angel, the angel rebuked him and said, "Do not do it! ... Worship God!" (Revelation 22:9).

Ultimately, prayer is an act of worship. So, just as angels reject our worship, they will also reject our prayers. *In spite of knowing this, if you choose to pray to angels, you may find your prayers being answered by "fallen angels" (demons), and you will get yourself into serious trouble.*

In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus clearly taught us to pray to the Heavenly Father. In John 14:13 and John 16:26, He taught us to pray to the Father, in Jesus' Name.

- Moses prayed to the Lord on behalf of the Israelites. Then the Lord sent an angel to deliver them (Numbers 20:16).

- The believers prayed to the Lord to deliver Peter from prison. Then the Lord sent an angel to deliver him (Acts 12:5,11).

So we must pray only to the Lord. Then the Lord will send out angels with “permission slips” to accomplish His purposes.



APPLICATION

This week, make sure that you pray for other people:

- Pray for three specific people who need salvation.
- Pray for three people who are sick or suffering.
- Pray for authorities, so that they permit freedom to practice and preach the Gospel.
- Pray for believers undergoing persecution in the districts of Karnataka (and in any other specific places that you are aware of).

Also, pray for the person whose name you picked during the ice-breaker (during the Attention-Getter Activity).

Next week, do come with testimonies of the people you prayed for and how they were blessed.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER





How God Answers Prayer



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To show that God answers prayer with ‘Yes,’ ‘No’ and ‘Wait.’
- To explain that God answers with “eternal goals” in mind.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Genesis 32,33



MEMORY VERSE

Isaiah 55:8,9: The LORD says: “My thoughts and My ways are not like yours. Just as the heavens are higher than the earth, My thoughts and My ways are higher than yours.



RECAP

- What did we learn about last week?
- This week, did you pray for the people that you committed to keep in prayer? What things did you pray for them?
- Name the four categories of people that we should pray for.
- Recite the Memory Verse for last week.



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we looked at the importance of praying for others. Today, we will look at the different ways in which God usually answers our prayers.



ATTENTION GETTER

Video Presentation

Video: 'Yes,' 'No,' 'Not Yet'

Duration: 5 minutes and 9 seconds

Observe:

According to the video, God answers our prayers in three ways:

- Sometimes He says 'Yes' and the answer comes quickly.

- Sometimes He says ‘Not Yet’ and the answer comes slowly.
- Sometimes He says ‘No.’

Challenge:

Can you think of other ways that God answers prayer? (Allow the children to suggest any other alternatives that they can think of).

Explain:

Sometimes God says ‘Yes,’ but not in the way we expected. And this makes us feel very disappointed.

For example, I might have prayed very hard that God would somehow help me get selected for the school basketball team. God answers my prayer but I am usually used as a substitute, and don’t get to participate in the important matches. Even though the answer was ‘Yes,’ it wasn’t what I had hoped for and I feel “let down” by God.

What should be our response when God says ‘Yes,’ but not in the way we expected? We will take a closer look at this important issue today.



TEACHING CONTENT

Jacob wrestles with the Angel of the Lord

(This is a Modified Version of Paul Dallgas-Frey’s story)

After spending many years with his uncle Laban, Jacob decided to return home. He pulled up the stakes of his tents

and, he and Rachel and Leah, and their 12 children packed up all their belongings and loaded them onto a caravan of camels. And with all their servants, and their great flocks of sheep and goats and camels, they began their journey back to the land of Jacob's father.

They were a few days into their journey when they made camp for the night. That night they had visitors, they were messengers from God. "Your brother Esau is coming to meet you," they told Jacob. Oh, oh! "Esau is coming to kill me!" Jacob said. When they were kids, they probably got into lots of fights and Jacob probably always got pounded, because his older brother (by about five minutes! Remember, they were twins but not identical twins at all) was bigger and stronger than he was, but for some reason that never seems to stop little brothers from getting into fights with their bigger brothers and sisters! That is where Jacob must have learned it was better to be clever.

Of course, it is not like they were going to end up wrestling on the ground or anything—they were both over a 100 years old by now! But Esau was a powerful, wealthy prince. He had many strong and mighty men who served him, and he was coming to meet his brother ... or kill him. At least, that was what Jacob was afraid he was planning to do. And so Jacob came up with a plan to make peace. He sent messengers on ahead of him. He told them to say to his brother, "I am your obedient servant. God has blessed me and I come to you with many sheep and goats and camels." The messengers went ahead and when they came back, they told Jacob, "Your brother is on his way, and he has 400 men with him!" "He is coming to kill me!" Jacob cried.

And so he divided his household into two groups, “That way, if my brother attacks one group, the other may be able to get away,” he said. And then, for the first time in his life, Jacob prayed to God. “God of my fathers, please hear my prayer! You told me to go back to the land of my fathers, and that You would make everything go well for me. I came across the Jordan River with nothing but a walking stick, and now, look how rich You have made me! I am not worthy of all the kindness You have shown me. But I am afraid. My brother is coming to kill us all! Remember Your faithful servant. Remember that You promised that my children would be as many as the sands of the seashore.” And then Jacob went through his herds and chose gifts for his brother Esau. He chose goats and sheep, donkeys and cows, and camels. A good camel was worth more than a good car back in those days. A REAL good camel was like a Mercedes Benz! In the desert, it was probably the most valuable thing you could own. Jacob divided his gifts into groups, one in front of the other and sent them on ahead of him. He told the shepherd of each herd, “When you meet my brother, say to him, ‘These are a gift from your servant Jacob. He is coming right behind.’ ” That way, Jacob hoped that Esau would forgive him. That night Jacob and his family came to a small stream. Jacob sent his family across the stream to make camp but he stayed on the other side. He was afraid. He felt like running away. Under a starry sky, he sat next to a small fire, with his head down in his hands. “What am I going to do?” he said. And that’s when a stranger stepped out from the darkness. “What do you want?” Jacob said to the stranger. “You asked for my help,” the stranger said. “Go away! I don’t need your help!” Jacob said, and the two of

them began to wrestle. The stranger wouldn't let Jacob go. "You need me," the stranger said. "I don't need you! I don't want your help!" Jacob said.

And so they wrestled back and forth, on and on, all night long. The stranger wouldn't let Jacob go. And Jacob refused to give in and submit. Finally, the early light of morning began to creep across the eastern sky. When the man saw that he could not make Jacob submit, he touched Jacob on the hip and threw it out of joint. In that moment, Jacob realized that the man was not just a human being. He had managed to cripple his leg just by touching it! He definitely must be God in human form!

God began to pull away from Jacob. But Jacob cried out, "No! Wait! You can't leave me here all alone in this crippled condition!" He grabbed hold of the Lord and declared, "I won't let you go until You bless me!" And he wouldn't let God go. Then God said to Jacob, "What is your name?" A strange question to ask after all of this! "You know who I am!" Jacob said. God certainly did know. Remember, 'Jacob' meant 'Cheater.' "I am Jacob!" Jacob answered. But that is not who Jacob was anymore. He was not a cheater anymore. Now Jacob knew that everything he had come from God and not from his own doing. And so God gave him a new name, a princely name. "You shall be called Israel, which means 'Prince of God.'" And then God blessed him, saying, "In all that you do, you shall be blessed."

The sun was coming up as Jacob left Peniel. He was limping because he had been struck on the hip. And he continued to limp for the rest of his life.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Note: *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

What did Jacob pray to the Lord for, when he heard that Esau was on the way?

He prayed for protection, both for his family and for himself.

Did God answer his prayer with a ‘Yes,’ ‘No’ or ‘Not Yet?’

(Allow the children to express their opinions).

When Jacob prayed for protection, what do you think he was hoping for? Was he hoping that a stranger would come and try to beat him up? Or was he hoping that God would give him a rescue plan to escape Esau?

(Allow the children to express their opinions).

Jacob said to the Lord, “You can’t go until you bless me.” How did the Lord bless him?

Jacob had an ugly name which meant ‘Cheater.’ But now the Lord blessed him with a new name ‘Israel’ (which means ‘Prince of God’). And the Lord spoke His blessing over Jacob’s life.

What do you think Jacob needed the most at this time of great danger? A ‘New Name’ or an ‘Army of Angels’ to help fight Esau?

(Allow the children to express their opinions).

When Jacob asked God for protection against Esau, the Lord crippled him permanently. Do you think the crippled leg would have helped Jacob win a fight against anyone?

(Allow the children to express their opinions).

Explain:

When Jacob prayed for protection, he must have hoped for one of two things:

- Either God would give him a clever rescue plan to escape Esau, or
- He would give him and his servants, superhuman strength to defeat Esau

However the Lord chose to cripple him permanently, so that he would not even be able to walk properly.

Observe:

Sometimes God answers with a ‘Yes,’ but not as we expected.

Read Aloud:

Genesis 33:1-4: Later that day, Jacob met Esau coming with his 400 men. So Jacob had his children walk with their mothers ... Jacob himself walked in front of them all, bowing to the ground seven times as he came near his brother. But Esau ran toward Jacob and hugged, and kissed him. Then the two brothers started crying.

Explain:

God answered Jacob’s prayer and protected him. But He did not answer in the way that Jacob expected.

Ask:

1. Why do you think God answered so differently? What do you think was God’s purpose in doing this?

(Allow the children to express their opinions)

- 2. Watch the video clipping “Yes, No, Not Yet” and explain why God answered Jacob so differently** (*Play the video clipping from “1min:55sec” to the End*).

What the video teaches:

- Our life on earth is merely a brief second—the blink of an eye—compared to Eternity.
- So God is more concerned about our “Eternal Character” than our “Temporary Comfort” here on earth.
- So God answers our prayers in a way that builds up our love, patience and character.

Jacob, as a cripple, became more dependent on God. His character changed, even as he grew in love, patience faith and obedience. So, God was now able to give him a bigger reward in heaven, than if he had never been crippled.

God answers our prayers in such a way that we can grow and earn an eternal reward in heaven!



APPLICATION

This week, make a commitment to respond positively, trusting God, no matter what His answer is: Yes, No or Not Yet.

- If God says ‘Yes,’ don’t forget to thank Him for the answered prayer.
- If He gives you something different from what you expected, even then go ahead and thank Him. Trust Him, knowing that He will only give you what is best.

- If He says 'NOT YET,' ask Him for the strength to wait patiently without growing bitter. And ask for the strength to face the difficult situation until the answer finally comes.
- If He says 'No,' thank Him with deep gratitude, knowing that He will reject every prayer that diminishes your eternal reward.
- Finally, commit yourself each day to pleasing God and building your character. Then, you will discover most of your prayers being answered.

Next week, come with testimonies of how God helped you rejoice even when the answers were not what you expected.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER





What Blocks Prayer



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To teach about the three obstacles to prayer.
- To expose the dangers of unbelief and unconfessed sin.
- To explain the importance of exercising spiritual authority.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Matthew 17:19-21; Mark 11:22-24; Isaiah 59:1,2



MEMORY VERSE

Mark 11:24: Everything you ask for in prayer will be yours, if you only have faith.

Materials Needed:

- One tamarind seed
- One cup of tamarind chutney

- Laptop (to play video)

Note to the Facilitator

There are **at least nine obstacles** to prayer. This lesson mentions **three obstacles only**:

- Interference by demonic forces
- Giving up
- Praying with selfish motives
- Ingratitude
- Unforgiveness
- Wanting my own way
- **Unbelief**
- **Not exercising spiritual authority**
- **Unconfessed sin**

[The first six obstacles were covered in detail at the Primary and Junior Levels (Std.2-7)].



RECAP

- What did we learn about last week?
- How did you respond when God did not answer as expected, when you prayed for something this week? Give examples.
- What are some of the common reasons why God says 'No' to our prayers sometimes?
- Recite the Memory Verse for last week.



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we looked at some of the ways in which God usually answers our prayers. Today, we will look at the main obstacles which may prevent our prayers from getting answered.

Of course, the worst obstacle would be not having a personal relationship with Jesus. Jesus is not obligated to answer the prayers of unbelievers as they have not entered into a covenant agreement with Him.

However, believers too face certain obstacles and we will now look at these.



ATTENTION GETTER

Prepare Beforehand:

Take a tamarind seed and one cup of tamarind chutney to the class (You can either prepare the chutney or simply use the ready made Maggi tamarind sauce). Also, take some blank sheets of paper to the class.

Activity: Tamarind Secrets

Divide the children into two teams. Place the tamarind seed and the cup of tamarind sauce, in front of them.

Challenge:

There is along process of many steps involved to turn a tamarind seed into a cup of tamarind chutney. Let us see which team can write down all the steps involved.

The first step would obviously be planting the seed in the ground, and the last step would be cooking the tamarind mixture on the stove. But what are the steps in between?

Write down all the steps on a sheet of paper. The team with the more detailed list of steps will be the winner.

Time duration:

Give the children five minutes to finish their list. Then, have each group read out their list.

Observe:

A tamarind seed tastes very bitter. But we don't throw it away saying that it is useless or worthless. We know that this seed contains the potential to turn one day into tasty tamarind chutney. So we patiently go through the long process involved in converting the tamarind seed into tasty tamarind chutney.

It is the same with prayer. God has given each of us a measure of faith (Romans 12:3) to trust Him and pray to Him. But some of us grow disappointed quickly and quit praying. We don't go through the whole process of prayer, to enjoy the sweet reward of receiving an answer at the end.

Today, we will see how we can avoid doing this, so that our prayers can truly be answered.



TEACHING CONTENT

Blockage 1: Unbelief

Read Aloud:

Matthew 15:28: Jesus answered, “Dear woman, you really do have a lot of faith, and you will be given what you want.” At that moment her daughter was healed.

Ask: According to this verse, why was the woman given what she wanted?

(Because she had a lot of faith).

Read Aloud:

Matthew 17:19-21: Later the disciples went to Jesus in private and asked him, “Why couldn’t we force out the demon?” Jesus replied: It is because you don’t have enough faith! But I can promise you this. If you had faith no larger than a mustard seed, you could tell this mountain to move from here to there. And it would. Everything would be possible for you.

Ask: According to these verses, how much faith is needed to move mountains?

(Faith no larger than a mustard seed).

Read Aloud:

Romans 12:3: ... God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

Ask: According to this verse, what must we do to get “Faith no larger than a mustard seed?”

(It has already been given to us by God. Every single believer is given a small measure of faith at the beginning of their Christian walk).

Explain:

God has given each of us a measure of faith. It is like a small seed of mustard or tamarind.

We have to take this tiny seed of faith and start growing it. It needs to be nourished and watered, just like an ordinary seed. Otherwise the little seed will shrivel up.

The prayers of many Christians remain unanswered because they have never bothered to grow the tiny seed of faith planted in their hearts. As a result, the weeds of unbelief have begun to grow and flourish in their hearts. These weeds of unbelief choke up the little seedling of faith, and stop their prayers from getting answered.

Read Aloud:

James 1:6-8: But when you ask for something, you must have faith and not doubt. Anyone who doubts is like an ocean wave tossed around in a storm. If you are that kind of person, you can't make up your mind, and you surely can't be trusted. So don't expect the Lord to give you anything at all.

Explain:

If the seedling of faith is getting bigger and stronger in your heart, you'll see many answers to prayer. But if the weeds of doubt and unbelief are growing bigger and stronger, God Himself promises that He won't answer your prayers!

So it is your responsibility to nurture your faith and make it grow.

Blockage 2: Not Exercising Spiritual Authority

Read Aloud:

Matthew 17:19-21: Later the disciples went to Jesus in private and asked him, “Why couldn’t we force out the demon?” Jesus replied: It is because you don’t have enough faith! But I can promise you this. If you had faith no larger than a mustard seed, you could tell this mountain to move from here to there. And it would. Everything would be possible for you.

Ask: According to these verses, what must we do with our mustard seed of faith?

(We must tell the mountain to move).

Read Aloud:

Matthew 21:21,22: But Jesus said to them, “If you have faith and don’t doubt, I promise that you can do what I did to this tree. And you will be able to do even more. You can tell this mountain to get up and jump into the sea, and it will. If you have faith when you pray, you will be given whatever you ask for.”

Ask: According to these verses, what must we do with our mustard seed of faith?

(You can tell this mountain to get up and jump into the sea, and it will).

Read Aloud:

Mark 11:22-24: Jesus told his disciples: Have faith in God! If you have faith in God and don't doubt, you can tell this mountain to get up and jump into the sea, and it will. Everything you ask for in prayer will be yours, if you only have faith.

Ask: According to these verses, what must we do with our mustard seed of faith?

(You can tell this mountain to get up and jump into the sea, and it will).

Explain

In Ephesians 6:12, Paul says, "We are not fighting against humans. We are fighting against forces and authorities and against rulers of darkness and powers in the spiritual world." Sometimes evil spirits directly bring a problem or sickness into our lives. In such cases, we must use the spiritual authority that God has given us, so that our prayer will be answered.

In the verses we read out just now, Jesus compares our problem or sickness to a large mountain. He explains that we must speak to the problem and "order it in Jesus' Name" to leave our lives.

So, if a demon has tied us up with a problem or sickness, we must order it (and the problem it has brought) to leave our lives in Jesus' Name. Once the demon sees us exercising our spiritual authority, it leaves ... and the problem begins to get solved.

Many Christians fail to exercise the spiritual authority given to them. Because they remain silent and refuse to speak to the mountain in their lives, their personal mountain never moves. Don't let this be the case with you!

Blockage 3: Unconfessed sin

Read Aloud:

Isaiah 59:1,2: The LORD hasn't lost His powerful strength; He can still hear and answer prayers. Your sins are the roadblock between you and your God. That's why He doesn't answer your prayers or let you see His face.

Ask: According to these verses, what is the roadblock between you and your God?

(Your sins. They block the answers to your prayers)

Read Aloud:

1 Peter 3:12: The Lord watches over everyone who obeys Him, and He listens to their prayers. But He opposes everyone who does evil."

Ask:

According to this verse, whose prayers does God ignore?

(He opposes everyone who does evil).

Explain:

There is no doubt that sin will disrupt the flow of God's blessings and answers to prayer. Every disobedience to God and men over you is sin. If you want God to answer your prayers, do away with sin and ask God for forgiveness.

When sin goes, God will begin to answer you and guide you in all your ways.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

Blockage 1: Unbelief

Video Presentation

Video: Faith

Duration: 4 minutes and 40 seconds

According to the Video, why is it easier to trust the Mercedes Benz than the Beetle?

The Benz is more powerful. So we know it won't break down easily. This makes us trust it more.

If I were driving a Mercedes Benz outside city limits, would I feel worried about a breakdown? Why or why not?

Even the thought of worrying wouldn't enter my head. Because I know all about the reliability and strength of a Benz, I would not even think about any kind of malfunction.

What if I were a villager who only knows about trucks? Would I feel worried driving the Benz to a far-off place? Why or why not?

If I were a villager who knew nothing about the Benz, I'd probably depend on the external appearance of the car. If the car did not have proper paintwork on the outside, if it looked old, I would probably feel worried driving it to a

distant city. I would not realize that there is a very powerful engine resting under the hood. And I would not realize that every little bolt and nut in the car was designed with the highest level of precision and skill. But if the car looked new on the outside, I would probably trust it.

Explain:

A person who knows all about the superior quality and reliability of a Benz, will not worry even when driving across an entire continent. He knows exactly how powerful the car is and he will experience no worries.

But a person who has heard only a little about the Benz will be filled with worries. He does not know how reliable the car is. He does not know how long it will last. He does not know how the car will respond when the terrain gets really rough. And so, as long as circumstances look good, he will not feel worried. But once the road turns into a rutted, stony pathway, he will begin to worry. He will wonder whether the car will burst a few springs. He will wonder if the radiator will overheat. He will wonder if he'll get stuck on the highway with a stranded car. He will wonder whether robbers will attack him on the deserted road.

In other words, his mind will fill up with all kinds of doubts and fears, because he knows very little about the Benz.

It is the same with Christians. Most of them are filled with doubts and fears because they know very little of God. They have not grown close to Him, because they barely spend time with Him. And they know almost nothing about Him because they open their Bibles only on Sunday during the

church service. No wonder they are full of fears and doubts.

So, if you wish to grow in faith:

- **Get to Know About Him:** You must read the Bible everyday and get to know all about Him.
- **Get to Know Him Personally:** Next, you must get to know Him personally by spending time with Him. Talk to Him informally through prayer and then wait silently, and listen for His voice. Allow Him to start speaking to you in your heart (and through the Word of God).
- **Pray in tongues and seek the interpretation:** Make it a point to pray in tongues so that your spirit is strengthened. Ask the Lord to interpret back to you what you have prayed, so that you may know what the Lord is saying.

Let us assume that I have been praying with active faith for 20 years. But I still have not received an answer to my prayer. Do you think my prayer will ever be answered?

Mark 11:24 says, “Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you **receive** them, and **you will have** them.”

Many do not understand that faith is believing in the reality of things, even though we cannot see them (Hebrews 11:1).

Jesus said that “when” you pray, you must believe that you “receive” your answer at that moment. The word, “receive” comes from the Greek word, LAMBANO, which means “to receive now” (**present tense**).

He then says we will “have” them. “Have” comes from, ESOMAI, which means “to possess later” (**future tense**).

So, prayer is sometimes like a ‘hellebore’ seed. Once we sow it in the ground, we can have the full assurance that it will grow and blossom. But it takes time! Sometimes, it takes a hellebore seed **one-and-a-half years** just to germinate! You can imagine how much longer it will take for the plant to grow and finally bear flowers!

Sometimes your prayer will take a long time to bear fruit.

Blockage 2: Not Exercising Spiritual Authority

Jesus says that if I speak to the mountain, it will move. Does this mean I can speak whatever I want and move anything I want?

We have no spiritual authority of our own. Jesus said in Matthew 28:18, “... I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth!” So, all authority belongs to Him.

He only gives this authority to us when we need to fulfill His plans (Luke 9:1,2). This is why, when we command a problem or sickness to leave, we do it in Jesus’ Name. The problem or sickness leaves us only because Jesus defeated it on the Cross for us.

So, if we try using our authority over something that Jesus did not do for us on the Cross, we will not be able to achieve it.

For instance, if I pray, “In Jesus’ Name, I order you Final Exam to leave,” the exam won’t leave. Jesus did not die on the Cross to get rid of exams.

However, He did die to give us an abundant and full life. So, if my lack of wisdom in studies is messing up my life, I can pray about it. I can say, “Jesus, You died to give me a full life. You promised me wisdom and a sound mind. So, sharpen my mind and help me to understand all that I am studying.” God will answer your prayer and you won’t have to wish any longer that Final Exams disappear.

Challenge: This week, are you willing to exercise your spiritual authority and speak to the mountains in your life?

In Mark 11:23 Jesus taught, “Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea’... **it will be done for them.**”

Our duty is to simply speak to the problem or sickness. His duty is to make the problem or sickness move (“It will be done for them” ... We don’t move the mountain... He moves it).



APPLICATION

Today, we have learnt about three things that could block our prayers:

- Unbelief
- Not exercising spiritual authority
- Unconfessed sin

Challenge:

- This week, start making a conscious effort to increase your faith level. Put into practice the three steps we have learnt today.

- Speak to your mountains in Jesus' Name. Stop being passive.
- Deal with every unconfessed sin and repent.

Next week, come with testimonies of how the changes you made resulted in answered prayers.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER

