

Jesus Teaches Us to Pray

Lesson 30a — The Lord's Prayer

Lesson 30b — Attitude in Prayer

Lesson 30c — Jesus Told Us to ASK

Lesson 30d — Jesus Prayed for Me

OVERVIEW

Prayer occupied a place of great importance in the life of Jesus Christ. In this area, as in all others concerning our relationship with God, He left us a perfect example. In time of decision and crisis, Christ gave Himself to prayer. He prayed when He was baptized, when He chose His twelve Apostles, when He was engaged in service, when He was burdened, and when He faced betrayal and execution. But He also prayed in times of joy. His example raised in His followers a desire for the same power and blessing.

Our first lesson in this four-part series deals with Christ's example of prayer given to His disciples, the well-known and loved "Lord's Prayer." As your young students learn the meaning of each phrase, they should see how this prayer covers all of our needs.

The second lesson concerns the attitude we should maintain when we pray: that of humility before God. This lesson is based on the parable of the Pharisee and the publican. This would also be a good time to address being quiet and respectful during prayer time at church and Sunday school.

Lesson three dwells on the Biblical formula for receiving from God, as it explores the directive to ask, to seek, and to knock. The students will learn the importance of praying in the name of Jesus.

The concluding lesson brings out the beautiful thought that Christ prayed for all those who would believe on Him, and that includes us. Try to help your Primary child to recognize what a special privilege it is to know that we can be included in that number.

GAMES FOR REVIEW

Write each word of the Lord's Prayer on a separate slip of paper. Make two sets. Put each set in a box. Choose two teams. Let each team take slips from their own box and try to put the words in the right order on a bulletin board.

Choose two teams. Have a teacher behind a divider to attach the questions. Prepare four fishing poles, each one representing a week's lesson question. (Have color-coded bait, etc., so the teacher knows for which week the question is being chosen or what level of question to give so younger ones can participate.) Have one person from team number one choose a pole and swing it over the divider to reel in a question. If the child can answer the question his team gets a point. If he can't, the question goes back into the pool. Regardless of whether the answer is right or wrong, it is the next team's turn.

Make a *question* paper chain. Start by writing the questions on slips of paper, then put together as a paper chain (question in inside). Ask a volunteer to choose

and detach a question from either end. If he knows the answer, he may have two small prizes and then it is someone else's turn. If he doesn't know, you may ask who would like to answer for one prize. Then ask for another volunteer for a new question. (Instead of individual prizes you might want to divide the group into teams. At the end of the game the team holding the most "links" is the winner.)

CONTEST IDEAS

On a large piece of posterboard write the title LORD in large capital letters. Under the title have two ribbons hanging down. A pink one for girls and a blue one for boys. Have a month's contest, boys against girls, in learning the Lord's Prayer. When a child can completely say it, write his name in calligraphy on a small piece of posterboard and attach it to the ribbon. At the end of the month, give a certificate to each child who said the Lord's Prayer and a small prize to the winning team.

Make a prayer ladder with Heaven at the top for each child or team (see Patterns). Each Sunday add a rung

to the ladder for every new child who was brought, answers to prayers, Bible verses learned, bringing Bibles, etc.

Help the children build a prayer library on a cassette tape. Use several 3" x 5" cards and write a different mini prayer or a Bible verse that is a prayer or is about prayer on each card. Mix these together in a sack. Each week that a child is in Sunday school he may choose a card and read the message onto a cassette recorder. If he brings his Bible he may read a second card. A card may also be chosen if he brings a friend to Sunday school. If he knows the memory verse he can record it onto the cassette. At the end of the unit, copy the completed cassette tape onto as many empty cassettes as you need (5 students — 5 cassettes, etc.). The more the children have done the more their voices will be heard on the cassette along with their friends.

BULLETIN BOARDS

Title your bulletin board **GOD ANSWERS PRAYER ANY TIME** (see Patterns). Make a clock for the center of your board. Put pictures around the clock that represent times when prayers are answered. Frame each picture with a different color of construction paper.

Make a prayer bulletin board for your students to complete. Use the title **A.S.K.** (see Patterns). Write the subtitle "Jesus Taught Us to Pray" under the main title. Fold colored sheets of construction paper in half and, using your students' names, title the front of each card, Mary is praying for . . . , Ryan is praying for . . . , etc. Let each child write inside his card something for which he is praying.

Make the **JESUS PRAYED FOR ME!** bulletin board (see Patterns). In the center of your board hang a large, round map of the world. Draw several arrows pointing toward the world. Then, next to each arrow, write the words "and you!"

UNIT SONGS

"Always Take Time to Pray"

"I Asked the Lord"

NOTES

"God Hears My Prayer" — Songs of God and Me, Lillenas

"Morning Prayer" — Songs of God and Me, Lillenas

"Kum Ba Yah" — Kids Sing Praise, Brentwood Publishing

"Whisper a Prayer"

UNIT PROJECTS

Each Sunday have the students and teachers put written prayer requests into a shoe box (or any container with a large opening). Shake the box, then have each student and teacher pick a prayer request and read it aloud. Briefly discuss the requests and spend a few moments praying for each request.

Every week give your students the Prayer Power Project for that week: Week One — Prayer Walkathon; Week Two — Code Prayer; Week Three — Grab Bag Prayer; Week Four — Plant a Prayer (see Patterns). Encourage them to complete each assignment, and bring back their symbol telling you some details of what they did or how it went. Write their names on the symbols and post them on a board entitled "WE'RE PRAYING!" as each assignment is completed.

CHART IDEAS

Make a set of praying hands cut from construction paper. Draw lines on which the children may write their prayer requests.

Give each student a daily-prayer doorknob hanger (see Patterns). On one side let them write their own morning prayer and on the other side write an evening prayer.

For each child cover a small box with brightly colored paper. On each side of the box let them paste pictures of people and things for which they are praying. Tell them to turn the box over each day so a different side is up. Then concentrate on praying for the person or thing that is on top for that day.

SUPPORT MATERIAL

Hello God — Warner Press

Time to Pray — by Carol Ferntheil, Standard Publishing

TEXT Matthew 6:9-13

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to recite the Lord's Prayer and explain its different sections. They will know that this was Jesus' example of prayer for us.

MEMORY VERSE Lord's Prayer (entire text)

The Lord's Prayer

MEMORY VERSE IN ACTION

We do not recommend that you attempt to teach your students hand signs for the entire prayer. However, if you wish to present this as a challenge project for your older students, we are supplying these hand signs.

OUR FATHER — Point up.

WHICH ART IN HEAVEN — Wave arm left to right pointing up, looking up.

HALLOWED — Hold left palm out, move first two fingers of right hand across left palm.

BE THY NAME — Tap first two fingers of both hands at right angles.

THY KINGDOM COME — Palms up, arms out and slightly bent at elbows, straighten arms.

THY WILL BE DONE — Open palms facing body and right finger tips touching forehead; move hands out and down slightly.

IN EARTH — Hold arms in circle over head.

AS IT IS IN HEAVEN — Wave arm left to right pointing up, looking up.

GIVE US THIS DAY — Thumbs touching finger tips, palms toward self touching chest, move hands away from body opening hands out flat.

OUR DAILY BREAD — Inside edges of cupped hands touching (palms facing down), move hands apart as though feeling the top of a loaf of bread.

AND FORGIVE — Right finger tips brush off left palm.

US OUR DEBTS (sin) — Make fists with index fingers pointing to each other and then to self.

AS WE FORGIVE — Right finger tips brush off left palm.

OUR DEBTORS — Point to others.

AND LEAD US — Left palm facing right, right finger tips grasp left finger tips and lead left hand forward.

NOT INTO TEMPTATION — Tap left elbow with right index finger.

BUT DELIVER — Abruptly move hands away from body palms down.

US FROM EVIL (sin) — Make fists with index fingers pointing to each other and then to self.

FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM — Left hand out palm down, right palm on left hand, move right hand in a horizontal circle ending back on top of left hand.

AND THE POWER — With right hand feel muscle of left flexed arm.

AND THE GLORY — Extend left palm facing up, right finger tips touch left palm, raise right hand wiggling fingers.

FOR EVER AMEN — Palms touching, fingers toward floor, rotate hands up until fingers point to chin.

BIBLE LESSON OUTLINE

Introduction: Distribute purchased bookmarks, which have the Lord's Prayer written on them, to each of your students. Explain that these words are well-known and loved by many people around the world. Thinking about the meaning of each phrase helps us see that this example of prayer beautifully covers all our spiritual and physical needs.

1. The Lord's Prayer begins with a reverent introduction, demonstrating the necessity of approaching God with respect.
2. The next phrase indicates submission by calling for the Lord's will to be done in earth as it is in Heaven.
3. Next is a request for the supply of our daily needs.
4. The next phrase asks for forgiveness and deliverance from evil.

Climax: The prayer ends with praise and an extolling of God's glory and power.

Conclusion: Jesus told us to use this prayer as a pattern for our own personal prayer.

Response: The students should know the meaning of the Lord's Prayer, and that it is a model for us to follow.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Man was created in the image of God and with a nature that wanted to commune with God. The devil brought about the fall of man, and the communication that God had with mankind was disrupted. Yet God left the way open for man to make contact with Him, and that is through prayer.

There are many examples in the Old Testament of men who communicated with God and had true fellowship with Him. Enoch, who lived in the period before the Flood, is one outstanding example. He walked so pleasing to God that the Lord took him from this world.

alive — translated him! (Hebrews 11:5). Abraham was called “the friend of God”; David, a man after God’s own heart; Elijah was a mighty man of prayer and was also translated, and numerous others could be mentioned that were well-known men of prayer.

God created man to want to worship a higher being, no doubt to make it easy for man to reach Him. Unfortunately, the devil has tried to cause man to worship anything but God and has been remarkably successful. Satan has persuaded man to worship nearly anything imaginable — idols, sun, moon, stars, animals, etc., and even promotes worship of himself. But one of Satan’s most insidious tricks is to lead people to think they are worshipping God when they are not right with God. Jesus said that many will come to Him and say “Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?” and Jesus will say unto them “I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

Jesus gave mankind a model prayer in the Sermon on the Mount, but this is just so many words if God is not our Father. In John 4:23 we read that those who worship God must do so in spirit and in truth as that is what the Lord is looking for.

SPECIAL UNIT INSTRUCTIONS

Give your students the Prayer Power Project for this week: Prayer Walkathon

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES

Purchase bookmarks on which the Lord’s Prayer is written. Give one to each child in your class and talk about what it means. Tell them to take the bookmarks home and keep them. Challenge them to memorize the Prayer.

Use the hand with parts of the Lord’s Prayer written on each section (see Patterns). Give one to each of your students. Show them how easy it can be to learn this prayer.

Talk to your students about the six sections of the Lord’s Prayer: 1. God’s Holy name 2. God’s will 3. Our needs 4. Forgiveness 5. Deliverance 6. God’s supreme authority. Give each student a prayer card (see Patterns). Ask them to fill them in with their own words to show how they might pray to God. Take time for them to share what they write or just let them take their cards home and use them as a reminder of how to pray.

QUESTIONS

What is special about God’s name?

What are some of His names? Why should they be “hallowed”?

Why should we thank God for our food?

What does it mean to forgive? Why is this so important?

What are sins? Why do we need to ask Jesus to forgive us?

Why should we forgive other people when they have done us wrong?

What are temptations? Name some.

What does *amen* mean? Why do we always say it when we close our prayers?

PRESCHOOL SUGGESTIONS

Make a picture book with part of the Lord’s Prayer on each page. Give the Scripture and discuss each page.

Use a toy telephone and compare talking with Jesus to praying.

Show pictures of a boy, girl, mom, and dad. Also have a picture of Jesus praying. Tell how talking to God is as easy as talking to your mom or dad. Bring out how Jesus talked to His Father.

REVIEW IDEAS

Write the Lord’s Prayer on posterboard, leaving out key words such as: Father, art, hallowed, kingdom, bread, forgive, debtors, temptation. Have the children read the verse out loud, filling in the blank space. When a word is filled in, discuss what Jesus meant by that part of the prayer.

Use six food cans of different sizes (soup, tuna, vegetable, etc.). Cut different colors of construction paper to correct sizes to fit around the cans so the original labels are completely covered. Re-label them to read: God’s Holy Name; God’s Will; Our Needs; Forgiveness; Deliverance; and God’s Supreme Authority. Put the cans into a small grocery sack. To begin your review tell the children that the sack has some food that you need to keep your prayer life healthy. As you remove each can from the sack (they don’t need to be in order) read the label. Then talk about which part of the Lord’s Prayer it represents and what we should know about each one. Example: God’s Holy Name — First verse: The term Father represents authority, love, and caring. We wouldn’t want anyone to say bad things about our earthly father. Our father also has a name (Jim, Don, Bob, etc.) and we wouldn’t want anyone to use that name in a bad way. We must be even more careful how we use and say any of the names we use for God. End your review by having everyone recite together the Lord’s Prayer.

Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be
done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we
forgive our debtors.

And lead
us not into
temptation,
but deliver
us from
evil:

For
thine is the
kingdom,

for ever.

Amen

and the
power, and
the glory,

Matthew 6:9-13

TEXT Luke 18:9-14**OBJECTIVE** The students will be able to contrast proud and humble attitudes in prayer, recognizing that this determines whether or not the prayer is acceptable to God.**MEMORY VERSE** God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. — James 4:6

Attitude in Prayer

MEMORY VERSE IN ACTION

GOD — Point up.

RESISTETH — Extend both open palms as though pushing something away.

THE PROUD — Put right index finger under chin and lift up.

BUT GIVETH — Thumbs touching finger tips, palms toward self touching chest, move hands away from body opening hands out flat.

GRACE UNTO — With right hand about eye-level, flick all fingers toward head.

THE HUMBLE — Bow at waist with palms extended facing up.

MEMORY VERSE VISUALIZED

The visualization for this week's verse is a girl and boy, one with a proud look and one with a humble look. (See pattern at end of lesson.) Cut apart the five pieces on the heavy black lines. Reassemble the puzzle with your students as they learn each portion of the verse.

BIBLE LESSON OUTLINE

Introduction: Distribute large pretzels to each of your class members, either purchased ones or homemade. Before they begin eating the treat, tell them to study the shape and relate the traditional legend about it. (Refer to In-Class Activity which gives the legend.) Conclude by saying that we do not know whether this is true, but we do know the way we pray is very important.

1. Jesus gave a parable of two men who came to the Temple to pray, a Pharisee and a publican.
2. The Pharisee told the Lord how good he was and what he had done for the Lord. He prayed in a way that would attract attention to himself.
3. The publican humbly acknowledged his sinful life and pleaded for mercy.

Climax: The Lord said the publican was justified rather than the Pharisee.

Conclusion: We cannot expect to receive anything from God if we come with the wrong attitude, boasting of our "good works."

Response: The students will be able to retell the story of the Pharisee and the publican. They should know

that we must come to the Lord humbly if we expect to receive anything from Him.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The lesson on the Prodigal Son is a very well-known parable of the Lord. The Lord used the parable as a means of bringing out truths He was trying to portray. While Christ was not the first to use parables, He is the only one in the New Testament that used them. The Thompson Bible lists 38 parables that Jesus gave. Some are didactic parables — given to teach a lesson. Some are evangelical, which includes the parable of the Prodigal Son. Others are prophetic and judicial parables.

The story of the Prodigal Son was one which should have been rather easily understood. It was a custom in the East from ancient times for a son to receive his inheritance while his father was still living. The story lets the young man fall to the very bottom of social standing. To be a swineherd would have been detestable to a Jew. When he analyzed his condition, he realized that the servants in his father's house were much better off than he was. He was willing to return to his father and humble himself and confess his wrongdoing. His father welcomed him back and put on him the best robe (one used for festive occasions) and a ring on his finger (a designation of authority) and had a feast prepared. This is a very beautiful story illustrating how the heavenly Father welcomes home the sinner who repents, and makes him one of the family of God.

SPECIAL UNIT INSTRUCTIONS

Give your students the Prayer Power Project for this week: Code Prayer

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES

Make a prayer mobile (see Patterns) showing the way God might see a group of people while they pray. Their eyes are closed but God knows who means what they say. You can't deceive God. Copy the proud faces onto orange paper and the humble faces onto blue paper. Give each child five humble faces, five proud faces,

string, and two straws or popsicle sticks. Let them put these together to make a mobile.

Make a tape of the Pharisee's and the publican's prayers to let the children hear the difference in the two. Then, on the same tape, give some up-to-date examples of humble and proud statements made in prayer and in the name of Jesus. Let the children guess whether each of the persons speaking sounds humble or proud.

Here is a fun project for your class. Tell them the story of the pretzel. Many years ago, people crossed their arms across their breasts to show a humble attitude in prayer. It is thought that the pretzel was made to represent the arms crossed in prayer. The name **pretzel** is an adaptation of a German name. Talk to the students about the way some people pray. Explain to them that whether people fold their hands, cross their arms, raise their arms, etc., it doesn't really matter as long as the heart's attitude is right. Jesus sees the heart. Make some soft pretzels ahead of time as a treat for your class.

1 loaf frozen bread dough (thawed)

1 teaspoon soda

1 egg (lightly beaten)

large grained salt

Cut and shape dough into about twelve 18-inch strips. Twist into shapes shown in pattern (see Patterns). Add baking soda to a pan of rapidly boiling water. Place pretzels into water one at a time. Boil one minute then remove and drain. Place the pretzels on a well greased baking sheet. Spread lightly-beaten egg on the pretzels with fingers and sprinkle with salt. Bake at 400 degrees for 12 to 15 minutes.

QUESTIONS

To whom do we pray?

What kinds of prayers will God answer?

Whose prayers will God answer?

Why do we call praying "talking to God"?

How should we act when we pray? Should we be silly, sad, serious, loud, soft?

Since God already knows all about us, do you think He likes to hear us brag how good we are when we pray?

How should we pray at the altar?

Should children who go to church feel that they are better than other children?

PRESCHOOL SUGGESTIONS

Have each student lay his hand on a large piece of

paper which has been folded in half. Have them lay their little finger along the folded edge. Trace around the hand and wrist. Cut out the hands so they can open and close. The children will have their own praying hands. Talk about prayer as you are doing this project.

Use a picture of Jesus as you tell the children the story He told us about attitude in prayer. He said God would answer our prayers if we were humble. Have pictures of things from magazines that we might want to pray about, such as food, grandparents, sick child, other family members.

With finger puppets, demonstrate different attitudes in various situations: thankful/unthankful for gift; happy/bored playing with friends; etc. Explain that Jesus talked about a special time when our attitude is most important. That is in prayer. Jesus knows our real feelings, we can't hide them from Him.

REVIEW IDEAS

Make several different finished kites to show as you relate this example. Make one unfinished kite (a piece of paper shaped like a kite but only decorated with pretty pictures). Explain that kites have been used in many ways. Benjamin Franklin used them to experiment with electricity and lightning. Kites have been used to record the temperature of clouds and in advertising to attract attention. Some people have used kites in place of prayer. The Chinese have a day each year when everyone flies kites. They think this will protect their homes, families and loved ones from evil things. We know a mere kite couldn't scare away demons. Some Japanese boys think that to fly a kite made in the form of a fish over their house, on a special boys' day, will make them become brave, courageous, and strong. But we know it takes more than a kite to do all of this. Explain that even though a kite is usually made of paper and sticks, just **any** paper or sticks won't do if it is going to fly. Some kites look right but aren't balanced right, or their sticks are too heavy, or the paper is not right. Compare this to praying. Even though we use words when we pray, they must be balanced with the right attitude. Words alone don't make a prayer. We must follow the plan of God's Holy Word, when we seek Him in prayer.

Have two men teachers reenact the Bible story of the two men who were praying in the Temple. Later ask the children if they know which man's prayer was heard and why.

Stage an on-the-spot interview of the Pharisee and the publican as they leave the Temple after their prayers. Ask each man, "What did you say to God? Do you think He heard you? How do you feel now? Should you have done differently?" etc. Ask your students if they know what made the difference between the two prayers.

COORDINATING SONGS

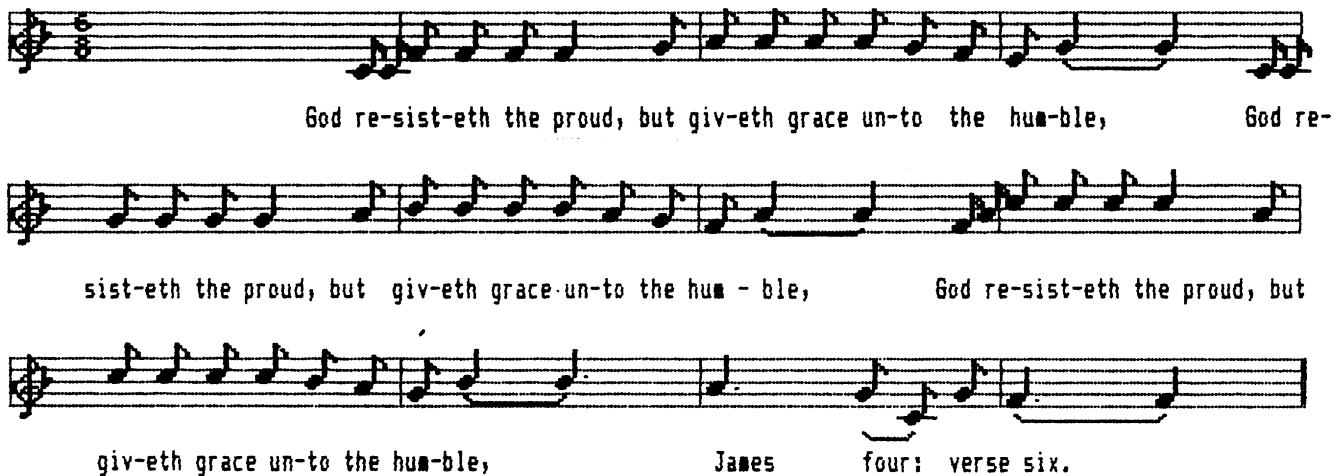
"Why Worry When You Can Pray?" — Singspiration
"I Believe the Answer's on the Way" — Singspiration
"Before We Pray" — Add-a-Song
"Talking to God" — Beginners Sing

SUPPORT MATERIAL

Prayers for Little People by Sarah Fletcher
Angeleque Musical Praying Doll (Russ)

MEMORY VERSE SONG

♩ = 100



God re-sist-eth the proud, but giv-eth grace un-to the hum-ble, God re-

sist-eth the proud, but giv-eth grace-un-to the hum - ble, God re-sist-eth the proud, but

giv-eth grace un-to the hum-ble, James four: verse six.

MEMORY VERSE VISUALIZED



TEXT Matthew 7:7-11; John 16:23-28

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to explain that Jesus wants them to go to Him in prayer: to ask, to seek, to knock. They will be able to tell why we ask all things “in Jesus name.”

MEMORY VERSE Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. — Matthew 7:7

Jesus Told Us to ASK

MEMORY VERSE IN ACTION

ASK — Right fingers touching lips, move hand from face.

AND IT SHALL — Nod “yes.”

BE GIVEN YOU — Hands in front of body, finger tips touching thumbs, move hands toward self.

SEEK — With hand over eyebrows, look around.

AND YE SHALL — Nod “yes.”

FIND — Right hand, pick up an imaginary object from air.

KNOCK — Knock on imagined door.

AND IT SHALL — Nod “yes.”

BE OPENED UNTO YOU — Edges of index fingers touching, back of hands towards face, move hands apart as you move them toward your face.

MEMORY VERSE VISUALIZED

Our memory verse for this week focuses on asking, seeking, and knocking, and the visual display is three children. (See pattern at end of lesson.) Cut apart the sections as indicated by the heavy black lines, and put the pieces up one at a time as your students learn the verse.

BIBLE LESSON OUTLINE

Introduction: Bring a doll to class (or even a real baby, if this is possible). Ask your class how a baby tells us it needs something. Establish that it “asks” for something by crying. The loving parent will attempt to meet that need for the baby. In the same way, our heavenly Father wants to meet our needs. He always understands just what these needs are and what is best for us. The way we “ask” Him for our needs is through prayer.

1. The Lord tells us to ask, seek, and knock; and will reward us accordingly.
2. He points out that if parents give their children good things, how much more will the heavenly Father give good things to those who ask Him?
3. When we make our request in the name of Jesus, we will receive it that our joy may be full.

Climax: God wants us to pray and bring our requests to Him, and He has promised to answer.

Conclusion: It is a good thing to look to the Lord for the needs of our life.

Response: The students will be able to explain how we are to make our requests known to God.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Prayer is asking and receiving; it is talking with God with the purpose of making your request known unto Him in faith. The scripture Matthew 7:7, is so simple on the surface that we are in danger of failing to recognize its immensity. Our Lord instructs the believer to ask, seek, and knock, because these three words cover the whole spectrum of prayer.

Prayer is asking and receiving. When you know the will of God regarding a need, whether it be material or spiritual, you can ask and receive. This is prayer according to the **revealed** will of God.

Prayer is seeking and finding. When you do not know the will of God regarding a need, whether it be material or spiritual, then you are to seek His will in prayer concerning this need until you find it. This is prayer for a knowledge of the **unrevealed** will of God in a specific need.

Prayer is knocking and opening. When you know the will of God, and yet you find a closed door, you are to knock, and keep on knocking until God opens the door. This is **tenacious** prayer — prayer for mountain-moving faith. Knocking prayer perseveres until the impossible becomes the possible. This is miracle-working prayer. All things are possible when you ask, seek, knock.

SPECIAL UNIT INSTRUCTIONS

Give your students the Prayer Power Project for this week: Grab Bag Prayer

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES

Bring a bag of newspapers and a bag of pop bottles.

Talk about newspaper drives and bottle drives. People go from door to door asking, seeking, knocking. When we pray we are asking or seeking and knocking on God's door.

Make three puppets and put a different letter on each one: A,S,K. Use these to demonstrate what each part of the A.S.K. prayer means. Mr. A can be the one to ASK Jesus for the daily needs and other things he knows God wants him to have. Mrs. S might need an answer to something she isn't sure about so she SEEKS God's will, whether it is yes or no. Miss K wants to find the answer to her prayer so she keeps praying (KNOCKing on Heaven's door) until God fulfills the prayer in His perfect time. Be sure that each of these prayers end with the words "In Jesus' name." The children need to know that Jesus is the reason we can A.S.K.

Cut out enough five-inch happy-face circles for all the children in your class. Hand them out and tell each child to write his name on his circle. Make one for yourself also. Give the children an example and then let them take turns telling how their name might help someone else. Examples: your name used on a job application, an introduction as your friend, your signature on a legal document or check. Explain that as Jesus' friends we can go to God the Father, in Jesus' name.

Put a large, clear, glass jar (anything from a canning jar to decorative vase) on a table in a corner of your class. Have a scratch pad and pencils next to the jar and encourage the children to write out special prayers, as many as they wish, but at least one per child. Tell them to end all their prayers with, "In Jesus' name." They may then fold their prayer paper in half and put it into the jar. There is no need to read the prayers because Jesus knows what they say. Tell them each time they see the jar they can know that they and their friends did as Jesus commanded — they ASKed.

QUESTIONS

When can we pray?

Where can we pray?

What are some things about which you can talk to Jesus?

How do we seek salvation?

What are some other things people pray about?

How do we knock to receive God's promises?

Why do we ask for things "In Jesus' name?"

PRESCHOOL SUGGESTIONS

Use a toy telephone to demonstrate how easy it is to

call on Jesus when we have a need or when we want Him to do something for us.

We want all our little children to learn that if they have a problem "Jesus will make it better." Show them a picture of Jesus and explain that we can pray to God because Jesus died and went to Heaven for us. Jesus is our best Friend and we can ask anything in His name.

Make finger jello. Using alphabet cookie cutters or a cardboard stencil, cut out A,S,K letters for all your students. Talk about asking as your children eat the A, seeking as they eat the S, and knocking as they eat the K.

REVIEW IDEAS

Write the word ASK on three pieces of construction paper. Do the same for the words SEEK and KNOCK. Hand these nine pieces of paper out to various children in the department. Tell them that when they see their word being acted out to raise their sign to show the rest of the department. Examples:

1. Someone asking for a glass of water
2. Someone looking for something
3. Someone knocking on the wall

Have the following on hand.

1. Bread and a rock
2. Fish and plastic snake
3. A good apple and a bad apple

Have three children come up and pick one object of each set that their mom would give them if they asked for something because they were hungry. Bring out that the Bible says our heavenly Father knows how to give us good gifts even more than our parents do. God knows what is best for us and if we do what He wants we will be winners.

Use the In-Class Activities ASK puppets idea and elaborate on the ASK prayer. Write a script in which the ASK family fulfills each of their parts. Again be sure each prayer ends with, "In Jesus' name."

On eleven 5" x 8" pieces of colored construction paper write the letters to the words IN JESUS' NAME (one letter per paper). Scramble the words (NI SEJUS MANE) and pin them to a bulletin board. Let the children help you unscramble them, and then talk about why you use these words in your prayer. When we say, "In Jesus' name," we are really saying, "When Jesus died He made it possible for me to talk to You, God." We can ASK in Jesus' name.

COORDINATING SONGS

"Seek Ye First" — Sing and Celebrate for Kids, Vol. II

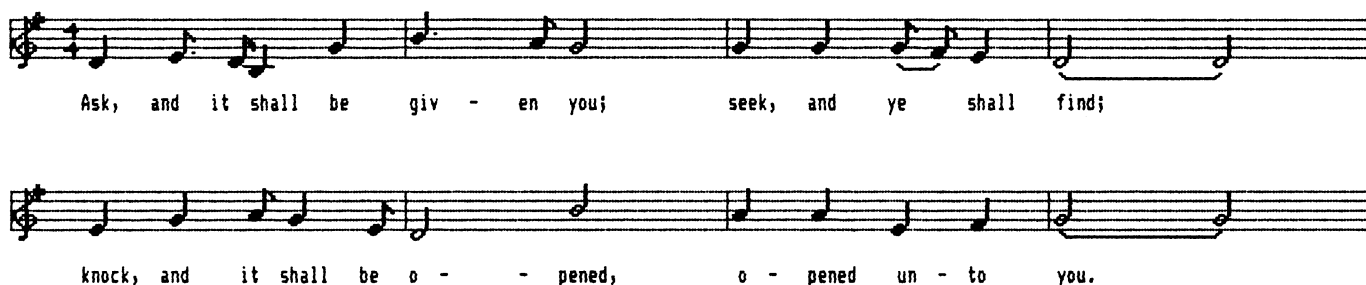
"Don't Forget to Pray" — Salvation Songs No. 2
 "Just Keep on Believing" — Salvation Songs No. 2
 "God Hears and Answers" — Primary Children Sing
 "God Is Listening" — Primary Children Sing
 "A Prayer for Help" — Beginners Sings
 "Always With Me" — Beginners Sing

SUPPORT MATERIAL

People of the Bible and Their Prayers — Arch Books, Concordia
 How, Why, When, Where, No. 3 — by William Coleman
 I Can Pray to God — A Happy Day Book, Standard Publishing

MEMORY VERSE SONG

♩ = 100



MEMORY VERSE VISUALIZED



TEXT John 17:1-26

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to relate that they were included in the prayer Jesus prayed to His Father. They will know that He prayed for unity among them, for God's will to be done in their lives, and that they would be kept from evil.

MEMORY VERSE Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word. — John 17:20

Jesus Prayed for Me

MEMORY VERSE IN ACTION

NEITHER — Shake head “no.”

PRAY I — Fold hands and bow head.

FOR THESE ALONE — Point to some people.

BUT FOR THEM ALSO — Point to some other people.

WHICH SHALL BELIEVE — Touch forehead with index finger and then clasp hands.

ON ME — Right middle finger to left palm, left middle finger to right palm.

THROUGH THEIR WORD — Hold left side of extended right index finger in front of lips and rotate in small circle away from body.

MEMORY VERSE VISUALIZED

A Bible and two speech balloons, Bible characters in one and present-day characters in the other, form a visual representation of this week's memory verse. (See pattern at end of lesson.) Cut the three sections apart as indicated by the heavy black lines. Post the pieces one at a time as your group recites the verse.

BIBLE LESSON OUTLINE

Introduction: Open your class session by showing your class a small, beautifully-wrapped package. Have a tag attached to the gift which says “To: All Who Love Me. From: Jesus.” Let one of the students open the gift. Inside have pasted a small cutout figure of Jesus in a praying position. (See pattern for In-Class Activity.) Underneath the figure print the words, “I prayed for YOU.”

1. Ask your students if they have ever asked a parent, friend, or minister to pray for them. Bring out that praying for someone is a very special gift to them.

2. Just before Jesus' crucifixion, He met with His friends and helpers. He prayed a very special prayer for them and for those who would later believe on Him.

3. He asked His Father to keep the disciples as He would no longer be in the world.

4. He prayed that God would help all those who loved Him to be in unity, that they would know God's will in their lives, and that they would be kept from evil.

Climax: Jesus prayed and made provision that all those

who love Him will be with Him in Glory, and that includes us if we have asked Jesus into our hearts.

Conclusion: The Lord loves His people, and wants them to be one with Him, in this life and in eternity.

Response: The students will be able to explain the aspects of Jesus' prayer for His followers.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

God had a plan for a Redeemer from the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8). Various prophets and wise men seemed to catch a glimpse of God's plan, but none seemed to completely understand it. They seemed to understand that there was a King coming, the Messiah, of the line of David, but few realized that before Christ was to be King, the prophecies concerning His suffering and death must be fulfilled. Even His disciples questioned whether or not He was at that time going to restore the kingdom to Israel (Acts 1:6).

No, this was not the time the Lord was to become the ruler of Israel and of the world. When Jesus began His ministry, His forerunner, John, said “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” Jesus came as the “carpenter's son” and from the lowly town of Nazareth. There seemed to be no way in which the priests, scribes, and elders could reconcile this Man with their idea of the Messiah who was to come. Yet, the prophet Isaiah stated that “he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors” (Isaiah 53:12). In today's memory verse we read that Jesus included us in His prayer and in Romans 8:34 we read that even now Jesus is at the right hand of God making intercession for us.

SPECIAL UNIT INSTRUCTIONS

Give your students the Prayer Power Project for this week: Plant a Prayer

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES

Show pictures of people from many different countries. Let the children try to guess what country the people

represent. Discuss how Jesus loves us and prayed for all who love Him. He wants us to be ready to do what He wants us to do.

Use puppets and conduct an interview of a disciple who heard Jesus' prayer for His followers. Include questions that will lead the children to understand that if they love Jesus, they were included in the prayer. Some suggestions: Why did Jesus pray for people who already loved Him? Why did He pray for people who were not yet born? Do you think the devil still bothers people today?

Write the memory verse in large lettering so it can be easily seen by all in your class. Highlight the words, I, BELIEVE, and THEIR. Discuss these words in each section of the verse. Be sure the children know these were the words of Jesus as He prayed for everyone who would believe He was God's Son and love Him.

Jesus loves everyone in the whole world but He said a special prayer in this lesson for all the people who loved Him and for all who would love Him in the future. These would be people in His Church. Draw a large outline of a church. On a separate sheet of paper draw lots and lots of happy faces and cut them out. Divide the faces between your students and talk quickly about each one. Example: This face is John. He loves Jesus. He is a member of God's Church (put him inside the church). This is Susie. She likes to go to Sunday school but doesn't want to obey her parents (put her outside the church). Have something to say about each one. Then describe what unity is. Tell the children that in today's lesson Jesus prayed for everyone inside the church — God's Church — to love each other. They should want the people who are outside the church to love Jesus too.

QUESTIONS

Was Jesus' prayer for everybody or for a select group? Who is included in that group?

Why did Jesus include us in His prayer even though we weren't born yet?

What did Jesus mean when He prayed, "They are not of the world"?

What do you think the word *unity* means?

If Jesus prayed for us, do you think we can stay saved? How?

How did Jesus know the devil would tempt us to do evil?

Why was it God's will for Jesus to die on the cross?

What example in prayer did Jesus set for us?

PRESCHOOL SUGGESTIONS

Make a copy of the figure of Jesus in a praying position (see Patterns) and mount it in the center of a board. From magazines and catalogs cut out pictures of current-day people (many ages, sizes, colors, etc.) and back them with different colored paper. Attach a small white heart or heart with Jesus sticker to each picture. Put these at different places around the figure of Jesus as you talk about how Jesus prayed a special prayer for those who love Him. You might want to include photos of the children in your class.

For each of your students, make a copy of the fold-up church with Jesus' prayer inside (see Patterns). Be sure to line up the front and reverse of the paper so the church will be even when you cut it out. Explain to the children that Jesus prayed this special prayer for all who love Him.

Give each child a copy of the picture of Jesus as He is praying for His disciples and those who love Him (see Patterns). Let them color the picture as you tell the story.

REVIEW IDEAS

If possible, have someone come and bring a newborn baby. Interview the parents, asking questions about the things the baby does. Why do the parents love the baby? Will they still love him when he is 10, 20, 60? Did they love him before he was born, before they really knew him and how cute he would be? Jesus loved us so much more than that, that hundreds of years before we were born He prayed for us — His children.

Write the letters JESUS PRAYED FOR ME at the top of a large posterboard. Write the names of several teachers inside white paper hearts and place them, one at a time, on the posterboard. Comment on each heart: Jesus prayed for teacher Brad, Jesus prayed for teacher Carol, etc. Explain that each of these teachers love Jesus and work for Him. They are happy that Jesus prayed for them so they can love each other and do good things for everyone. Then show the children a large white heart. Tell them that any of them who believe Jesus is God's Son and love Him were included in this special prayer. Jesus prayed many prayers for everyone, but the prayer in today's lesson was especially for those who love Him.

Bring some simple objects for use in your review that illustrate the three aspects of Christ's prayer for us that are listed in the objective. Take a spool of thread to illustrate unity. Break off one long piece. Demonstrate that this one piece can be broken. But if you put a number of pieces together there is much greater strength — now it cannot be broken. For the second

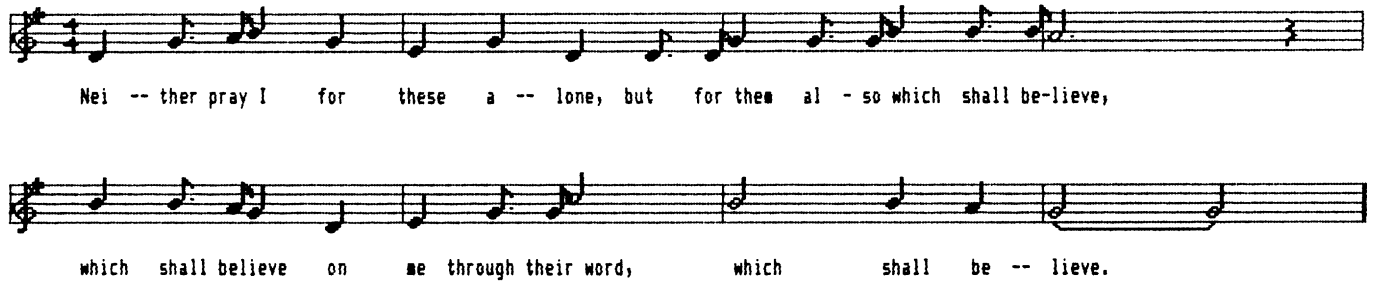
part of your illustration put out an egg, a large heavy frying pan, and a hammer. Ask your group if you could break the egg with the hammer. Of course you could. But if the egg is protected by the pan (cover it) then you can strike the pan but you cannot break the egg. (Demonstrate.) Jesus prayed that we would be protected from evil in the world that would try to destroy our Christian lives and testimony. Finally, show your Bible. Jesus prayed that we would know God's will in our lives, and this is found by reading the Word of God.

COORDINATING SONGS

"God in Heaven Hears" — Primary Children Sing
 "God Is Listening, God Is Speaking" — Beginners Sing
 "Jesus Loves Even Me" — Jesus Loves Me, Look-N-Learn
 "Jesus Loves Me" — Jesus Loves Me, Look-N-Learn
 "Oh How I Love Jesus" — Jesus Loves Me, Look-N-Learn
 "Jesus Jesus" — Jesus Loves Me, Look-N-Learn

MEMORY VERSE SONG

♩ = 100



MEMORY VERSE VISUALIZED

