

When You Pray



CHRISTIAN LIFE SERIES

When You Pray

6th edition

Christian Life Series

Your New Life

Your Bible

Who Jesus Is

The Church

Personal Evangelism

Bible Ethics

When You Pray

How to Study the Bible

Your Helpful Friend

Christian Worship

Christian Workers

Marriage and the Home

God's Design—Your Choice

John's Gospel

We Believe

What Churches Do

The Teaching Ministry

The Christian in His Community

When You Pray

6th edition

by J. Robert Ashcroft



Springfield, Missouri

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Developed in cooperation with Global University staff

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1211 South Glenstone
Springfield, MO 65804
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Fifth edition 1995. Sixth edition 2008

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PN 06.09

ISBN 978-0-7617-1263-3

www.globaluniversity.edu
www.globalreach.org

Printed in the United States of America

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PREFACE

Someone loved me and shared with me the things that have helped me so greatly. Now I want to share some of these things with you. Let us walk and talk together through these pages. As we go along, I pray that God will walk with us and that you may discover new depths of joy in talking with Him.

Dr. J. Robert Ashcroft

8 *When You Pray*

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE SERIES

When You Pray is one of 18 courses in this practical discipleship program for new believers. The Christian Life Series is a study to help students grow in their relationship with Christ, interact with the Word of God, and better understand God's purposes for their life.

Students will study basic Christian topics under six reoccurring themes. The courses are conversational in style and easy to read. The following chart illustrates how the units of study are organized for the Christian Life Series.

	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3
Spiritual Life	Your New Life	When You Pray	God's Design, Your Choice
The Bible	Your Bible	How to Study the Bible	John's Gospel
Theology	Who Jesus Is	Your Helpful Friend	We Believe
The Church	The Church	Christian Worship	What Churches Do
Service	Personal Evangelism	Christian Workers	The Teaching Ministry
Christian Ethics	Bible Ethics	Marriage and the Home	The Christian in His Community

Before You Begin

How to Use this Book

If you have studied other Christian Life courses, you may have noticed that this book is slightly larger and has a new look. This introduction will explain new features that have been added to make the course easier to study. Carefully read the introduction.

This book is divided into lessons instead of chapters. Each lesson begins with two important pages. After the lesson number are the title and a short introduction to the lesson. On the next page is **The Plan**. This is the outline or plan for the lesson. It is a list of what you can expect to study in the lesson.

Next are **The Goals**. The goals are guidelines for what you should be able to do after studying the lesson. Read the goals carefully; they will help you focus on the most important points in the lesson.

To help you reach your goals, each lesson has questions and activities. The subheading **Application** signals you to answer questions on the material learned. Do not skip over this part. Writing out the answers will help you apply what you have learned. Most of the questions can be answered right in your book. If there is not enough room to write your answers in the book, write them in a notebook or journal that you can use to review the lessons later.

After answering a question, check the answer at the end of the lesson in the section marked **Check Your Answers**. Do not look ahead at the answers until you have written your own answer. This will help you remember what you study much better. Compare your answers to those given at the end of the lesson; then correct those you did not answer correctly. The answers are in a jumbled order so that you will not easily see the answer to the next question.

How to Answer Study Questions

This course uses many different kinds of questions. Below are samples of the three most common types and how to answer them.

MULTIPLE-CHOICE

A multiple-choice question asks you to choose an answer from the ones that are given.

Example

- 1 The Bible has a total of
- a) 100 books.
 - b) 66 books.
 - c) 27 books.

The correct answer is b) 66 books.

In your study guide, make a circle around b) as shown here:

- 1 The Bible has a total of
- a) 100 books.
 - b) 66 books.
 - c) 27 books.
 - d) 2 books.

TRUE-FALSE

A true-false question or item asks you to choose which of several statements are TRUE.

Example

- 2 Which statements below are TRUE?
- a) The Bible has a total of 120 books.
 - b) The Bible is a message for believers today.
 - c) All of the Bible authors wrote in the Hebrew language.
 - d) The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible.

Statements **b)** and **d)** are true. You would make a circle around these two letters to show your choices, as you see above.

MATCHING

A Matching question or item asks you to match things that go together, such as names with descriptions, or Bible books with their authors.

Example

3 Write the number for the leader’s name in front of each phrase that describes something he did.

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1... a) Received the Law at Mt. Sinai | 1. Moses |
| 2... b) Led the Israelites across the Jordan | 2. Joshua |
| 2... c) Marched around Jericho | |
| 1... d) Lived in Pharaoh’s court | |

Phrases **a)** and **d)** refer to Moses, and phrases **b)** and **c)** refer to Joshua. You would write 1 beside **a)** and **d)**, and 2 beside **b)** and **c)**, as you see above.

Suggestions for Studying

1. Set aside quiet and regular times for your study. It will be easier to concentrate if study is part of your daily habits.
2. Pray as you begin each study session. With an open Bible, the Holy Spirit, and this course, you are in the classroom of the Holy Spirit. Ask the Lord to help you understand the lesson and apply it to your life.
3. Carefully read the lesson introduction, the lesson plan, and the goals.
4. Begin to carefully read the lesson. Look up Bible references and take any notes that may be helpful. The Bible verses reinforce important points in the lesson.
5. Answer the study questions in the spaces provided. Use your notebook or journal when necessary.

6. Think about what you have learned and look for ways to apply it in discussion with family and friends, in a Bible study, etc.
7. Take your time. No bell will ring to force you to move on to new material.

Unit Evaluations

At the end of this course, you will find the Unit Evaluations. Questions and Answer Sheets are clearly marked for each unit. Carefully follow the directions given. You should complete and send your answer sheets to your instructor for corrections. If you are not studying with a Global University office you will still benefit by completing the Unit Evaluations.

Ways to Study this Course

This course has been written so that you can study it by yourself. We like to say that the teacher is in the book. However, you may also study this course in various group settings such as mid-week Bible studies, learning centers, home groups, and youth programs. This course can be used as a correspondence or resource tool for prison ministries as well as special ethnic or other community outreach programs. You will find both the content and study methods excellent for these purposes.

If you study this course by yourself, all of your work can be completed by mail. Be sure to use the address of your Global University office. If you are studying in a group or through a Discipleship Training Center, be sure to follow any additional instructions that your instructor may give.

In addition, your church may partner with Global University to open a Discipleship Training Center. Visit us online at www.globaluniversity.edu for more information and start up helps.

Certificate

Unit or individual certificates are available to students upon successful completion of our courses. For instance, if you are studying through a National Office or Discipleship Training Center, you may receive a certificate from your Global University instructor. If you are studying on your own, you may mail your completed Unit Evaluation Answer Sheets to your local office. National Offices and Discipleship Training Centers may order certificates through the International Office or through GPH in the USA.

Additional Helps

The Center for Evangelism and Discipleship (CED) Catalog, Discipleship Training Center Manual, the Study Center Agreement Form, and the CED Order Form are available online for print downloads. Other materials available for this course include supplemental audiocassettes.

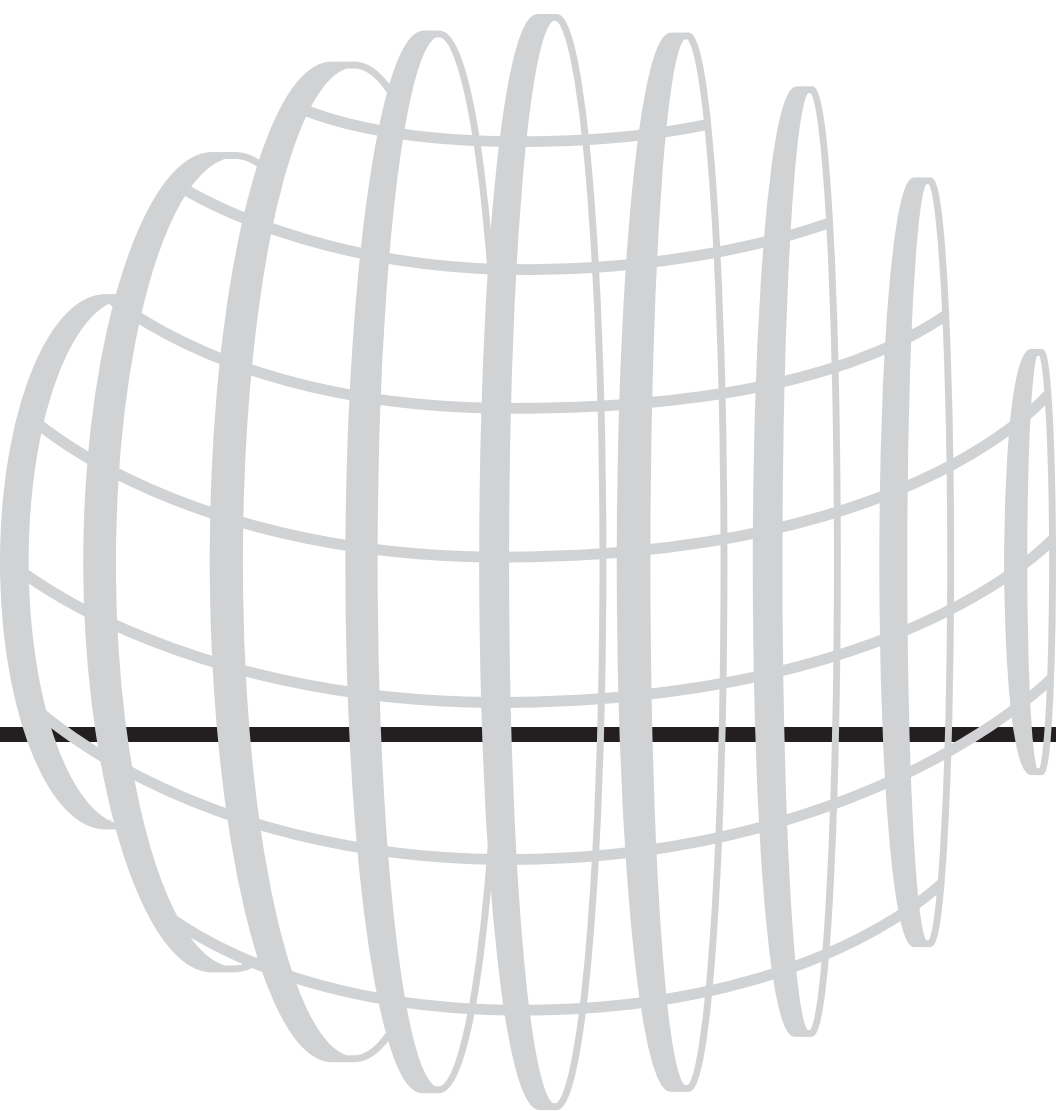
Visit us at www.globaluniversity.edu
and www.globalreach.org for additional resources.

About the Author

Dr. J. Robert Ashcroft made significant contributions to the field of Christian education. With a B.S. in Education, an M.A. in Higher Education, and an honorary doctorate from Vanguard University, Dr. Ashcroft served as president of these Assemblies of God colleges in the United States: Evangel College, Central Bible College, and Berean College.

Widely known as a speaker for conferences, retreats, and seminars, Dr. Ashcroft was a guest lecturer in several parts of the world. In the late 1970s, he served as pastor of Christian Center, an English-speaking congregation in Brussels, Belgium. His rich background as a Christian leader well qualified him as the author of this study on prayer.

God bless you as you study *When You Pray*. May your heart be opened to the truths in God's Word.



Unit 1

Lessons

- 1 Think About God When You Pray**
- 2 Come to God the Right Way**
- 3 Listen to God When You Pray**

LESSON

1 Think About God When You Pray

Do you ever wonder why some people receive such wonderful answers to prayer, while so many of your prayers seem to be unanswered? Do you wonder why some people talk to God so easily and you find it hard to know what to say? Are you curious about why you feel the presence of God only sometimes? Perhaps every Christian has asked these questions.

Even the disciples of Jesus had questions about prayer. They could see in His life how important prayer was to Him and what wonderful things happened in answer to His prayers. So they asked Him:

Luke 11:1 ““Lord, teach us to pray.””

Jesus answered this request not only by His words but also by His example. He showed the disciples how to pray.

Today, God wants us to talk with Him. He is the One who has given us the desire to pray. Let us make the request of the disciples our request as we study these lessons on prayer.

The Plan

- A. God Will Teach You to Pray
- B. God Is Good
- C. God Loves You
- D. God Is Our Father
- E. God Can Do Anything

The Goals

1. Identify God's purpose for us in prayer.
2. Describe the manner in which we should approach God in prayer.
3. State how God's love led Him to provide for the forgiveness of our sins.
4. Describe what it means to have God as our Father.
5. Identify the greatness of God to meet our needs.

A. GOD WILL TEACH YOU TO PRAY

Goal 1. Identify God's purpose for us in prayer.

When God made us, He put something in us that reaches out for Him. We realize that we need a power greater than our own to solve our problems, protect us, and meet our needs. We reach out to the world of the supernatural for help. But our urge to pray goes beyond that. We feel the need to worship, honor, and serve some supernatural being.

How important it is to direct this worship to the right Person—the One who made us, God! Only then can we find the deep satisfaction that He wants us to enjoy. God made us so that we could talk things over with Him and He could talk with us and help us. Life is not complete without this communication with Him.

God invites us to come to Him in prayer and ask Him for whatever we need. Just think of it—the One who made the world and everything in it, the Lord and Ruler of the universe wants to talk with us. He made us, understands us, loves us, and wants to help us. Time and again in the Book He has given us—the

Holy Bible—He invites us to take our problems to Him, talk everything over with Him. That is what prayer is—talking with God. He said to a prophet of old:

Jeremiah 33:3 “Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.”

God will teach you as you study and practice what the Bible teaches about prayer. The title of each lesson in this book gives a biblical principle, a simple rule that will help you when you pray. Then the lesson is full of practical suggestions on how to apply it. The principle for this lesson—think of God when you pray—is one that Jesus teaches us. If we follow the model He gave, we will begin our prayers recognizing who God is, honoring Him, and praying for His will to be done.

Matthew 6:9–10 ““This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”””

Application

- 1** Read Luke 11:1 and Jeremiah 33:3 several times. How do you plan to use these verses as you study?
- 2** Look at the list of contents at the beginning of this course. With a pencil, make a check mark (✓) by things you already do when you pray. Mark a plus sign (+) by those you want to practice more.
- 3** This lesson teaches that when you pray, you should think more about
 - a)** God—who He is, what He has done for you, and what He wants you to do.
 - b)** Yourself—your problems, what you want God to do for you.
 Check your answers with those at the end of this lesson.



B. GOD IS GOOD

Goal 2. Describe the manner in which we should approach God in prayer.

When we talk with someone, we do not just think about ourselves and our needs. We think also about the other person. Our first lesson in how to pray effectively is to apply the same principle when we talk to God: *Think about God when you pray*. This is a basic part of worship. The word *worship* in English comes from *worth + ship* and means to recognize the worthiness of God.

Because God is good, He wants to free us from the things that bring suffering. He wants to bless us and make us happy, healthy, and useful. Thinking about how good God is makes us join in the song of the psalmist:

Psalm 100 “Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”

Application

4 Read Psalm 100. Then answer the questions.

a) Who should sing to the Lord? (v. 1)

.....

b) How should we come to God? (v. 2)

.....

c) What should we always remember? (v. 3)

.....

d) With what attitude should we come to God? (v. 4)

.....

e) What is true about God? (v. 5)

.....



C. GOD LOVES YOU

Goal 3. State how God’s love led Him to provide for the forgiveness of our sins.

God loves you and me. It is His very nature to love. The Father sent His Son Jesus Christ into the world to: 1) tell us about His love, 2) demonstrate this love in His life and death for us, and 3) make it possible for us to be with Him and enjoy His love forever. Jesus said:

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Because God is good, He has set certain standards for the world He has made. He teaches us right from wrong in the Bible and helps us to do what is right. As Ruler of the universe, He must judge us for what we do, regarding those who do right and punishing those who do wrong. Unfortunately, we have all done wrong and were condemned to be separated from God, unless there was some way to save us.

And there was a way! God loved us so much that He sent His own Son, Jesus Christ, to take our place. Jesus loves us too and died for our sins. He came back to life and went back to heaven. Someday He will return to the earth and put everything right.

John 10:10 “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

If we think about how God loves us, we will want to please Him. We are sorry for the wrong we have done and ask Him to forgive us and help us do what is right.

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

Application

- 5** John 3:16 teaches that you can be sure God loves you because
- a)** you have a feeling that He loves you.
 - b)** He gave His only Son so you could live.
 - c)** other people say that He loves everyone.

- 6 First John 1:9 says that we are forgiven of our sins if we
- a) try to do what is right.
 - b) tell them to a priest.
 - c) confess them to God.
-

D. GOD IS OUR FATHER

Goal 4. Describe what it means to have God as our Father.

When we accept Jesus as our Savior, God becomes our Father. He does more than just adopt us. He sends His Holy Spirit to live in us, gives us a new nature, and makes us His children. Jesus teaches us to call God *Father* when we pray, just as He always did. Think about what it means to call the Creator of the universe *Father!* We can come to Him at any time and ask for whatever we need. Jesus tells us that the Father loves us and wants to give us what we need.

John 16:27 “No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.”

Matthew 6:25–26 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?”

Matthew 7:11 “If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!”

Luke 11:9 “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”

Our part is simply to *ask* God for what we need. This is an important part of prayer. We ask and He has promised to answer. We need not be afraid that we are asking for something that is too hard for God to do. He can do anything! And so we ask, knowing that God is our Father.

ASK AND YOU WILL RECEIVE

Luke 11:9

YOUR NEED GOD’S SUFFICIENCY

Weakness	God’s Strength
Failures	God’s Forgiveness
Loneliness	God’s Love
Ignorance	God’s Knowledge
Problems	God’s Wisdom
Sickness	God’s Healing

Application

7 Have you accepted Jesus as your Savior? If so, thank God for being your Father. If not, would you like to pray this prayer? *God, I would like to have You as my Father. Thank you for sending Your Son to save me. Please forgive all the wrong things I have done and help me to do what is right.*

8 Memorize Matthew 6:25–26.

9 Start a prayer notebook. First, review the list following “Ask and You Will Receive” to remind yourself of what God can do for you. Then write in your notebook any of those needs or any other special needs you want your Father to supply. Pray about them. As He provides, write beside each need the date that you receive the answer. This notebook will help you remember the things your Father has done for you.



E. GOD CAN DO ANYTHING

Goal 5. Identify the greatness of God to meet our needs.


Your needs—though they may seem huge to you—are actually very small compared to God’s greatness. God is infinite in power—He created the universe and operates it by His commands. The laws of nature are simply the patterns that God has established for His world; He is not limited by them. Whenever it suits His purpose God may speed up or slow down

their operation. Or, He may even temporarily suspend their action by a higher law, the order of the Creator. The result is the miracles that Jesus did: He healed the sick, raised the dead, made the blind to see and the deaf to hear; all with a word or a touch. We need never fear that our problems are too big for God!

Matthew 19:26 “Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’”

He is not limited by time—He has always been and always will be. He is eternal. God sees the future just as clearly as He sees the past and present because He is infinite in knowledge. Nothing is hidden from Him—not even our thoughts. He is also present everywhere in the universe.

God understands us much better than we understand ourselves and knows just what is best for us. As we go to Him in prayer and ask Him to guide us, we can trust in His infinite wisdom, goodness, and love. Whatever He does is right. We can surrender our lives to Him joyfully, knowing that He will take good care of us.

God Is Infinite	In	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being Wisdom Knowledge Goodness Power Love
--------------------	----	---

Application

10 Repeat these great truths:

God is good and wants to answer my prayers.

God has all power; He can help me now.

God is everywhere; He is with me now.

God is all wise; He will do what is best.

God is my Father; He wants to meet my need.

God loves me and I love Him.

What do you feel about God when you repeat these sentences? I suggest that each day you find a place of quiet meditation and repeat these truths before you pray. Do this until you have formed the habit of really thinking about God whenever you pray.



Check Your Answers

The answers to your study exercises are not given in the usual order. This is done so you will not see the answer to your next question ahead of time. Look for the number you need, and try not to look ahead.

- 6 c)** confess them to God.
- 1** Your answer may be different from mine. I would make Luke 1:1 my prayer as I begin to study each lesson, and then remind myself of God's promise in Jeremiah 33:3.
- 7** Your answer. I hope that you have received Jesus as your Savior. If you need to know more about this, ask your teacher about it when you send in your answer sheet.
- 2** Your answer.
- 8** These verses will help you remember what is most important when you pray.
- 3 a)** God—who He is, what He has done for you, and what He wants you to do.
- 9** Your answers. Your teacher also will be praying that God will meet your needs.
- 4 a)** All the world
b) With joy and happy songs
c) That the Lord is God, that He made us, and that we belong to Him as His people and His flock
d) With thanksgiving and praise
e) That the Lord is good, that His love is eternal and that His faithfulness lasts forever
- 10** You probably feel more confidence in God and have more desire to talk with Him in prayer.
- 5 b)** He gave His only Son so you could live.

LESSON 2 Come to God the Right Way

Have you ever heard children arguing as they play together?

“Give it to me, now!” one says.

“Why?” asks the other.

“Because I want it!” says the first.

And on they argue, back and forth. They have not yet learned how to approach others when asking for the things they want.

Some people act like these children when they pray. But although God always hears us when we pray, we need to come to Him the right way.

In this lesson, you will learn how to come to God with an attitude that shows Him the respect and honor He deserves. You will study what the Bible teaches about the way, time, and place to pray. The things you learn will give you confidence when you talk to your heavenly Father.

The Plan

- A. What is the Right Way?
- B. Attitudes for Prayer
- C. Where to Pray
- D. In What Position?
- E. In What Pattern?

The Goals

- 1. Explain the importance of coming to God through His Son, Jesus.
- 2. Follow the biblical teaching about how, when, and where to pray.
- 3. Discuss what the Bible says about when and where to pray.
- 4. Describe what the Bible says about physical positions for prayer.
- 5. Analyze the Lord's Prayer as a pattern for our progress.

A. WHAT IS THE RIGHT WAY?

Goal 1. Explain the importance of coming to God through His Son, Jesus.

“Does it really matter how we pray?” some people ask.
 “Don't all religions lead to God?” Jesus said:

John 14:6 “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

So we go to the Father through Jesus, on the basis of what He has done for us. We pray in Jesus' name, presenting His promises. Jesus himself is there to honor the promise, to identify us as authorized to draw on His account. The Bible tells us about this for those who believe in Him:

John 14:13 “And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.”

Hebrews 10:19–22 “Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of

Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us . . . let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith.”

Hebrews 4:14–16 “Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

Application

- 1** Which of these do you mean when you use the words “in Jesus’ name” in your prayers?
- a)** I ask, not because of my goodness but because of what Jesus did for me, making me a child of God.
 - b)** I do not think of what the words mean but just use them from habit.
 - c)** I come to ask for and receive what Jesus has promised me.
 - d)** I belong to Jesus and ask Him to help me.
 - e)** This is something that Jesus would ask for, that will advance His cause, that will please Him, so I ask for it in His name.
 - f)** The words are like a magic formula that are supposed to make our prayers heard.
 - g)** Jesus, as my High Priest, please ask the Father for this in Your Name.
 - h)** I pray this way because Jesus told us to. I really do not know what the words mean.
- 2** Hebrews 10:19–22 teaches that we have freedom to approach God because of the
- a)** death of Jesus on the Cross.
 - b)** sincere repentance we show.
 - c)** prayers of the saints.
-



B. ATTITUDES FOR PRAYER

Goal 2. Follow the biblical teaching about how, when, and where to pray.

Respect, Joy, Thankfulness, Confidence

Thinking about who God is and of His goodness, love, and power makes it easier for us to come to Him with the right attitudes. We come with respect and submission to our Lord and Maker, ready to do whatever He tells us. We come to our Father with joy, thankfulness, and confidence. We know God will hear and answer our prayers because He loves us and because He has promised to give us what we need. Jesus has told us about prayer:

Luke 11:9 “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”

When we have truly prayed and have heard God speak to us or have seen Him answer, we learn from experience that He does hear and answer prayer. This strengthens our faith. Sometimes we have to wait with patience, but we can trust and thank God for the answer that will come.

God has no favorites. He loves everyone and welcomes us all. The apostle Peter learned this by experience and said:

Acts 10:34–35 “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.”

Humility and Repentance

Jesus told of two men to illustrate the right and wrong attitudes in prayer:

Luke 18:10–14 “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts

himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Pride and a critical attitude toward others are sins. And sin separates us from the presence and blessing of God. The Pharisee was shutting the door in his own face. But repentance (being sorry for the wrong we have done and wanting to stop doing anything that is wrong) opens the door for us to receive forgiveness and God’s blessing. Humility is the opposite of pride. The tax collector knew he was a sinner and acknowledged it. He knew he did not deserve God’s blessing, but he came asking for mercy. And God forgave him.

Forgiving and Loving Others

Hatred, resentment, and unwillingness to forgive those who have wronged us will close the door between God and us. Jesus said:

Matthew 6:14–15 ““For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.””

If we have done someone else wrong, Jesus teaches us that we should make it right and ask forgiveness. We should be careful to treat others with love and kindness in our home, at work, or wherever we are. Harsh attitudes hinder prayer.

Matthew 5:23–24 “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.”

Estela, a young Peruvian school teacher, was praying for God to fill her with the Holy Spirit. As she prayed, God brought to her mind the resentment she felt against a certain person. “Lord,” she prayed, “I forgive her. Please forgive me for holding resentment against her. Tomorrow I will write her a letter and ask her to forgive me.” Immediately a deep joy and peace filled Estela and she praised God as He answered prayer and filled her with His Spirit.

Sincerity and Earnestness

Mean what you say when you pray. Too often we simply say a prayer without thinking about what we are saying. Jesus had a great deal to say about this.

Application

3 Below is a list of attitudes. Underline each one you want to have when you pray.

Joyfulness	Sincerity	Pride
Listening	Earnestness	Praise
Thankfulness	Repentance	Love
Forgiveness	Confidence	Humility
Worship	Obedience	Respect

C. WHERE TO PRAY

Goal 3. Discuss what the Bible says about when and where to pray.

God is everywhere; so, wherever we are God will hear us and answer. However, we learn in the Bible that there are special places of prayer. For instance, our churches, like God's temple in Jerusalem, have been dedicated to God as His house where we go to meet with Him. Churches are special places of worship.

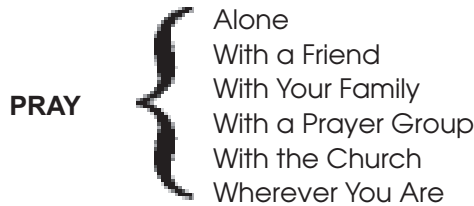
Mark 11:17 Jesus said, “Is it not written: “My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations?””

Jesus taught that the place was not as important as the attitude, but He also said we should pray privately at home. We follow this principle when we pray silently within ourselves, but it is good to have a place where we can get alone with God regularly. There we can think and listen quietly for the voice of God when we pray.

Matthew 6:6 “But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

God shows us in His Word that we should pray with others too. You may do this with a friend who is willing to be a prayer partner with you. If possible, pray with your family. In many places prayer groups meet in homes or in other convenient places. We read about one such group in the book of Acts, a women’s group that met down by the river. Then of course, you will have a special opportunity to worship God as you join together with other believers in His house.

The Bible teaches that there are many times and situations when we can grow through the blessing of prayer. So, pray wherever you are.



Application

4 You have just read a list of six places or situations where you can pray. Write the list in your notebook, then describe the special benefit each situation has. Are you receiving these benefits by using all your opportunities to pray?

D. IN WHAT POSITION?

Goal 4. Describe what the Bible says about physical positions for prayer.

In the Bible people sometimes stood to pray, showing respect and reverence. Sometimes they knelt, as they might before a king to show their respect, submission, and willingness to obey his orders. The psalmist spoke of praying in bed during the night. We read, also, that David “sat before the Lord,” and the 120 believers were sitting when the Holy Spirit filled them on the Day of Pentecost. If we are praying for a long time, it is important to be comfortable and relaxed, thinking about God instead of about how uncomfortable we are. Sometimes, though,

we may want to stand up and walk about in order to stay awake when we pray.

Some pray with closed eyes to shut out any sights that would distract their attention from God. Some lift their eyes toward heaven in prayer as Jesus did. Sometimes we bow our heads and clasp our hands in an attitude of worship and of earnest request. Sometimes we take the hand of the person with whom we are praying, uniting our prayers in agreement. As people did in Bible, we also lift our hands to God in praise. We may place our hands on the person for whom we are praying, trusting that God will use our hands as His to heal or encourage the person.

Psalm 95:6 “Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.”

Psalm 134:2 “Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the LORD.”

Application

5 The examples of prayer in the Bible show us that when we pray, we

- a)** must kneel down and bow our heads.
- b)** may be in any position.
- c)** need to close our eyes.



E. IN WHAT PATTERN?

Goal 5. Analyze the Lord’s Prayer as a pattern for our progress.

Jesus has given the best pattern for our prayers as well as wonderful teachings about prayer. We call it “The Lord’s Prayer” and use it in two ways: 1) as a prayer that we memorize and repeat, and 2) as a pattern for other prayers.

Matthew 6:9–13 “This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’”

You may be used to a different translation of this prayer. Some of the ancient manuscripts include the words, “for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.” We begin and end our prayer with recognition of who God is and looking forward to the time when He will establish His perfect rule on earth. *Amen* means “may it be so.”

In this model prayer, Jesus tells us to pray “Our Father in heaven.” God is the One to whom we pray. We come with confidence as His children to talk with Him about our needs. We come respectfully, praying that His name may be honored.

One of the first and most important things for us to pray about in every circumstance is for God’s will to be done—that He may do what He knows is best. As we let Him guide us in prayer, He will impress on our minds what to pray for. We cooperate with Him as we pray in His will for those things that are best for our family, our nation, and the church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our heavenly Father loves us and wants to give us whatever we need for each day—the work to earn our food, the strength and health to work, the wisdom, the right relationships, shelter, clothing—He tells us to ask for it.

We are to pray for God to forgive us for anything that we have done wrong. This includes getting rid of any bad feelings that we may have toward anyone else. It also means that we stop doing what is wrong. We ask for God’s help to do right, along with His forgiveness for our faults and failures.

We pray for God to guide and help us resist temptation. We ask to be kept safe from the power of Satan, the tempter, the evil one, the enemy of God and of our souls. This may include deliverance from his attacks: from doubts, fears, wrong attitudes, sickness, discouragement, anything that would hinder us from doing God’s will.

We close our prayer by reminding ourselves that God is in control. He will give the victory. His power is sufficient for all our need. And someday we will see Him and live with Him forever in His perfect kingdom. His is the glory forever, Amen!

Application

6 Read “The Lord’s Prayer” line by line. Think about the meaning of each line and talk to God about how the words apply to you.

7 Now pray, using each line as your pattern. You may begin like this: “My Father in heaven, may I bring honor to Your name today in all that I do. May I follow Your will and trust You for my daily needs”

8 If you have not memorized the Lord’s Prayer yet, learn it now. If the congregation in your church prays it together, learn that version so you can pray it also.



Check Your Answers

- 4** Your answer. Learning to pray in all kinds of different situations will cause your relationship with your heavenly Father to grow stronger.
- 1** Answers a), c), d), e), and g) are all good ones. When you pray in Jesus' name, think of them. Too often, we could give answers b), f), or h). Answer f) is, of course, completely wrong.
- 5** **b)** may be in any position.
- 2** **a)** death of Jesus on the Cross.
- 3** Your answer. The attitude of pride is the only one you should avoid. These lessons will help you develop the right attitudes.

LESSON 3 Listen to God When You Pray

Has God ever spoken to you? The Bible records several times when God spoke to different people. He spoke to a boy named Samuel, calling his name in the night and giving him a message for the priest, Eli. He spoke to a woman named Hagar, telling her not to be afraid and showing her where to find water in the desert. Samuel and Hagar both heard God's voice.

But though God does not always speak out loud as He did to Samuel and Hagar, He always speaks! He has many things to say to those who will listen.

Too often, our prayers are one-sided, where we do all the talking! We must learn to pay attention to God and what He might be saying to us when we pray. If we do this, we will discover how to become partners with Him. He will guide us and let us have a part in His work.

You belong to God's family! He has given you the wonderful blessing of His love and He wants to speak to you. In this lesson, you will learn about the ways God may speak and how you can hear Him.

The Plan

- A. God Wants to Talk with You
- B. How God Speaks to You
- C. How to Hear God Speak
- D. Do What God Tells You

The Goals

1. Identify the importance of listening to God in prayer.
2. Describe how God speaks to us in prayer.
3. Name several ways to hear God speak to us.
4. Act on God’s leading in prayer.

A. GOD WANTS TO TALK WITH YOU

Goal 1. Identify the importance of listening to God in prayer.

There are many Bible passages that tell us to listen to God. Most of them carry the idea that we are not only to hear what He says but also to do what He tells us.

Isaiah 55:3 “Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David.”

Revelation 3:13 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Application

1 Suppose that you are a father. Your son comes to you for help and tells you about his problem, but he does not listen to a word you say to him. You want to help but he runs away before you can answer. How would you feel about it? What would you do? Are your prayers ever like that? Talk with God about it.

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B. HOW GOD SPEAKS TO YOU

Goal 2. Describe how God speaks to us in prayer.

God reveals himself—speaks to people and lets them know Him, in many ways. He speaks through nature, letting us know something of His wisdom, power, and goodness as we look at the world He has made. Our experience of His care brings us His message, “I love you.” He speaks through circumstances. He speaks through His church and its ministries. He speaks through visions, dreams, and messages spoken under the direction of the Holy Spirit. He speaks through the advice and encouragement that we receive from other Christians. He speaks through history and through what is happening in the world today. He speaks silently to our conscience and inner being that we call our spirit. He impresses His thoughts on our mind. And He speaks to us through His written Word.

Isaiah 30:21 “Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, ‘This is the way; walk in it.’”

Matthew 3:17 “And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.’”

Acts 2:17 “‘In the last days,’ God says, ‘I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.’”


Of course, not *every* thought that comes to our mind when we are praying is the voice of God. Neither is every dream or vision. Some of these are simply our own thoughts. Most dreams are just a mixture of the many impressions stored in our subconscious mind. But God *does* use these means sometimes to speak to us.

Application

2 Suppose you have a friend who is praying for the Lord to lead him about whether or not to go to a certain city to work. Every time he thinks about it, he feels uneasy. What answer is the Lord probably giving him? Which Bible verse above does this illustrate?

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C. HOW TO HEAR GOD SPEAK

Goal 3. Name several ways to hear God speak to us.

When you talk with God, expect Him to respond. Listen for the answer. Pay special attention to the first thoughts that come to your mind after you speak to God about a matter. Often these thoughts are from the Lord. They may be the words of a Bible verse and a flash of insight into how they apply to you. Or you may feel peace about a problem you have prayed about. God is assuring you that He has heard and will work things out. Thank Him for it and wait silently to see if He impresses on your mind something that you should do about it.

Pray and listen for God's voice whenever you read the Bible. You will find that the promises or instructions about what to do are found in the pages of this wonderful book. Ask God to speak to you through His Word. Sometimes as you think about a verse it will open up a message on the subject. This may be for your benefit, or it may be a message that God wants you to share with someone. Write down some of the thoughts God gives you. Keep thinking about them. God will use you as His witness or messenger.

The Word of God in the Bible is our final authority. God will not tell us something that is contrary to His written Word. So everything that we take as the voice of God must be examined and judged in the light of what the Bible teaches. This will help us to know the difference between our thoughts and the impressions or message that God gives us.

It is good to consult with mature Christians, too, about what we feel to be the leading of the Lord. Those who have more experience in interpreting the Word of God can help us. We need one another’s help through the church. God often uses a sermon, a testimony, or someone else’s advice to confirm what He has told us personally. This is all part of the Bible pattern. Even the apostles of Jesus consulted one another about the will of God and looked to Him for guidance until they could recognize clearly what God wanted them to do.

Application

3 Name the two main ways in which God speaks to us when we are praying.

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4 What is the final authority by which we must test any revelation or message?

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D. DO WHAT GOD TELLS YOU

Goal 4. Act on God’s leading in prayer.

When we have heard from the Lord and He has told us what to do, our part is to obey! Only as we obey God is He really Lord in our lives. We honor Jesus as Lord by filling our minds with His teachings and doing what He says. Jesus said:

Luke 6:46 “Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?”

The Bible emphasizes two things we need to come to God with confidence and see our prayers answered: 1) Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ; 2) Love everybody.

1 John 3:19–24 “This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.”

The Bible gives general instructions from God about what we are to do. The Holy Spirit shows us how these apply to our circumstances. He brings to our minds the words we need at any particular moment. God is speaking to us, and it is our privilege to listen to what He has to say.

Let us act on the special instructions God gives us. They may be something like this: “Be patient and trust Me; I will work it all out.” Or, “Forgive and forget the harsh words of your spouse. Show her that you love her by fixing something special for her.” “Remember the quarrel that you had with your neighbor. Apologize to him.” “The bill that you owe at Ron’s store is keeping me from blessing you as much as I want to.” “Invite the Bakers to dinner and tell them about my love.”

As we listen and act on such messages from the Lord, it will be easier to recognize His voice in other matters too. We need both courage and humility as we learn to act on what God tells us. We have already mentioned that we test impressions or messages by God’s written Word. We also consult with other Christians, perhaps with our pastor or a mature, spiritual Christian who can pray with us and help us know what God’s will is. We must be humble and ready to take advice from others, or correction if we have made a mistake. God wants us to work together in harmony in the church and home. Sometimes, He tells us what to do but not when or how to do it. He leads us step by step. We prepare for what He wants us to do and then recognize the opportunity when it comes.

So, listen to God when you pray. Two-way conversations with Him can be enjoyed at any time, wherever you are. Life becomes a series of exciting adventures with God as you follow His instructions. You will see God do great things in answer to prayer.

Application

5 Write in your notebook something that you have heard God say to you through each of these: a) nature, b) the Bible, c) thoughts.

6 Pray and listen to God now, then write down what He tells you. Act on what He says.

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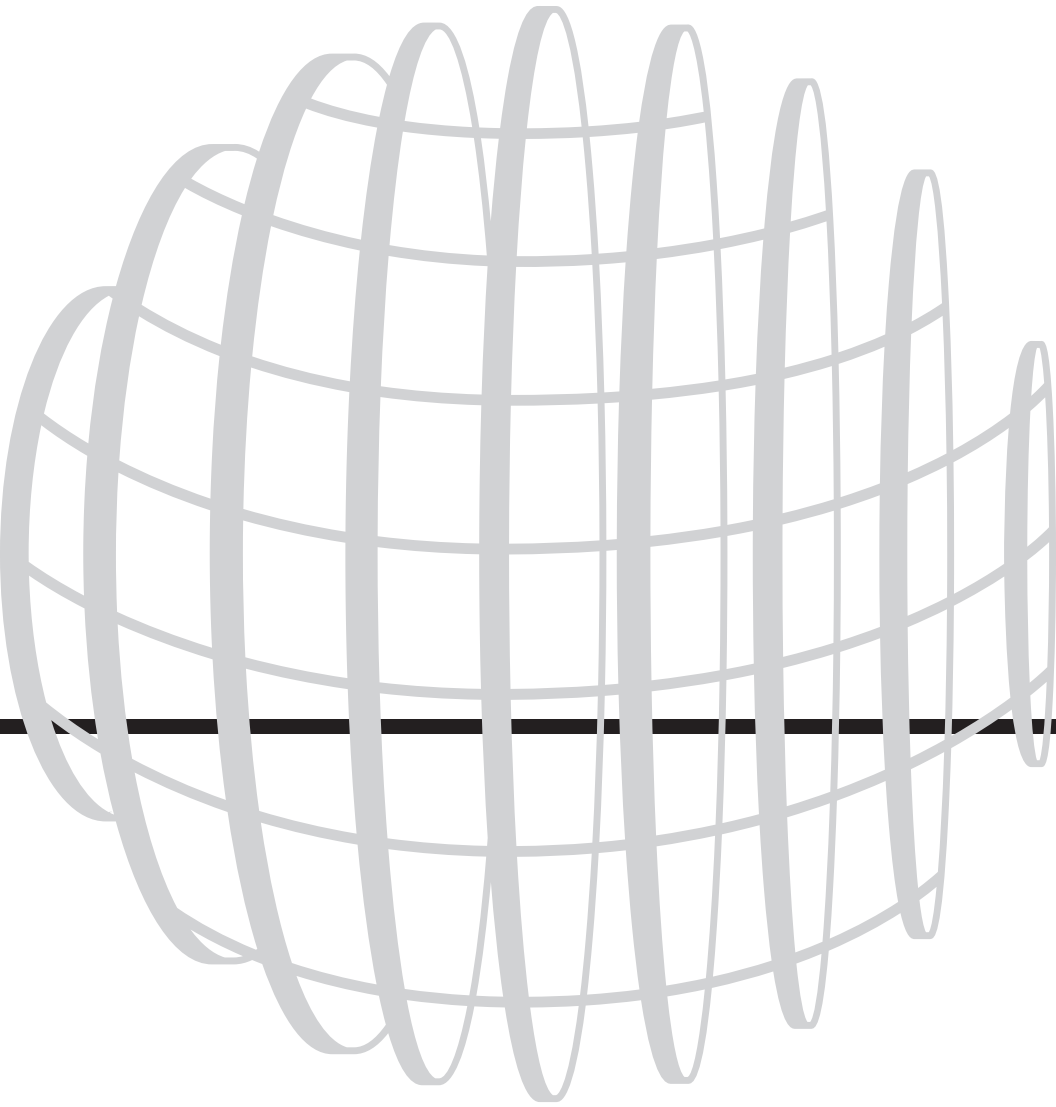


Now that you have completed the first unit, you are ready to answer the Unit 1 Evaluation. Review the previous lessons, then follow the directions on the Unit One Answer Sheet. You should complete and send your answer sheets to your instructor for corrections.

Check Your Answers

4 The Bible

- 1** You would not like it, would you? You would call, “Wait a minute! Listen to me! How can I help you if you won’t listen?” Perhaps we are all guilty of praying and running.
- 5** Your answer. God has probably spoken to you through nature, showing you His wisdom, power, and care for His creation. If you have not already heard God speaking through the Bible or directly to you, begin listening each time you read the Bible and pray. Memorizing Bible verses will also make them available for the Lord to bring them to your memory when He wants to use them.
- 2** Probably, “Don’t go!” God often speaks to us through peace and assurance when something is His will, or in an uneasy and troubled feeling about it when it is not His will. This illustrates Isaiah 30:21.
- 6** Your answer. These lessons will help you to the extent that you put the truths into practice. May God bless you as you do.
- 3** By thoughts that He impresses on our mind and through something in the Bible



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Unit

Lessons

- 4 Use God's Word When You Pray**
- 5 Think About Others When You Pray**
- 6 Join With Others When You Pray**
- 7 Let the Holy Spirit Help You**

LESSON 4 Use God's Word When You Pray

Almost everything we do must be with faith, for life is built on faith. We eat food, believing that it will nourish us. We send letters, believing that the postal system will deliver them to people in other towns and cities. We go to see a friend, believing that he will keep his promise to meet us.

The Christian life is also built on faith. We believe God loves us and cares about our problems, so we pray to Him with confidence, expecting Him to answer.

But why should we believe that God loves us? We believe He does because He says so in His Word, the Bible. God's Word is completely reliable and dependable, just as He is. If it says He loves us, He does! When He invites us to pray, He means it!

This lesson explains ways in which the Bible helps you when you pray. You will learn how to study it, use it when you pray, and put its promises into action.

The Plan

- A. Use the Bible as Your Guide
- B. Strengthen Your Faith with the Bible
- C. Use Bible Verses When You Pray
- D. Act in Faith on God's Promises

The Goals

- 1. State the importance of using God's Word as your guide.
- 2. Discuss the importance of faith as an aspect of our Christian experience.
- 3. Identify the importance of depending on the promises of God's Word.
- 4. Describe ways to act on God's promises.

A. USE THE BIBLE AS YOUR GUIDE

Goal 1. State the importance of using God's Word as your guide.

Jesus said there is a direct link between His words and our prayers.

John 15:7 "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you."

This wonderful promise teaches us that the answer to our prayers may depend on what part the Word of God has in our lives. We must think about what the Bible says and let it guide us in our prayers. We follow the Bible teachings about how to pray, and let God speak to us through His Word when we pray. Praying with others, reading from the Bible, and talking about what we have read make God's presence more real to us.

The Bible teaches us God's will for our lives and lets us know we must pray for His will to be done. We must pray for what will honor God and what will be best for others too, not just for what we want or for selfish pleasure.

James 4:2–3 "You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You

quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.”

Matthew 26:41 “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”

Many of the prayers in the Bible are a good guide for us. We may pour out our soul in the words of David’s cry for forgiveness or in Jesus’ anguished prayer of submission just before He went to the Cross.

Psalms 51:1 “Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.”

Psalms 51:10 “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”

Matthew 26:39 “Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, ‘My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.’”

If we want our prayers to be effective, then let us fill our minds with God’s Word. As it remains in us, we can ask and receive answers to our prayers.

Application

1 Write John 15:7 from memory in your notebook. What do you think Jesus meant by if “my words remain in you”?

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2 How does the Bible guide you in prayer?.....

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B. STRENGTHEN YOUR FAITH WITH THE BIBLE

Goal 2. Discuss the importance of faith as an aspect of our Christian experience.

Have you ever said, “I wish I had more faith,” or “I just don’t have any faith”? But you do already have some faith! Everyone does. At the beginning of this lesson, I said that many of the ordinary things we do each day are built on faith.

Now that you are a Christian, though, you have a new kind of faith. This faith is belief in God, a Person you have not seen. This faith is the foundation of your new life.

Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”

God himself gives us faith—the confidence that He will do what He has promised. He works through His Word to strengthen our faith, and we cooperate with Him in this. Our faith grows as we read about these wonderful things that happen to others. We think about God’s love for us and realize that what He did for people in the Bible He could do for us today.

Hebrews 12:2 “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Romans 12:3 “For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.”

Romans 10:17 “Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.”

In Romans 10:17, we are reminded that it is not just reading and thinking about God’s Word that brings faith. Hearing it preached strengthens our faith. So we go to church services and listen to gospel broadcasts when we can. The sermons, songs, and testimonies about Jesus, the Son of God, strengthen our faith in Him.

We do not understand everything about it, but we know that God works through our faith. Unbelief hinders His work in us.

Matthew 13:58 “And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.”

Mark 9:23 ““Everything is possible for him who believes.””

Matthew 9:20–22 “Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. She said to herself, ‘If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed.’ Jesus turned and saw her. ‘Take heart, daughter,’ he said, ‘your faith has healed you.’ And the woman was healed from that moment.”

Matthew 9:28–30 “When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, ‘Do you believe that I am able to do this?’ ‘Yes, Lord,’ they replied. Then he touched their eyes and said, ‘According to your faith will it be done to you’; and their sight was restored.”

Application

3 Give an example to show that everyone has some faith.

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4 According to Hebrews 12:2 and Romans 12:3, where does our faith come from to believe in God and trust His promises?

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5 How does faith come according to Romans 10:17? What does this suggest to you about what you should do?

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C. USE BIBLE VERSES WHEN YOU PRAY

Goal 3. Identify the importance of depending on the promises of God's Word.

God's promises to His children are like checks or bank drafts on the bank of heaven. We have them in the Bible (our checkbook) and just have to present them for payment. God's account is never overdrawn, so we can present these verses to God when we pray and know that He will honor the signature of His Son on them. God is completely faithful to His promises.

BANK OF HEAVEN

Pay to the order of *Every Believer*
 the sum of *all he or she needs*

God's Word is filled with promises that meet our spiritual and physical needs. Because Jesus changed people, fed, and healed them, we know that He is concerned about all our needs. He promises comfort for our grief, companionship for our loneliness, forgiveness of sin, deliverance from bad habits, and everything else we need.

Philippians 4:19 "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

King David, head of the royal line from which our Lord Jesus came in His human nature, gives an example of how we can make God's promises a part of our prayers.

2 Samuel 7:25–29 "And now, LORD God, keep forever the promise you have made concerning your servant and his house. Do as you promised, so that your name will be great forever. Then men will say, 'The LORD Almighty is God over Israel!' And the house of your servant David will be established before you. 'O LORD Almighty, God of Israel, you have revealed this to your servant, saying, "I will build a house for you." So your servant has found courage to offer you this prayer. O Sovereign LORD, you are God! Your words are trustworthy, and you have promised these good things to your servant. Now be pleased to bless the house of your servant, that it may continue forever in your sight; for you, O Sovereign LORD, have spoken, and with your blessing the house of your servant will be blessed forever.'"

You can pray a similar prayer for any member of your family who does not believe in Jesus or has not accepted Him as personal Savior.

Father, I thank You because You love my (fill in the relationship and name) _____ who does not yet know You. In Acts 16:31, Paul and Silas told a jailer, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” I do believe in the Lord Jesus and am asking for all of my family to be saved.

Please help _____ to believe in Jesus. Use me to help him (her). Tell me what I should do and help me to do it. Thank you for answering this prayer. I know that what you did for the jailer you will do for me too, and I do thank you for it. I ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Application

6 Make out a “Bank of Heaven” check in your notebook like the example given. Fill in your name after *Pay to the order of*. Then after *the sum of* write a need that you want God to meet. Talk with Him about it, quoting Philippians 4:19.

7 If any members of your family are not yet believers in Jesus, fill in the blanks in the prayer based on Acts 16:31.

8 Memorize Philippians 4:19 and quote it in your prayers. Does it make you feel a stronger assurance (faith) for the answer?

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D. ACT IN FAITH ON GOD’S PROMISES

Goal 4. Describe ways to act on God’s promises.

Prepare for the Answer

The director of a Bible institute and his wife were praying for the Lord to give them some cows to provide milk that the

students needed. They had plenty of pasture land for cows, but some of the fences were down or needed repairing. One day the Lord spoke to them in their thoughts: "Where would you put the cows you are praying for? If you expect Me to answer, get ready. Fix the fences." So they had the fences repaired. A few days after the work was finished, God provided the cows.

A sick man who had not been able to leave his bed for a long time asked the pastor to come and pray for his healing. He told his wife, "Get my clothes ready. I'll be getting up after they pray for me." He did—perfectly well.

Do you have some "fences to fix" to get ready to receive what you have prayed for and God has promised to give you? Go ahead and do your part, believing that the answer is on the way.

Believe and Thank God

Suppose that you are poor, jobless, hungry, and in debt. Then your rich uncle tells you he is going to pay all your debts and give you a job. He gives you a check so you can get the food you need and some clothes. Would you say, "It all sounds wonderful but I must first see if this check is good. If I get the money for it, I will thank you. And when I get my first pay for the job you offered me, I will surely thank you?" Of course not! You would be very happy, believing you actually had what he promised you. Shouldn't we do the same to God! He is happy when we believe and sincerely thank Him for what He offers us even before we have it in our hands. So, praise God for the answer.

Mark 11:24 "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."

James 1:6 "But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind."

Keep on Believing

The story of Abraham (ancestor of both the Arabs and Jews) teaches us to keep on believing. God told Abraham that he would be the father of many nations. But twenty-five years passed, and Abraham had no children.

Romans 4:19–21 "Without weakening in his faith, he [Abraham] faced the fact that his body was as good

as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.”

Abraham’s example teaches us to turn away from the natural view of faith. So stop looking at the problem and focus on the promise. Do not look at your limitations or the mountain of difficulties that block your path. Look to Jesus. Even when everything seems to go wrong, keep trusting and praising God. The mountain of problems cannot keep you from going forward with Jesus. He will either remove them, show you a way through them, or lift you over them. Mountains are no problem to Him.

Matthew 21:21–22 “Jesus replied, ‘I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, “Go, throw yourself into the sea,” and it will be done. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.’”

Accept and Act

When we believe that we receive, we act on it. People who pray for harmful habits to be broken may take a step of faith by throwing away the things that they have asked God to free them from. Those who pray to be used of God step out in faith to do what He tells them to do, trusting in His power to help them. As we start acting on God’s promise, we see it fulfilled. This is the biblical pattern.

James 2:17–18 “In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, ‘You have faith; I have deeds.’ Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.”

Application

9 The titles for this part of the lesson name four ways to act on God's promise when (or after) we pray for something. What are they?

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.....

10 Which of the four ways to act on faith do you plan to use regularly?

.....

11 Write in your notebook something you are praying for, the promise you are claiming, and the four things you are going to do now about it. After you have done them, write the results.



Check Your Answers

- 5** From hearing people preach Christ, from the Word of God. This suggests we should listen to gospel preaching at church or wherever we have the opportunity.
- 1** “If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.” The phrase “my words remain in you” suggests that we must remember what Jesus teaches us and do what He says.
- 6–8** Your answers. I hope that doing these things has helped you.
- 2** It tells you how to come to God and what to pray for. The prayers in the Bible are an example for you.
- 9** Prepare for the answer, believe and thank God, keep on believing, accept and act.
- 3** You might mention the food we eat, the letters we send, the appointments that we keep.
- 10** I hope you will use all four of the above.
- 4** From Jesus, from God.
- 11** May God bless you as you put these things into practice in your prayers.

LESSON 5 Think About Others When You Pray

What do you do when you know of someone who is hurting or in trouble? You would probably say, “I would try to help him.” But what if you are too far away? What if he needs something you do not have? What if he has a difficult problem that is beyond your ability to solve?

In those situations, you can pray. Even when you think you can help someone, you should still pray. He or she may have needs that cannot be seen. As you pray, God may show you those needs and speak to you about how to help.

This lesson explains some of the keys to praying for others. It will help you know what to pray for and how to pray. As you put what you learn into practice, you will be following the examples given in the Bible and will also participate in God’s work in the lives of others.

The Plan

- A. Look at the Needs of Others
- B. Pray for Your Family
- C. Pray for Others
- D. Help Meet the Needs

The Goals

- 1. Identify with individuals who have needs for which you can pray.
- 2. Describe the importance of praying for members of our family.
- 3. Describe how we should pray for others.
- 4. Explain our role in meeting others' needs.

A. LOOK AT THE NEEDS OF OTHERS

Goal 1. Identify with individuals who have needs for which you can pray.

Jesus looked at the people about Him and saw their needs. He felt concern for all those who suffered. He welcomed the poor, the outcasts, the blind, the lepers. Even while the crowds were listening to His teaching, Jesus knew they were hungry and told His disciples to give them something to eat.

Jesus' love for people made Him suffer with those who suffered. The love of God in us will help us to look through Jesus' eyes at those who are blinded by sin, victims of Satan, lost, and headed for eternal suffering. Such love will drive us to prayer, even as it did to Jesus. Jesus even looked at the need of those who mocked Him as He hung on the Cross for their sins. There He cried out,

Luke 23:34 “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

Time and again Jesus was “filled with pity” or “moved with compassion” as He looked at the people's needs. *Compassion* means “suffering with, feeling another's suffering as if it were

your own.” This compassion led Jesus to prayer and work. His miracles were to a great extent the result of His compassion, the manifestation of God’s love in meeting people’s needs.

Matthew 14:14 “When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.”

Some people think only of their problems or interests and do not see the needs of those around them. Worse still, some people see the troubles of others without feeling any concern, pity, or sympathy for those who suffer. We must pray that God will make us more sensitive to the problems of the people around us. Then will God will pour into us His love for the people we are praying for, and we can pray with the compassion of Christ.

Concern for those who have needs produces effective prayers. It brings deep earnestness in intercessory prayer (prayer for others) and produces faith for the answer as we realize God’s concern over the need.

Application

- 1** Copy in your notebook the needs in the chart that follows Luke 11:9 in Lesson 1, page 26. By each one write the name of someone you know who has that need.
- 2** Think of the needs of every person you meet today. Write in your notebook the names and needs of any for whom you feel especially concerned.
- 3** Ask God to help you love people and feel their needs as if they were your own. Pray with compassion for the people on your list.



B. PRAY FOR YOUR FAMILY

Goal 2. Describe the importance of praying for members of our family.

The Bible has many examples of men and women praying for their children and other members of their families. Abraham’s prayers saved his nephew Lot from death when the city of Sodom was destroyed. God answered prayer in the choice of a wife for his son, Isaac. Isaac prayed for God to heal his wife

Rebecca. She prayed for her children before they were born. Manoah prayed that God would let them know how to bring up their son. Job prayed every day for God to keep his children from sinning or to forgive them when they sinned. Parents took their babies to the temple and dedicated them to God. Mothers took their children to Jesus for His blessing and for healing.

Throughout the Bible God wants the whole family to serve Him together and enjoy His blessing on their home. If any members of your family have not yet accepted Christ as Savior, your most important prayer for them is their salvation. Here is a wonderful Bible verse that tells what we may expect if we believe.

Acts 16:31 ““Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.””

This is a verse to memorize and quote when we pray for the salvation of our family. This strengthens our faith as we remind ourselves that God wants the whole family to believe and be saved. By faith we can claim their salvation.

Love for our families should make us patient and kind with them even when they strongly oppose the gospel. Of course, Satan does not want our family and friends to be saved. Sometimes the more we pray for them, the more they seem to rebel against the things of God. Therefore, it is important that we: 1) keep on praying and praising God in faith for the answer, 2) be patient, 3) show them that we love them, and 4) obey the Lord as He shows us how to witness to them or pray with them.

Prayer + Patience+ Love + Obedience = Results

Application

4 Mark an X beside any prayers for the family that we find examples of in the Bible.

-**a**) Food for the day
-**b**) Healing
-**c**) Guidance in rearing children
-**d**) Protection
-**e**) Forgiveness for sin
-**f**) Protection against sinning
-**g**) Dedication of children
-**h**) Blessings for children
-**i**) Guidance in choice of a spouse

In the exercise above underline any prayers that you have made for any member of your family. Place an X *after* any that you plan to talk to God about now.

5 In your notebook, list the names of your family and relatives. Ask God to help you recognize and feel their needs. As He helps you see them, write the needs beside the name of each one, then pray for them each day. As God answers your prayers, write the date when the need was met. If you have no family or relatives, you may want to do this for some other family or friends.

6 Memorize Acts 16:31 and quote it as you pray for the salvation of your family (or for the family of any Christian friends).

C. PRAY FOR OTHERS

Goal 3. Describe how we should pray for others.

What a privilege we have in working with God to help others through prayer. People everywhere need encouragement and help. Consider the schoolteacher, church leaders, government officials. They, too, need God's help. We pray for our nation and

for others, for all those who suffer, for those who need Christ, for new converts, and God's people everywhere. God is concerned about every human need and has a solution for every problem. We work as His partners by sharing His concern, taking people's needs to Him, listening to His instructions, then doing what He tells us to do. His Word shows us how to pray for others.

1 Timothy 2:1–4 “I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”

Matthew 5:44 “I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”

Jeremiah 37:3 “King Zedekiah, however, sent Jehucal son of Shelemiah with the priest Zephaniah son of Maaseiah to Jeremiah the prophet with this message: ‘Please pray to the LORD our God for us.’”

Psalms 122:6 “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: ‘May those who love you be secure.’”

Jeremiah 42:3 “Pray that the LORD your God will tell us where we should go and what we should do.”

2 Thessalonians 3:1–2 “Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you. And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men, for not everyone has faith.”

James 5:13–16 “Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”

The oil mentioned here had no power to heal, but it represented the Holy Spirit who would do the work. In Bible

times, oil was placed on a person's head when dedicating him to God and His service. Prayer for healing included confession of faults and dedication to God. Many people today tell how God healed them of even incurable diseases as they obeyed His instructions in James 5:13–16.

Let us pray together now:

Our heavenly Father, we love You because You are worthy of our worship and love. You are the all powerful God, Creator of all things, here with us now and inviting us to pray.

You see all of our faults and failures. We confess them to you. We ask You to forgive us and to help us do what You want us to do. Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, to save us from our sins. Thank you for making us Your children. So we come to You with joy to be partners with You in prayer for others.

Bless our families and meet each person's need. Please show us how we can help each one. Some of them need Your salvation. Help us tell them about You and show them Your love in all we do and say.

We pray for the leaders of our nation and of other nations. Give them wisdom. Help them to know and serve You. Bring Your peace to the world. Provide food for the hungry, health for the sick, and freedom for those who are oppressed.

We pray for our friends and fellow Christians, for our pastors and churches. We pray for Your people and Your work in every land, that Your kingdom may come and Your will may be done in earth as it is in heaven. Help us to do our part that this may be so. We ask in Jesus' name and for Your glory. Amen.

Application

7 Read carefully again the Bible verses in this part of the lesson, asking God to show you any area that you may have neglected in your prayers. Write in your notebook whatever He tells you to do about it.

8 Pray the preceding prayer again. Make each part definite instead of general: “I love you . . . my faults (name them) . . . my family (name them and pray for their special needs).” Name the leaders you are praying for. Mention any specific problems, the special areas of need. And thank God for the privilege of helping through prayer.



D. HELP MEET THE NEEDS

Goal 4. Explain our role in meeting others’ needs.

God sets many forces into motion in order to answer prayer and meet human needs. First, He helps us see a need and shares with us His concern about it. Then He shows us how to pray about it and gives us faith for the answer. He lets us know what He wants us to do and helps us to do it so that we will have the blessing of working with Him as partners. God also works in other people and in supernatural ways to do what would be humanly impossible. He even sends His angels to work out His will and answer our prayers.

HOW GOD ANSWERS PRAYER	
Tells us what to do	Works in circumstances
Tells others what to do	Works in us
Tells angels what to do	Defeats the evil powers
Works in nature	Works miracles

Jesus’ miracle of feeding the 5,000 shows us one way we can help Him answer prayer. He prayed over a boy’s lunch, multiplied it, and put it in the hands of the disciples to share it with the crowd. The boy could have eaten it. The disciples could have eaten it. But because they gave it to others the miracle took place. As they shared, God multiplied it until everyone had plenty to eat and twelve baskets full were left over. We, too, must do more than pray for the needs of those who are hungry—either for natural bread or for the Bread of life. God will bless us and supply all of our needs too as we pray and share with others. Jesus said,

Luke 6:38 “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

The book of Nehemiah is an inspiring personal testimony of how God works in the person who prays, in others, and in circumstances to answer prayer. Nehemiah, in exile in Babylon, had a good position as a trusted servant of the emperor. But he was concerned for the needs of others, especially those of his countrymen who had returned to Jerusalem. When his brother brought him news of all the trouble there, Nehemiah responded:

Nehemiah 1:4 “When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.”

Nehemiah prayed about the walls that needed to be rebuilt to protect the people from their enemies, and God put in his heart a plan to do something about the need. Nehemiah felt so concerned that the emperor noticed it and asked why he was sad. Nehemiah was afraid because no one was supposed to look sad in the presence of the emperor. He could be punished or lose his life for displeasing the emperor. But Nehemiah sent a quick, silent prayer up to God and took the opportunity to speak to the emperor about the needs of his country. Nehemiah had prayed, “Give me success today and make the emperor merciful to me.” And God did exactly that. Instead of being displeased, the emperor discussed the problem with Nehemiah.

Nehemiah 2:4–6 “The king said to me, ‘What is it you want?’ Then I prayed to the God of heaven, and I answered the king, ‘If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it.’ Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, ‘How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?’ It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time.”

What a thrill! The emperor becomes a partner in Nehemiah’s project as God answers prayer. He gives Nehemiah a leave of absence, authorization, supplies, and a military escort to protect him.


God helped Nehemiah time after time in answer to prayer. He rebuilt the walls and served as governor in Jerusalem. Nehemiah gives his secret of success in the words, “Because God is with me.” We might also say that great things were accomplished

through his prayers because he was willing to be a partner with God in answering them.

Application

- 9** Nehemiah is a good example of praying for others because he
- a)** had a good position and influence in the government.
 - b)** made specific requests and was ready to act.
 - c)** trusted the emperor as an enemy of God.

10 Review the needs you have written in your notebook and have prayed for in this lesson. Ask God to show you what He wants you to do about them. Listen for His answer. Write in your notebook any ideas that He gives you about how He wants you to help answer your prayers. Then take the opportunities He gives you.



Check Your Answers

9 b) made specific requests and was ready to act. Phrase c) is false. Though Nehemiah was in exile, he did not look at the emperor as an obstacle to the solution but as a potential partner.

4 All of these examples are in the Bible.

The other exercises in this lesson are actual practice in prayer. I hope that they have helped you.

LESSON 6 Join With Others When You Pray

Have you discovered the blessings that come from praying with other Christians? Have you made it a practice to gather your family together for prayer to thank God for His goodness and to bring your needs to Him? Do you attend the prayer meetings of your church?

God draws His people closer together when they share their joys and concerns. His plan is for them to understand and care about the needs of others. We experience many blessings when we follow His plan. What a deep sense of friendship we have when we can lift the burden from a brother or sister's heart through prayer. Our faith is made stronger as we encourage each other to trust God's promises.

This lesson explains the principles of praying with others and gives us this kind of prayer from the Bible. As you apply the principles you learn, your spiritual life will become richer and more full. You will feel a stronger bond—both with your heavenly Father and with the brothers and sisters who are part of His family.

The Plan

- A. Pray With a Friend
- B. Pray With Your Family
- C. Pray With a Prayer Group
- D. Pray With the Church

The Goals

- 1. Take advantage of opportunities to pray with others.
- 2. Initiate a pattern for family prayers.
- 3. Describe how to start a prayer group.
- 4. Identify needs in your church for which you can pray.

A. PRAY WITH A FRIEND

Goal 1. Take advantage of opportunities to pray with others.

Jesus has promised to be with us in a special way wherever two or three meet together in His name. Like the two disciples on the road to Emmaus to whom the risen Christ appeared as they were talking about Him, you and a friend can sense His presence. He will speak to you through the Scriptures. He is there to bless you, fill you with joy in His presence, and send you to tell others that He is alive.

It was at the dinner table that Jesus let the disciples at Emmaus know who he was. Eating with a friend provides an opportunity to get better acquainted with one another and with the Lord as we talk about what He has done for us. Many Christians invite a friend or friends to dinner to introduce them to Jesus. And He is there!

I hope you have a Christian friend who can be a prayer partner for you, someone you can pray with regularly—daily or at least once a week. It is important to have someone who can agree with you in prayer. This may be someone to help and encourage you or a new Christian who needs your help in prayer. You will certainly want to pray often with any friends whom you lead to the Lord.

The Bible offers promises of Jesus for the two or three that meet together for prayer.

Matthew 18:19–20 “Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”

Application

- 1 Memorize Matthew 18:19–20.
 - 2 Write in your notebook the names of friends with whom you pray individually, or with whom you might pray. If you do not have a prayer partner, see if you can find one.
-

B. PRAY WITH YOUR FAMILY

Goal 2. Initiate a pattern for family prayers.

A Christian home is one of the greatest blessings. In fact, it can be a little bit of heaven on earth as the whole family worships and serves God together! If your family knows the Lord, they should enjoy with you the spiritual growth and benefits that come through family prayers every day. During these times of daily prayer, which are sometimes called “family devotions,” the parents should lead. The husband as the head of the home should lead with his wife. If only one parent in the home is a Christian, that parent should gather the children and pray with them each day, being careful to do so with gentleness and consideration.

Though parents should lead the family devotions, any member of a Christian home can ask the others to read the Bible and pray. A Christian family also prays together at their meals, thanking God for the food and asking Him to bless it.

1 Timothy 4:3–4 “They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving.”

How wonderful it is when children are taught to pray for one another and for any needs in the home. They can go to their parents at any moment and have them pray for their problems. And they form a lifelong habit of recognizing God's provisions and looking to Him for guidance and help. The family that prays together strengthens the ties of love that bind them together. Life is smoother because they pray over family relationships and God answers.

PRAY

FOR the Family

Salvation for All
Family Relationships
Needs of the Family
Individual Needs

WITH the Family

In Family Devotions
At Meals
At Church
With Individuals

In case you want to have family devotions in your home (or want to help some other family to do so) here are some simple suggestions.

Suggestions for Family Devotions

1. Choose a regular time that is most convenient for everyone. Early in the morning is good. Some families have prayers at the breakfast table. Others find the evening more practical.
2. Pray together daily at the same time if possible.
3. Let each member of the family take part. This may be in reading, requests for prayer, comments, and praying.
4. Read a short and easily understood part of the Word of God, especially if there are small children in the family. (You may want to use a Bible storybook with small children.) Many families use daily reading from a devotional book.
5. Let members of the family share any questions or comments on what has been read.
6. Sing a chorus or two of praise and thanksgiving or worship.
7. Give opportunity to mention any special needs or reasons to give thanks.

8. Have a short time of prayer in which one may lead or all may take part. (I suggest short prayers so the family won't get tired and dislike prayer time.)
9. Encourage all to listen for God's voice. Expect Him to speak.
10. Do not get discouraged if there are interruptions and times when it is impossible to have family prayers. Keep on trying. Do not try to follow a set program but adapt it to the circumstances as the Lord leads.

Application

- 3** Talk with other Christians about the value of family prayers, the best time, and a good plan to follow. If you live at home, discuss this with your family. If you already have family prayers, write in your notebook any suggestions for improvement.
 - 4** Name four opportunities to pray with the other members of a family. Which of these are you using or will you use now?
 - 5** If you have the opportunity, start family prayers—even if you begin with one other person.
-

C. PRAY WITH A PRAYER GROUP

Goal 3. Describe how to start a prayer group.

God is working in a wonderful way today in small prayer groups all over the world. Friends gather to study the Bible and pray; God answers prayer as they unite in faith for each one's requests. Unsaved neighbors usually accept an invitation to a friend's home more readily than they would to a church. Many are finding Christ in these home prayer meetings. Miracles of healing are taking place, God is solving problems in family relationships, and thousands are being filled with the Holy Spirit in small prayer groups.

Today's occurrences resemble those of New Testament times. The first Christians met in the Jewish temple and synagogues (Jewish places of public worship) and also in the homes of believers. Later they were persecuted and driven out of the synagogues. But they still had Christ's promise and saw it fulfilled as they met together in small groups. In homes, in caves,

down by the river, in underground caverns among the catacombs, in prison—they prayed together. And God answered prayer!

It was in the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, that Peter first preached the Gospel to people who were not Jews. God filled with the Holy Spirit all who had gathered there and made clear that the gospel was for all people everywhere.

Later, Peter was in prison, sentenced to death. But the believers met in the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark, and prayed earnestly for Peter. Then, an angel brought Peter out of the prison, in response to the prayers of the Christians. This incident demonstrates the power of prayer. Shackles fall off, doors open, and deliverance comes when God's people meet together and pray.

The church at Philippi began in a prayer group. Paul and Silas found a group of women meeting for prayer down by the river. One of the women, Lydia, accepted Christ. She opened her home to Paul and Silas so they could have a base for their work while they were in Philippi. Great things can come out of a women's prayer meeting! The letter that Paul sent to the church at Philippi many years later shows the strength of the Philippian church.

Small groups today are usually very flexible in their program. Some meet weekly in the same home. Others meet in the homes of different members of the group. Others meet in churches, factories, offices, and schools. A group can start with only two or three persons. If there are more than twelve, it will be hard for all to take part as freely as in a smaller group. Many women's groups meet in the morning or afternoon while the men are at work and the children are in school. Mixed groups (men and women) usually meet in the evening. Some have refreshments and a time of fellowship after prayers. Others do not. Some are prayer breakfasts or luncheons held in a hotel or restaurant.

The persons in charge of a prayer group should consider the circumstances and the responsibilities of those who attend. If the meeting is too long, some will not be able to attend because of duties at home. Duties should not be neglected. Some may lose interest if the meeting is too long. However, some groups are able to put everything else aside and spend hours in communion with God. If some members have to leave early, they are free to do so. When God is working miracles, transforming lives, and filling people with His Spirit, the time seems short.

The suggestions in this lesson for family devotions can be helpful for leading a prayer group. In general, these are good steps:

1. Begin with a short time of singing. This helps focus our thoughts on God and His goodness and encourages faith.
2. Have a brief time of reading and sharing in the Word of God. This may be a Bible study with a teacher, or each one may give a Bible verse and tell how it has helped him or her.
3. Have reports about prayers that have been answered. In this way, each one can thank God for what He has done and all are encouraged to pray for other needs.
4. Encourage those who have special needs or requests for prayer to share them with the group.
5. Encourage all to take part in praying for the needs and for others as the Lord leads.


Some prayer groups are part of the program of a local church. Through them, many people can have personal experiences of belonging to the family of God. A church in Seoul, Korea, for example, grew from 23,000 members to 35,000 in just one year because of the prayer groups that were started. The groups were organized into basic units of ten people each, and they met once each week in homes all over the city. The results were amazing: conversions, miracles, growth! Today, this church is still growing as its prayer cells continue to meet and multiply.

In other areas, people from different church backgrounds meet in groups. God transforms lives, revives churches, and brings greater unity in the body of Christ as His people pray together.

Application

6 What prayer groups are in your area? List in your notebook any that you know of, when they meet, and where. Underline those that you would recommend to a friend living in your neighborhood. Pray for the groups.

7 If there is no prayer group in your neighborhood, pray about the possibility. Write in your notebook whatever the Lord says to you about the possibilities—where to meet, whom to invite, the time, how to start. Do whatever He tells you to do.



D. PRAY WITH THE CHURCH

Goal 4. Identify needs in your church for which you can pray.

The prayer-group movement is wonderful, but the church is more than prayer groups. The church must take Christ to the world, establish Christians in the faith, train them for service, and help them in their daily life and work for God. We may find great blessings, friendships, and ministry in prayer groups, but we also need to take part in a local church. And those whom we lead to Christ in the prayer groups should also be led into the fellowship of a local church. They need its ministry and should develop into strong members who can take their place in its work.

Prayer is a vital part of the church—its power. Jesus talked about the temple as a house of prayer. The disciples went to the temple to pray. The leaders of the church spent much of their time in prayer. God wants every house that is dedicated to Him for public worship to be a house of prayer, a place where He meets with His people.

Isaiah 56:7 “These I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.”

Acts 2:42–43 “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.”

Acts 2:46–47 “Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

Acts 3:1 “One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon.”

At the gate of the temple, as they were going in to pray, Peter and John saw a beggar who could not walk. In Jesus’ name they ordered him to get up and walk, and he did! As a result of this healing and Peter’s message to those who saw it, about 3,000 people accepted Christ that day. The authorities put Peter and John in jail for preaching about Jesus and ordered them not to do

it again. As soon as they were released they met with the other Christians and prayed that God would give them boldness to keep on telling people about Jesus.

Acts 4:31 “After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.”

How can we make God’s house one of prayer today? We include prayer in all of the various services there—Bible classes, worship services, youth meetings, evangelistic services. We give opportunities for prayer requests and have testimonies about answered prayer. Some churches have prayer rooms in which people gather to pray before the public service. Those who want to accept Christ or to be filled with the Holy Spirit go to the prayer rooms at the end of the service. Christians counsel them and pray with them. In other churches, people go to the altar in the front of the church to pray before and after the service.

Many churches are open for people to come in and pray at any time of the day. Some have an early morning prayer service before people go to their work. In many of the Korean churches, hundreds of men and women meet at 5:00 o’clock every morning to pray.

Does your church need a spiritual awakening, a revival? Does your pastor need more of the power of God in his or her ministry? Do you want the members of the church to be filled with the Holy Spirit and have the same boldness to witness that the early church did? Do you want to see miracles in answer to prayer and have the Lord add daily to your church people who are being saved? If so, pray for your church, in your church, and with your church. God is doing these things in many churches today. He can use you to bring these results to your church as you do your part and encourage others to pray.

Psalms 122:1 “I rejoiced with those who said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the LORD.’”

Psalms 134:2 “Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the LORD.”

Application

8 List in your notebook the needs in your church for which you intend to pray. Pray for them.

9 Ask God how you can help develop a deeper ministry of prayer in your church. Write His answer in your notebook.



Check Your Answers

4 In family devotions, at meals, at church, and with any member of the family individually at any time, especially when he or she has a special need. Or it might be when you have a need. Several mothers testified of being healed instantly of a headache or of other problems when a small child placed his or her hand on her head and asked Jesus to make her well.

All of the other answers were your own application of the principles you have been studying. If you are doing what is suggested in these lessons, you are already growing in a ministry of prayer.

LESSON 7 Let the Holy Spirit Help You

“Oh, his poor feet, Lord, his poor feet!” prayed Mrs. Dean. She was shocked at her own prayer. Why? Because she had just read the report that the man she was praying for, Victor Plymire, had been killed while taking the message of Jesus into the interior of Tibet.

How foolish Mrs. Dean felt praying for a dead man’s feet! Yet she knew so strongly that she should. What she did not know was that report was wrong. Victor was not dead. He was somewhere on a snow-covered trail, high in the Himalayan mountains, with both feet partially frozen.

Except for a miracle, Victor was likely to die of gangrene infection before he could reach civilization. But the Lord had another plan. Through His Spirit, He told Mrs. Dean, a woman who lived on the other side of the world, to pray for Victor. She obeyed, the miracle happened, and Victor was healed.

Other people have had the same kind of experience that Mrs. Dean had. The Holy Spirit has directed their prayers, and wonderful things have happened. The Holy Spirit has many ways of helping us when we pray!

The Plan

- A. Listen to the Spirit's Voice
- B. Feel What the Spirit Feels
- C. Let the Spirit Pray Through You
- D. Act in the Spirit's Power

The Goals

- 1. Identify the work of the Holy Spirit in our prayers.
- 2. Describe how feelings enter into our prayers.
- 3. Explain what it means to pray in the Spirit.
- 4. Discuss the importance of putting the Spirit's power into practice.

A. LISTEN TO THE SPIRIT'S VOICE

Goal 1. Identify the work of the Holy Spirit in our prayers.

We have already talked about listening to God when we pray. It is the Holy Spirit who speaks to us in this two-way conversation as we pray and read the Bible. He sometimes shows us things in our lives that do not please God. He helps us confess them to God and ask His forgiveness. Then He gives us peace and assurance that God has forgiven us. Our lives are changed as we listen to the Holy Spirit and let Him help us day by day.

Romans 8:26–27 “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will.”

THE SPIRIT HELPS US PRAY*Romans 8:26–27*

Our Problem	His Help
Lack of Prayer	Encourages Us to Pray
Little Faith	Gives Us Faith
Ignorance of the Need	Tells Us What to Pray For
Ignorance of God’s Will	Prays for Us in God’s Will
Satanic Opposition	Gives Us Victory
Limitation of Our Speech	Prays Through Us

Thank God that the Holy Spirit helps us pray! He has come to live in us, give us a new nature, guide us, and help us worship and serve God. Jesus said:

John 4:24 “God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”

As the Spirit leads us, we experience the joy of knowing God as our Father.

Romans 8:14–17 “Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”

The Holy Spirit helps us to understand God’s Word and brings to our mind the truths we need.

John 14:26 “But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

Isaiah 11:2 “The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.”

The teaching and guidance of the Holy Spirit come most often through the Bible. So meditate on God’s Word as you read.

Memorize verses and repeat them throughout the day. Take a promise in the morning and keep it in your mind during the day. Let the Word become a part of you. The Holy Spirit can then bring the right words to your memory and apply them to your circumstances when He wants to guide or encourage you. He will also use the Word to make your faith grow, and you will see greater answers to prayer.

Application

- 1** You may notice that we are reviewing in this last lesson of the course some truths that we have already studied. This is an important part of thorough learning. Go back to Lesson 3 and read it again. Read what you have written in your notebook for that lesson.
 - 2** Write briefly in your notebook several things that the Holy Spirit has told you to pray about or to do since you began studying this course. What were the results?
 - 3** Review Lesson 4. Are you using the Word as suggested? How is this helping you?
-

B. FEEL WHAT THE SPIRIT FEELS

Goal 2. Describe how feelings enter into our prayers.

We have talked about concern for those who are lost and about feeling other people. This comes from the love that God has for them. His Spirit in us loves people and causes us to love them too. The more we let Him have His way in our lives, the more His love will fill us.

Romans 5:5 “Hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.”

The strong compassion of the Holy Spirit may sometimes make the tears flow as we pray for people, but at other times the joy of the Holy Spirit will cause us to rejoice and praise God.

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 “Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

2 Thessalonians 1:3 “We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing.”

Philippians 1:3–4 “I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy.”

Romans 12:15 “Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.”

We have talked about attitudes in prayer. May the Holy Spirit so enter into every part of us that we will feel what He feels: a deep hatred of sin, a longing to please God in all we do, an urgent desire to help others be free from sin and its results, desire for Jesus to come back to earth and set up His kingdom, love for God and for people, sincerity and earnestness in our prayers, joy in communion with the Father, assurance that He will answer, and willingness to do whatever He tells us to do.

Application

- 4** Review Lesson 1, asking the Holy Spirit to take you to a deeper level of worship as you take time to think about God.
 - 5** Review Lesson 2, praying for the Holy Spirit to strengthen the right attitudes in you.
 - 6** Let the Holy Spirit help you pray the Lord’s Prayer. Take time to feel every part of it deeply.
-

C. LET THE SPIRIT PRAY THROUGH YOU

Goal 3. Explain what it means to pray in the Spirit.

So many times we do not know how to pray. We do not understand what the needs of a person are or what the solution is. We are not sure what the will of God is. Or, perhaps we just do not have words to express the love of God that wells up in

us—or the agony that seems to tear us apart, the inner conflicts, the fears, the separation. The Holy Spirit offers to take all these longings and needs of the soul and talk with the Father about them himself. Sometimes He may do this by pouring out through your lips in your prayer language that comes from Him and not from your own mind. Under His inspiration, you pour out your soul's deepest longings or worship to God. At other times, He may prefer to do this in a language of His own—a special prayer language.

Application

7 Read Romans 8:26–27 again. Write any advantages you see in letting the Holy Spirit pray through you.

1 Corinthians 14:2 “For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit.”

What wonderful release comes to our own spirit through such prayer! We do not have to understand all about the problem and the solution—the Spirit presents it in His own words and asks for what is best. He prays according to God's will; this gives us the assurance that the prayer will be answered.

This kind of praying is called “praying in the Spirit” or “speaking in tongues.” People sometimes refer to it as *glossalalia*, from the Greek word for “tongues.” Millions of Christians in the world today let the Holy Spirit pray through them in whatever language He chooses.

This first happened to 120 of Jesus' followers on the day of Pentecost. They were filled with the Spirit and began to praise God in languages that they had never learned. In the crowd that gathered, people from many countries understood what the Christians were saying in these different languages. They were talking about the wonderful things God had done!

Acts 2:4 “All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”


The apostle Paul evidently let the Spirit pray through him in tongues a great deal as he interceded for the needs of new Christians, Christian workers, and the churches that he had founded. (He refers to it as “praying with his spirit”.) But this did not keep him from praying earnestly in his own words, too. The Spirit helps us pray in both ways.

1 Corinthians 14:14–15 “For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind.”

Application

8 If you feel the need for a deeper level of prayer, talk with the Holy Spirit about it.

9 Now review Lesson 5, asking the Holy Spirit to help you feel what He feels about the needs you have listed. Let the Holy Spirit direct and pray through you for each one. Speak the words He gives you; He will pray for them according to the will of God.



D. ACT IN THE SPIRIT’S POWER

Goal 4. Discuss the importance of putting the Spirit’s power into practice.

All through this course we have talked about letting God use us to help answer our prayers. We listen for the Holy Spirit to give instructions, but how can we do what He tells us to do? Through His power!

Philippians 2:13 “For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.”

After we pray in the Spirit and ask for His help, we can go out and do His bidding, trusting Him to work through us. If we ask Him to save our friends, He tells us to teach them about Jesus. We ask Him to help us do it, and He does. We can speak and act with confidence, knowing that God is answering our prayers.

1 John 5:14–15 “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.”

This power of the Spirit is not only for *speaking* as witnesses for Jesus but also for *living* for Him, being the kind of person He wants us to be. Our lives speak louder than words about the love and power of God.

Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

2 Timothy 1:7 “For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.”

Galatians 5:16 “So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.”

Now as you finish these studies, the main test is to put into practice what you have learned. Of course, Satan, the Evil One, will try to hinder you. He opposes God’s work and does not want you to pray. But the Holy Spirit will help you! He will give you victory over Satan and power to do God’s will. May He bless and use you to win great victories for yourself and others when you pray!

Ephesians 6:17–18 “Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 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 saints.”

2 Corinthians 10:4–5 “The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

Jude 20 “But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.”

Application

10 Review briefly Lesson 6, asking the Lord to help you act in His power as you pray with others and encourage others to pray.

11 List in your notebook any problem areas in your life where you need the power of the Holy Spirit. Talk with Him about them.



CONGRATULATIONS

You have finished this course. We hope that it has been a great help to you! Remember to complete the second Unit Evaluation and return the answer sheet to your instructor.

Check Your Answers

The exercises in this lesson have asked you to review what you have learned. Are you applying the principles to your life now? The blessings of prayer come not to those who simply learn about prayer, but to those who actually pray. Do not be a silent Christian! God, your Father who loves you, is ready to hear, speak, and answer.

CL1210 When You Pray

UNIT ONE ANSWER SHEET

Please fill in the blanks below:

Name

Student Number
(Leave blank if you don't know your number.)

Mailing Address

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Country

Directions

When you have completed your study of each unit, fill out the Unit Evaluation answer sheet for that unit. Read each question carefully. There is one best answer for each question. Blacken the space for the answer you have chosen. *Be sure the number beside the spaces on the answer sheet is the same as the number of the question you are answering.*

Example

- 1 To be born again means to
- a) be young in age.
 - b) accept Jesus as Savior.
 - c) start a new year.

The correct answer is **b) accept Jesus as Savior**, so you would blacken space **(B)** like this:

1. (A) (B) (C) (D)

Turn page over when you are ready to begin.

UNIT ONE ANSWER SHEET

Carefully blacken the correct space for each numbered item.

- | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 1 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 11 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 2 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 12 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 3 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 13 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 4 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 14 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 5 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 15 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 6 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 16 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 7 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 17 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 8 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 18 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 9 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 19 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |
| 10 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | 20 | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) |

This is the end of the requirements for Unit One. For grading, return your Unit One Answer Sheet to your instructor or office in your area. Continue your study in Unit Two.

*For GU Office Use
Only*

Date

Score

UNIT ONE EVALUATION

- 1** Which best describes God's purpose for us in prayer?
 - a)** Talking with God
 - b)** Reminding God of our needs
 - c)** Doing our religious duty

- 2** The word *worship* means to
 - a)** intercede for others.
 - b)** plead with God for a need to be met.
 - c)** recognize the worthiness of God.

- 3** God's forgiveness is best shown by
 - a)** God's understanding of our weakness.
 - b)** the sacrificial death of God's Son.
 - c)** the many sacrifices described in the Old Testament.

- 4** When we pray, we should first think about
 - a)** God, our Father.
 - b)** other people and their needs.
 - c)** our own needs.

- 5** When we say God is infinite, we mean He has
 - a)** few limits.
 - b)** no limits.
 - c)** the same limits as humans.

- 6** On what basis can we make requests of the Father?
 - a)** We do good deeds for others.
 - b)** Jesus bought us the right by dying for us.
 - c)** We give our service and finances to the church.

- 7** Why is it necessary that we come to God through Jesus?
 - a)** Because Jesus was a better priest than Moses or Aaron.
 - b)** Because Jesus's teaching was better than any other religious teacher's.
 - c)** Because Jesus is the way to God; no one can come to God except through Him.

8 The Pharisee in Luke 18:10–14 did not please God because he was

- a)** a good man.
- b)** an evil man.
- c)** a proud man.

9 The tax collector pleased God because he

- a)** prayed a long prayer.
- b)** repented of his sin.
- c)** was a good citizen.

10 Jesus taught that God forgives us

- a)** even when we do not forgive others.
- b)** when we prove that we are good enough.
- c)** in the same way that we forgive others.

11 Which is most important in prayer?

- a)** Attitude of the heart
- b)** Location of the person
- c)** Position of the body

12 Which of the following describes the biblical teaching of one's physical position in prayer?

- a)** May be in any position
- b)** Following the postures taught by your pastor
- c)** Eyes closed, head bowed, hands clasped

13 The prayer Jesus taught His disciples is found in

- a)** Matthew 6:9–13.
- b)** Matthew 6:25–28.
- c)** John 3:16–19.

14 The Bible treats which of the following as an important part of our prayer life?

- a)** Kneeling
- b)** Listening
- c)** Making only personal requests

15 Any message concerning God's will must be judged by the

- a)** advice others give.
- b)** dreams we might have.
- c)** Word of God.

16 In what ways does God most often speak to His people?

- a)** Dreams and visions
- b)** Audible voices
- c)** The Bible and our conscience

17 In which way might God speak to Christians?

- a)** Fortune tellers
- b)** Horoscopes
- c)** Sermons or testimonies

18 When we listen, how will God normally speak to us?

- a)** Through a message for us or for someone else
- b)** Through a vision of the future
- c)** Through the sins and failures of others

19 We learn how to apply the Word of God to a particular situation by

- a)** listening to the Holy Spirit.
- b)** reading books about others.
- c)** waiting for a dream.

20 What is needed to experience God's leading?

- a)** To know everything about the scriptures
- b)** Willingness to obey God
- c)** A detailed plan of how to fulfill God's will

CL1210 When You Pray**UNIT TWO ANSWER SHEET**

Please fill in the blanks below:

Name

Student Number
(Leave blank if you don't know your number.)

Mailing Address

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.....

Country

Directions

When you have completed your study of each unit, fill out the Unit Evaluation answer sheet for that unit. Read each question carefully. There is one best answer for each question. Blacken the space for the answer you have chosen. *Be sure the number beside the spaces on the answer sheet is the same as the number of the question you are answering.*

Example

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- a) be young in age.
 - b) accept Jesus as Savior.
 - c) start a new year.

The correct answer is **b) accept Jesus as Savior**, so you would blacken space (B) like this:

1. (A) ● (C) (D)

Turn page over when you are ready to begin.

UNIT TWO ANSWER SHEET

Carefully blacken the correct space for each numbered item.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 11 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 2 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 12 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 3 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 13 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 4 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 14 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
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| 8 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 18 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 9 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 19 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 10 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 20 (A) (B) (C) (D) |

This is the end of the requirements for Unit Two. For grading, return your Unit Two Answer Sheet to your instructor or office in your area.

*For GU Office Use
Only*

Date

Score

UNIT TWO EVALUATION

- 1** John 15:7 says that God will answer our prayers if we
- a)** dwell in Christ and the Word dwells in us.
 - b)** give great sums of money to the church.
 - c)** live good clean lives.
- 2** James 4:2–3 tells us our prayers are not answered when we
- a)** are unworthy servants.
 - b)** fail to pray long prayers.
 - c)** have a selfish motive.
- 3** The woman in Matthew 9:20–22 was healed of severe bleeding because she
- a)** begged for healing.
 - b)** exercised her faith.
 - c)** fasted and prayed.
- 4** We can depend on the promises of God’s Word because
- a)** God is completely faithful to His Word.
 - b)** they make good sense.
 - c)** all religion in the world encourage people to do so.
- 5** How long did Abraham wait for the promise of a son to be fulfilled?
- a)** 10 years
 - b)** 25 years
 - c)** 100 years
- 6** Abraham’s experience teaches us to believe God’s promises
- a)** in spite of natural conditions.
 - b)** when they are within the realm of possibility.
 - c)** until our patience runs out.
- 7** Compassion means to
- a)** feel the hurts of others.
 - b)** see the suffering of the world.
 - c)** suffer in silence.

8 Intercessory prayer is

- a) praise and worship.
- b) prayer for oneself.
- c) prayer for others.

9 Why is prayer for one's family so important?

- a) Prayer will stop a child from sinning or disobeying God.
- b) Prayer for the family is demanded in the Ten Commandments.
- c) God loves the family and wants the family to serve Him together.

10 Why does the Bible encourage prayer for others?

- a) By praying for others we share God's concern.
- b) There are many who are sick and others who have sinned.
- c) When we pray, we do not have any more physical needs.

11 Nehemiah was an example of a man who

- a) failed to pray over his work.
- b) was used by God to answer his own prayers.
- c) prayed fervently without results.

12 In Luke 6:38, we are told that God gives to us

- a) as we give to others.
- b) just enough to meet our needs.
- c) more than we can imagine.

13 It is important that we pray with a friend because

- a) Jesus is present in a special way when two or three come together.
- b) focusing on the friend's problems makes us feel better.
- c) the Bible commands us to.

14 It is important to have a time of family prayer because

- a) this will prevent problems from arising.
- b) God will more readily hear prayers from families than from individuals.
- c) prayer strengthens the ties of love that bind the family together.

- 15** Small prayer groups
- a)** exist only in America.
 - b)** have no precedence in the early church.
 - c)** were very common in the early church.
- 16** The way to see spiritual awakening in a church is to
- a)** form a committee to plan it.
 - b)** discuss your program.
 - c)** pray for it.
- 17** The work of the Holy Spirit in our praying is to
- a)** sometimes show us things in our lives that do not please God.
 - b)** translate our prayer into a language that God understands.
 - c)** listen carefully to what we say.
- 18** We can feel what the Holy Spirit feels by
- a)** loving other people more.
 - b)** letting Him have His way in our lives.
 - c)** lacking in our concern for others.
- 19** To pray in the Spirit means to
- a)** ask the Spirit to take all our problems to the Father.
 - b)** voice a prayer language that comes from the Spirit.
 - c)** only listen to what the Spirit is saying.
- 20** It is important to put the Spirit's power into practice so that we can
- a)** get whatever we pray for.
 - b)** live free of problems.
 - c)** do what the Lord wants us to do.

FINAL WORDS

Dear Student,

We hope this study has made you think about your relationship with God. After studying the lessons and answering all the questions, have you wondered, “Am I really a Christian? Do I know God? Is He real in my life?” We want to give you the opportunity now to have a relationship with God.

We have all done wrong things. We have hurt ourselves and others. The Bible calls that sin and we are all guilty: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Our sin keeps us from knowing God as a loving Father. But God loves us in spite of our sin. He loves us so much that He sent His Son to die for us. “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall never perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). Jesus took the punishment we deserved for our sins when He died.

Do you want to make sure that Jesus is your Savior? It is really so simple:

- Admit that you are a needy sinner separated from God and ask Him to forgive you.
- Believe in Jesus with all your heart and let Him know that you accept Him as your Savior.

You can talk to God in your own words by saying a prayer like this:

Dear Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner. Please forgive me. I believe you are the eternal Son of God. Thank you for dying on the Cross for my sins. Come into my life. Make yourself real in my life. Be Lord of my life today. Thank you for saving me! Amen.

If you prayed this prayer and meant it with all your heart, your sins are forgiven and you have eternal life. Jesus is Lord of your life. The Bible says, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

Welcome to the family of God. We want to rejoice with you, so please write and tell us what God has done in your life. Blessings to you!

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Name

Do you have a friend who needs to know more about Jesus?

Send us your friend's name and address for answers to the great questions of life.

Name

Address

.....

WOULD YOU LIKE TO...

LEARN HOW TO PRAY FOR ANSWERS?
EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF PRAYER?
KNOW HOW TO HAVE FAMILY PRAYERS?

We may say that prayer is God's emergency number! You can talk to Him, and He will answer you. Prayer includes elements and opportunities that are unique. It is more than words or the repetition of requests.

This course addresses questions such as: how can I receive answers to prayer? What can prayer do in my life? How can I have family prayers? ***When You Pray*** will help you understand the meaning, the purpose, and the power of prayer.

The Christian Life series comprises 18 courses divided into three units of six courses each.

When You Pray is Course 1 in Unit 2.



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PN 06.09 3C
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ISBN 978-0-7617-1263-3