

LESSON PLAN

LESSONS ON PRAYER

Luke 18:1-14

Lesson Memory Verse: Luke 18:1b - "...men ought always to pray, and not to faint."

Lesson Aim: To teach the students how to pray the right way.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention); When we want something from our parents we usually ask them for it, don't we? Let us imagine that you want a can of root beer and you know that your mother has several cans of root beer in the refrigerator. What would be the best thing to do to get a can of root beer? (Ask her politely for a can of root beer.)

Now, let us imagine that you want to go to your friend's house and sleep overnight. What should you do? (Ask your parents politely for permission to sleep at your friend's house.)

Now, if your parents are very busy and do not answer you right away, what should you do? Do you keep on asking? If they say, "I do not know right now. Let me think about it for a little while." Do you wait and ask them again in a short while? Sure, you do. You keep on asking until you get their answer.

Asking for things from your parents is like asking God for things. In today's Bible lesson, we are going to learn how we should ask God for things in the right way. Our memory verse tells us one way we should ask. Can you tell me in your own words what that way of prayer is?

HE (for Authority): Luke 18:1 (You may want the class to read Luke 18:1-8.) Ask the class to explain what it means "not to faint," when we pray. Be sure the class knows that it means we are not to get tired of asking God for something that is good; we should not give up in asking God for what we need to serve Him.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. In our Bible lesson today we are going to find out two ways that Jesus told us on how to pray.

I. Be Patient in Prayer - Luke 18:1-8

The parable found in 18:1-8 teaches us **to keep on asking** and not to give up if we need something from God. God will answer at the right time. However, if we realize that our prayer is for something selfish or for something sinful in some other way, we should stop praying for that thing right away.

In this parable a judge was placed in a position to act for God in making decisions about problems that people had. He had the power to help or not to help those who came to him. Even though this judge did not like to help people; he finally helped a certain woman that had come to Him for a long time.

Why did the judge finally help the woman? He helped her because she kept on asking him for help and would not stop coming to him for help. He became so tired of seeing and hearing her that he gave her what she wanted. He did not care about the woman and what she needed. He did not care about God and doing what was right. He simply cared about himself; he wanted to keep this woman from bothering him. He did not answer her for the right reason; He answered her for a selfish reason.

God is not like this judge, even though He may not answer our prayers right away. Why does God sometimes make us wait a long time before He answers our prayers? He loves us and wants to help us, but sometimes He cannot give us what we want right away for several reasons.

1. A good angel sent with God's answer may be stopped for a while (Dan 10:12-14). Daniel asked God for help to understand what was going to happen to Israel. God immediately sent an angel with His answer, but an evil angel stopped him from getting to Daniel for 21 days. Finally, he was freed by Michael, the arch angel, and brought God's answer to Daniel.

2. It may not be the right time to answer your prayer. You may ask your parents for some candy just before supper and they will say, "Not now. Wait until after supper." It was not the right time to give you candy. So sometimes God will make you wait until it is the right time to give you what you want.

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3. You may not be ready to receive what you want. You may ask your father for a motorcycle. He knows you cannot handle a motorcycle now and so he says, "Not now. Wait until you grow up." Sometimes God will not give you what you want until you grow up spiritually or it would cause you to sin and get hurt.

4. Someone else may refuse to let God answer your prayers. You may want to take a trip on Saturday but your father said that he had to have the car fixed before he could take you on the trip. Now let us say your father took the car to the garage to have it fixed, but the men at the garage could not fix it right away. They had other things to do. So the car did not get fixed in time and your trip was delayed. Does this happen to God? Yes, we may pray for certain people to be saved, and the Spirit convicts them about receiving Christ, but these people say, "No, not now!" These people have stopped God's answer to your prayers for awhile. It was not God that stopped the answer to your prayer. Does that make God weaker than sinners? No, it just means that He lets man decide what he wants to do. He gives them a choice. So a better prayer to make goes like this: "Dear God, please convict my friend of sin and the awful penalty for keeping one's sin. Help my friend to see that Jesus is the only One that can remove his/her sin. Thank you for convicting my friend. I pray in Jesus' name, Amen." This prayer is based on the work that the Holy Spirit has been sent to do (John 16:7-11).

5. You may not seriously want what you asked for in prayer. If you keep on praying for the thing that you want, you show to God that you really need it and want it (Matthew 7:7-11). If you love Jesus and keep His commands, he will answer your prayer (John 14:14-15; 15:7).

WE: We need to be patient and wait for God to answer our prayers. Jesus encouraged us to keep on praying and not to give up. God is pleased when we keep on praying. He will answer those prayers that are good for us if we keep on asking Him in faith.

II. Be Humble in Prayer - Luke 18:9-14

Jesus told another parable to teach us **to be humble as we pray**. The story is about two men who went to the temple to pray. One man was a Pharisee and the other man was a tax collector. The Pharisee was a religious man. He compared himself to the tax collector, whom he despised, and considered he was a much better man than the tax collector. He lived an honest, upright life, fasted twice a week and tithed all of the things that he possessed. This man came to God the wrong way. What was wrong with him? (He was proud.) God did not listen to his prayer. He was not ready to be saved.

The tax collector admitted that he was not good in God's eyes. He was right (Romans 3:10-12, 23; Jeremiah 17:9; and Isaiah 64:6). All people are sinners in the eyes of God. None of us do what is right. Our hearts are desperately wicked. How did he come before God in prayer?

1. He would not lift his eyes to heaven.
2. He hit his breast.
3. He called himself a sinner.
4. He asked God for mercy.

This man came to God in the right way. What was right with him? (He was humble.) He was heard by God because he was humble. God listened to this man's prayer. He was ready to be saved.

WE: If we come to God like this tax collector, we can be sure that God will hear our prayers, too. God loves to hear the prayers of humble people.

BE (for Action): Ask the children to think of something that they want from God. Have them bow their heads as they think. When they think of something that they want from God, have them raise their hands. You may have to suggest things for them to consider while they are thinking. When everyone, or almost everyone, has decided what he wants to ask from God, tell them that you want them to pray for that thing until God answers them. If they realize later on that their request is not good for them because it is sinful or it may cause them to sin, tell them that they should stop praying for that thing. Otherwise they should keep on praying until God answers their prayers.

Remind them to be humble as they pray for this thing they want from God.

Pray for them to learn from this lesson how to pray the right way before you dismiss them from the class.