

May Your Will Be Done on Earth

(Matthew 6:9-13)

Introduction

A king gets to make up the laws of the land and people have to obey him. If you were king or queen for the day, what laws would you make? [Teacher, before class make a crown. Have children take turns putting the crown on their head and telling what laws they would make if they were king.] Why did you choose to make that law?

God is a king. What kinds of laws does God give us to obey?

Why do you think God gives us these laws? He gives us good laws so we'll be happy. When we obey God, we treat each other with love.

Opening Prayer

Father, we know You are our King. Teach us to pray for things that help Your desires and plans to happen here on earth as they are done in heaven. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. (Matthew 6:10b)

Lesson

We've been learning the Lord's Prayer. Can anyone recite it? Let's review what we've learned so far:

Matthew 6:9-10a

Our Father in heaven

May Your name be kept holy.

May Your Kingdom come soon.

First, we learned that God wants us to have a close relationship with Him. He wants us to call Him, "*Father*." He is a loving Father who cares about us, understands what we're going through, and can comfort us. When Jesus gave His disciples this recipe for prayer, He told them to begin prayer by calling out to, "*Our Father in Heaven*."

Next, Jesus taught us that it is important for us to keep God's name holy. That means that we are to keep His name special. When you pray, it's important to remember Who you're talking to. Then begin your prayer by honoring God's name. Pray, "*Father, we admire You and adore You. We honor Your holy name.*"

Next, we learned that someday Jesus is coming back to Earth. When He gets here, He will set up His wonderful kingdom and live among us as our King. That will be an exciting day, indeed! That is a time we should all be longing for — and praying for. It thrills God's heart when we let Him know in prayer that we are eagerly looking forward to that day. Pray, "*May Your Kingdom come soon.*"

The next part of the prayer, says...

Matthew 6:10b

May Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

When God sets up His kingdom on Earth, things will be perfect. Then, at last, we will see God's will being done on Earth just like it is being done in heaven right now. But, in the meantime we should be praying that people would do things God's way here on Earth! You can pray, "*Father, while we wait for Your return, help us to do Your will here on earth just as the angels do in heaven.*"

Too often we treat prayer as if we are catalog shopping. We say, "*Dear Lord, I want this, give me that...*" There is nothing wrong with asking God to provide us with our needs and even some of our wants. However, God isn't *just* our gracious provider; God is our King. Remember we prayed, "*May Your Kingdom come soon.*" God is the king of Kings. And, He expects us to obey Him. So, we need to find out what our King's plans and desires are for our lives.

We're learning that we should pray, "*May Your will be done...*" How do we know what God's will is? Jesus said...

John 6:38-40

For I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do my own will. (39) And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them up at the last day. (40) For it is my Father's will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life. I will raise them up at the last day.

God's desire is that all people everywhere would come to the knowledge of what Jesus did on the cross. So, our job here on Earth is to tell everyone everywhere about Jesus. That means that our prayers should be all about making sure that every person that we come in contact with gets a glimpse of Jesus. We should pray that every thought we have, every word we speak and everything that we do brings His name honor and glory.

Pray that God will help you love others. Pray that others will come to know Jesus personally as their Lord and Savior. Pray that God will help you tell your friends about Him.

Here's another verse that tells us what God's will is:

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

God wants us to be thankful in all things. Another way to say this is: "*In everything give thanks.*" That means even when the bad stuff happens! Even when you get sick or when someone is mean to you. God loves it when we are filled with thankfulness. That's a sign that His Spirit is living in you. God wants all the fruit of His Spirit to develop in your life. That is His will. Why? Because He wants everyone to get to know Who He is. When people see that you are full of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and so forth, they'll see Jesus living in your life.

God's will is that everyone comes to know Him before it's too late.

1 John 2:17

And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.

Someday, Jesus will come back and set up His kingdom here on Earth, but only those who do the will of God will live forever with Him. It's our job to make sure that everyone we meet everywhere we go has an opportunity to get to know Jesus. That is His will.

Not only is it important for us to know what God's will is, we must then do it.

Remote Controlled

How many of you have played with a remote-controlled toy? How does it know what to do? It only does what the controller tells it to do. In the same way, you and I should be like God's remote toys, *only* doing what His will is.

We're going to do a little exercise to demonstrate how important it is for us to listen to God and to do what He tells us.

I'm going to have you get into pairs and try to find a plate of treats. We'll call the plate of treats "*Heaven.*" One of you will be blindfolded. Your partner will guide you to "*Heaven*" but he or she can only answer "Yes" or "No" questions. So, if you're the one that's blindfolded, you have to ask your guide things like "*Should I go forward?*", "*Should I turn around?*", or "*Should I go left?*", and so forth. If you are the guide, you can only answer "Yes" or "No."

[Teacher, have the children pair off, and give each pair a blindfold. Once all the blindfolds are on, set out the plate of treats. Let the children switch roles. As the children are enjoying their treats, ask the following questions.]

- When you were blindfolded, was it easy or hard to follow the instructions of your guide?
- How was listening to your guide like praying to God?

- How was listening to your guide different from praying to God?

In our prayers we should ask God for direction. We should desire to know His plans and to do His will. God wants us to obey him here on Earth, the same way the angels obey Him in heaven. When we ask God to help us obey Him, He *will* answer our prayers.

One of the last things Jesus told his friends before He went back to heaven was to go out into all the world and tell everyone they met about Him. Paul and his friends knew that this was God's will. So, they set out on a great journey to tell everyone they could about what Jesus had done for us on the cross.

Acts 16:6-10 [Teacher, read...]

Next Paul and Silas traveled through the area of Phrygia and Galatia, because the Holy Spirit had prevented them from preaching the word in the province of Asia at that time. (7) Then coming to the borders of Mysia, they headed north for the province of Bithynia, but again the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them to go there. (8) So instead, they went on through Mysia to the seaport of Troas. (9) That night Paul had a vision: A man from Macedonia in northern Greece was standing there, pleading with him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us!" (10) So we decided to leave for Macedonia at once, having concluded that God was calling us to preach the Good News there.

[Teacher, help the children discover that God has a plan and a purpose and, He will let us know what it is, if we desire to trust and obey Him.]

Notice that Paul had wanted to go to Asia to tell people about Jesus. But the Holy Spirit stopped him from going there. Then he wanted to go to Bithynia. But again, the Holy Spirit stopped him. Then one night, Paul had a vision. A man from Macedonia (northern Greece) begged him to come and help them. All along, Paul knew that it was God's will for him to tell people about Jesus. God directed him, like a remote toy first by stopping him from going to certain places then by showing him in a vision where to go.

The Bible tells us:

Proverbs 16:9

We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.

God is in control of our lives. The Holy Spirit was guiding Paul and his friends as they tried to accomplish God's plans and desires.

Closing Prayer

Let's imagine for a minute that everyone on Earth obeyed God in the same way that the angels obey Him in heaven. What would life be like for us? [Teacher, let the children respond.] Life on earth would be more like life in heaven if we would obey God's desires and plans, wouldn't it? Let's practice praying for God's will to be done on Earth.

[Teacher, place Skittles in a bowl. Make a chart similar to the following example that uses the colors of the candy:

- **Red**—Pray for courage to tell a friend about Jesus.
- **Blue**—Pray that God will help you be kind—even to the people who aren't kind to you.
- **Green**—Pray that God will help you remember to read your Bible every day.
- **Yellow**—Pray that God will help you obey your parents.]

I'm going to pass this bowl of candy around the circle. When it's your turn, close your eyes and pick out one piece of candy. Look at the chart to see what you should pray for. Everything on the chart is something that God wants for us. Pray aloud as the chart directs you, and then pass the bowl. After you pray, you can eat the candy as a reminder of how good life "tastes" when God's plans happen.

Father, help us to want the things that You want. Help us to pray for things that matter to You. May Your desires and plans happen on earth the same way that they do in heaven. Help me to always choose to do Your will. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Map It!

Materials: Copies of the Map-It page, pens or pencils, teabags, a large bowl of warm water, and paper towels. [Note: Be sure to use pencils or ball point pens for this activity as markers or felt pens will run when the paper gets wet.]

How does a map guide us? God's desires and plans are like a map for our prayers. Write three things you know are part of God's plans on your maps. For example, you might choose "*being patient*" or "*inviting my friends to church.*" These maps will remind you to pray for things that are God's will. Then watch as God answers your prayers.

Let's make our maps look like they're old. This will remind us that praying for things that God desires and plans has *always* been a good idea.

[Teacher, show the children how to wet a teabag in warm (not hot) water and squeeze the excess water out of the bag. Demonstrate how to blot the tea bag on a map to make the map look old. Allow the children to blot their maps until they look authentically weathered. Set them aside to dry. Use the paper towels to dry hands, wipe spills, and blot excess water from the maps.]

When you pray in the coming weeks, pray for the three things that you wrote on your map.

Game Center

Use the following questions in a game of your choice:

Review questions:

1. How can God guide us when we want help obeying His plans and desires?
2. What should you do when you want God's help in obeying His plans and will?
3. How do you know whether something is God's desire or not?
4. Why should God's desires and plans guide how we pray?
5. Does knowing that God answers us when we pray for things that he wants, change the way you pray?

[For more lessons for children, visit
<https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

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MAP-IT!



