

Did He Hear Me?

(Matthew 6:9-13)

Introduction

What is prayer? (Prayer is talking to God) What sorts of things can you talk to God about?

- You can tell Him how great He is.
- We can ask Him to forgive us when we do wrong.
- We can thank Him for all that He does for us and for others.
- We can talk to Him about the things that make us sad and the things that make us glad.
- We can ask Him to meet our needs and the needs of family members, friends, neighbors, etc.

There are many reasons to pray. But sometimes it seems like God doesn't hear us. Today we're going to learn that God *always* hears and answers our prayers, but sometimes His answers are not what we *want* to hear.

Opening Prayer

Father, help us to remember that You hear when we call to You. Teach us to have faith to wait for You to answer us and then teach us to accept the answer You give us. Help us grow in our faith and in our prayer life. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

The Lord will hear when I call to him. (Psalm 4:3b)

Lesson

The Bible tells us how God has answered other people's prayer. We're going to do some exploring in our Bibles to learn more about how God answers your prayers.

[Teacher have children form five groups. Give each group one of the following assignments. Allow children time to read the Bible verses as instructed and to discuss their questions. After children have had time to discuss these Bible stories, have one child from each group report what they learned.]

Hannah

Read 1 Samuel 1:9-11 to find out what Hannah prayed about. Then read 1 Samuel 1:20 for God's answer.

Discuss the following question in your group:

- What did Hannah want God to give her?
 - How did God answer?
 - How do you think Hannah felt when God answered her prayer?
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- Hannah wanted a son.
 - God gave her a son.
 - She was so grateful to the Lord for giving her a son, she dedicated him to God for the rest of his life.

Elijah

Read 1 Kings 18:36-37 to find out what Elijah prayer. Then read 1 Kings 18:38-39 to find God's answer.

Discuss the following questions in your group:

- What request did Elijah make to God?
- How did God answer?
- How would you feel to have such a quick and amazing response to your prayer?

- Elijah asked God to prove to the people that He is God.
- God sent fire down and burned up the sacrifice.
- I would be amazed and convinced that God is real!

Jonah

Read Jonah 2:1-3 to learn why Jonah was praying. Then read Jonah 2:10 to see how God answered Jonah's prayer.

Discuss the following questions with your group:

- What did Jonah pray about?
- How did God answer?
- How do you think Jonah felt about God's answer to his prayer?

- Jonah called out from the belly of the whale for help!
- The LORD ordered the fish to spit Jonah up on the beach.

Israelites

Read Exodus 2:23-24 to find out what the Israelite people were praying for, and then read Exodus 12:31-32 and Exodus 40-41 to see how God answered them.

Discuss the following question in your group:

- What did the Israelites pray that God would do?
- How did God answer?
- How long did the Israelites have to wait for God's answer?
- How do you think they felt during those many years?
- The Israelites were groaning under their slavery and cried out for help.
- Pharaoh told Moses, "*Get out, you and your Israelites! Leave my country...*"
- They had to wait 430 years for God's answer.
- The people hated being slaves of the Pharaoh.

David

Read 2 Samuel 12:15-17 to find out what David prayed about. Then read 2 Samuel 12:18, 22-23 to find out how God answered David.

Discuss the following questions in your group:

- What was David asking God to do?
 - How did God answer?
 - How did David react to this answer from God?
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- David prayed that God would heal the child that Uriah's wife had borne to him.
 - God did not heal the baby; the baby died.
 - David stopped mourning for the child once he died.

God has three answers to prayer: *yes*, *no*, and *wait*.

We really like it when God says “yes,” and we can deal with it when he says “no.” We might be a little disappointed, but if we know God, we know He always wants what is best for us. But, it’s harder when we have to wait for God’s answer. Sometimes we think that He hasn’t even heard our prayers. But, God makes us wait for His answers so that our faith and trust in Him will grow.

Ask, Seek, Knock (Matthew 7:7-11)

In the first lesson of this series on the Lord’s Prayer we learned that it is important to never give up on God. We can be sure that God hears our prayers and that God answers all our prayers.

Matthew 7:7-8

Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. (8) For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

What Jesus is telling us here is to be persistent in our prayers. Don’t give up if God doesn’t answer your prayers right away. Keep on asking, keep on seeking God, keep on knocking at the door. Trusting in God takes faith. Sometimes He doesn’t answer your prayers right away; sometimes He makes us wait. But Jesus assures us that we will be rewarded. Don’t give up in trying to seek God. Continue to ask Him for wisdom, love, and understanding. He will give them to you.

1 John 5:14-15:

And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. (15) And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for.

If you are praying according to His will, He hears your prayers and you can be confident that He will answer. If you ask for something that is good for you, He will gladly give it to you. He loves you and wants what is best for you.

God is not selfish, or mean, or stingy. We don’t have to beg or plead as we come with our requests. He is a loving Father who understands, cares, and comforts.

[Teacher, spend the last few minutes of class in prayer with your students.]

Closing Prayer

Father, we praise and thank You for hearing and answering our prayers. We ask that You use our prayers to help us grow in our faith and to help change the world. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Game Center

This is the last lesson in this series. Make the game today something that is full of energy and vigor! Make a party out of it!

Perhaps you can create a game like "Jeopardy" by assigning the following Review Questions point values. Then print the point values on individual Post-it Notes. For "categories", you could reword the questions so they are *Who*, *What*, *Where*, *When*, and *How*. Or, you could use the phrases from the Lord's Prayer. Be creative!

Divide the children into teams (boys against girls). Allow a child from a team to choose a Category and a Point Value. For a correct answer remove the sticky note and award their team the points.



Final Review and Wrap up of the Lord's Prayer Questions:

1. Why did Jesus give His disciples this prayer? (His disciples noticed that Jesus prayed a lot and asked Him to teach them how to pray.)
2. What right do you have to call God, "*Father*?" (When we believe in Jesus, we become a child of God. Only those who have received the Lord Jesus as Savior are sons and daughters in God's family.)
3. What does it mean to believe in Jesus? (To believe that Jesus really is God and that when He died on the cross, He satisfied God's requirement that all sin be punished.)
4. What does it mean to keep God's name holy? (To keep it special.)
5. How do you keep God's name holy? (By honoring God's name. Pray, "*Father, we admire You, we adore You, You are wonderful, excellent and marvelous. You deserve our praise... We honor Your holy name.*")
6. What does it mean to pray "*Your kingdom come*?" (Pray for the second coming of Jesus. It will be a glorious day when He comes to set up His wonderful kingdom on earth and live among us.)
7. Why does God wait to come back and set up His kingdom on earth? (Right now, God is allowing Satan to work on earth to give people the opportunity to choose between right and wrong.)
8. What will God do with Satan when Jesus comes back to set up His kingdom on earth? (He'll throw Satan into the bottomless pit.)
9. What does it mean to pray "*Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven*?" (That God will have His perfect way in our lives.)
10. What does it mean to ask God for "*our daily bread*"? Does God give you bread? (God is the One we must look to for all our daily needs.)

11. What are some everyday needs that you should ask God for?
(Ask God to keep your parents healthy and able to work Continue to ask Him for wisdom, love, and understanding.)
12. What does it mean to ask God to "*forgive us our debts*"? (A debt is something you owe. We need to ask God to forgive us of our sins, our debt to Him.)
13. What does it mean when it says that we should, "*forgive our debtors*?" (A debtor is someone who owes me something. I need to forgive people who do wrong things to me.)
14. Has anyone ever disappointed you or let you down or hurt your feelings? Have you found it hard to forgive them for hurting you?
(God expects us to forgive others completely in the same way we want Him to forgive us.)
15. When we're feeling unable to forgive someone, what should we do? (Think of all the wrongs that God has forgiven you of, and ask Him to help you forgive others.)
16. What does it mean to ask God to "*not lead us into temptation*"?
(Ask God to keep things out of our life that would make it easy for us to sin.)
17. What does it mean to ask God to "*deliver us from the evil one*"?
(Ask God to give us the strength to keep from giving in to Satan's temptations to have wrong thoughts and to do wrong.)
18. How should we end our prayers? (Close your prayer as you began it, by remembering who it is you're talking to. God, the ruler of the whole universe. He alone has the power to help us.)

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