

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **May 14, 2023** Family Theme | **Principles of Prayer**
Study Text | **Matthew 7:7-11; Romans 8:26-27; Matthew 21:22; John 14:13-14;
2 Corinthians 12:7-10; 1 John 3:21-22**

Objective: Family members stay in constant communication with God by following biblical guidelines for prayer.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: The principles of prayer found in these passages of Scripture apply throughout the Old and New Testaments.

Bible Basics: Memorize 1 John 5:14 this week along with family members.

Read the Word: Matthew 7:7-11; Romans 8:26-27; Matthew 21:22; John 14:13-14;
2 Corinthians 12:7-10; 1 John 3:21-22

Disciple Your Kids:

Talk with your children and grandchildren about the privilege we have to pray to our Heavenly Father and talk with them about the principles that help us pray effectively.



Key Truth: God Invites Us to Pray and Promises to Answer (Matthew 7:7-11)

- Jesus explained that our sovereign, all-knowing, all-powerful God actually *invites* us to bring our needs to Him in prayer. He is a good and loving Father, eager to hear and respond to our needs. The Greek text reflects persistent, continuous action: *Keep on asking, keep on seeking, keep on knocking* (verses 7-11). This is not a blank check for whatever we desire. James made it clear that God does not promise to answer prayer motivated by fleshly or selfish desires (James 4:3). We are to remain in a spirit of prayer, ready to pray at all times (1 Thessalonians 5:17).



Key Truth: The Holy Spirit Helps Us Pray (Romans 8:26-27)

- We don't always know the will or purposes of God. We are often unable to put the burden of our hearts into words. Thankfully, the Holy Spirit who dwells within us takes up our cause, interceding for us in ways beyond our own wisdom or abilities. Paul spoke of *groanings* too deep for words. The Spirit helps us as we pray, conveying our requests to the throne according to God's will. We are to pray in accordance with the Spirit's leading, trusting in His intercession for us (verses 26-27).



Key Truth: The Bible Gives Principles for Effective Prayer (Matthew 21:22; John 14:13-14; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; 1 John 3:21-22)

- The Bible gives us principles to help us pray effectively. Those principles include *Praying in Faith*. This means believing God hears us and will answer our prayers according to His will (Matthew 21:22).
- We are to *Pray in Jesus' Name*. This means praying according to Christ's merits and what He taught and stands for. We pray in keeping with Christ's character and desires, seeking to bring Him glory (John 14:13-14).
- We *Pray in submission to God's will and purpose*. We make our requests while being willing to submit to whatever God wants (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).
- We *Live in obedience to Christ's commandments*. Obedience is a key factor in having our prayers answered. We cannot live in rebellion and expect God to respond favorably to our requests (1 John 3:21-22). As we follow these principles, we can pray with confidence that God hears us and will answer.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- **What does it mean to pray?**
- **How does the Holy Spirit help us pray?**
- Does God promise to give us anything we ask for in prayer? Explain.
- What are some of the principles the Bible gives us about prayer?
- What are some reasons God might say no to our prayers?
- **What are some things the Lord's Prayer teaches us about how to pray?**
- **Why is prayer important?**

Everyday Extras

Your children do not have to sit still and fold their hands every time they pray. Young children might concentrate better when activities accompany prayer time. Here are a few ideas that may work for your family: Take a prayer walk, especially if you are praying for your neighborhood, school, or church. Make a prayer bucket or jar where you can add prayer requests (drawn or written) and select one to pray for each day. Follow a prayer model, perhaps the five-finger prayers that focus on categories of people to pray for, the ACTS model (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication), the Wow-Sorry-Please-Thanks model, or many others. Try different positions in prayer or different activities as you pray (standing, kneeling, bowing, building). Toss the “prayer stick” to the next person in your family to continue a prayer. Pray with photos or pictures as reminders of the prayer requests. Write out prayers or keep a prayer diary.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned God blessed Daniel for his faithfulness. The king's helpers became jealous of Daniel, and they tricked the king into making a law that people could only pray to him. Daniel continued to pray to God even though he knew the punishment was that he would be thrown into a lions' den. I am learning **God Helps His Children**, including Daniel and me.