

## COMMUNICATING WITH GOD

In the last lesson you wrote a letter to God expressing your commitment to him. That is what praying is all about. Prayer is communicating with God. People can pray out loud or silently; they can pray by writing down their thoughts and feelings towards God; it doesn't matter. What does matter is that we learn to communicate openly with God. As in any relationship, the better we communicate with God the better our relationship will be with him. This lesson will help us discover how to communicate with God and understand things that can hurt this communication.

2

In your opinion, what does it mean to pray?

### GOD WANTS TO ANSWER PRAYER

*“Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 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!”*

**MATTHEW 7:9-11**

What is the son asking for in these verses?

Bread and fish were things necessary to live. What are some things needed for us to live today?

What are some things needed to live spiritually that we could ask God to provide?

What do these verses say about a father's desire to give to his child?

What is God called in these verses?

Would God be considered a loving Father? (Read John 3:16)

Would God, our loving Father, want to give us a snake or a stone?

What could we compare a snake or a stone to today?

Would God, our loving Father, want to give us those things that are best for us?

Do you think this means God, our loving Father, will give us anything we want?

Use your imagination and try to think of something that you might want, that God, as a loving Father, might not want to give you. Write your thoughts below:

Use your imagination and try to think of some good gifts that God, as a loving Father, might want to give you. Write your thoughts below:

## GOD WILL ANSWER PRAYER

*“Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.”*

**JEREMIAH 33:3**

According to the verse, what does God tell us to do?

What does it mean to “call to” him?

What does the verse say he will do?

God will tell us great and unsearchable things. What could be some of them?

## PRAYER CAN BE HINDERED

The Bible says there are things that can get in the way of our communication with God. Let's look at three.

### UNCONFESSSED SIN INTERFERES WITH PRAYER

*If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;*

PSALM 66:18

What does it mean to cherish something?

A good definition of sin would be, "doing what I want to do instead of doing what God wants me to do." James 4:17 says, "Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins."

What are some ways we could cherish sin?

What does the verse say the Lord will not do, if we cherish sin in our heart?

Why do you think this is the case?

What does God want us to do with our sin?

Can you think of any sins you need to confess?

**BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS INTERFERE WITH PRAYER**

*“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.”*

**MATTHEW 5:23,24**

What is the person doing in these verses?

Offering a gift at the altar was a form of communication with God.  
What are some ways we communicate with God today?

What does the person remember while he is making his offering?

What do these verses say the person is to do with his gifts?

According to the verses, where should he go?

The word “reconciled” means to re-establish a friendship between, or to settle or resolve. Why do you think God wants us to be reconciled to our brother and sister?

Can you think of any relationships you have that might need to be reconciled?

What do you think God wants you to do to reconcile these relationships?

When we have done our best to be reconciled to our brother and sister, what does God want us to do?

**WRONG MOTIVES INTERFERE WITH PRAYER**

*... 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.*  
JAMES 4:2,3

What two reasons do these verses give for not having?

What would cause us not to ask?

What would be a wrong motive?

What would be a right motive?

## A GUIDE FOR PRAYER

Sometimes people find it hard to pray. Here is a simple plan called A.C.T.S. to help us. Each letter stands for the following words:

**A**

**ADORATION:**

*telling God  
what we like  
about him.*

**C**

**CONFESSION:**

*telling God we are  
sorry for the things  
we do wrong.*

**T**

**THANKSGIVING:**

*thanking God for  
the things he does  
for us.*

**S**

**SUPPLICATION:**

*making  
requests of  
God.*

## ASSIGNMENT

Taking what we have learned about prayer in this lesson, write down one thing from your time of prayer in each of the categories below. Try to do this every day this week.

DAY 1

One thing I appreciate about God today is . . .

One attitude or action God wants me to work on today is . . .

One thing I want to thank God for is . . .

One thing I am asking God for today is . . .

**DAY 2**

One thing I appreciate about God today is . . .

One attitude or action God wants me to work on today is . . .

One thing I want to thank God for is . . .

One thing I am asking God for today is . . .

**DAY 3**

One thing I appreciate about God today is . . .

One attitude or action God wants me to work on today is . . .

One thing I want to thank God for is . . .

One thing I am asking God for today is . . .



DAY 4

One thing I appreciate about God today is . . .

One attitude or action God wants me to work on today is . . .

One thing I want to thank God for is . . .

One thing I am asking God for today is . . .

DAY 5

One thing I appreciate about God today is . . .

One attitude or action God wants me to work on today is . . .

One thing I want to thank God for is . . .

One thing I am asking God for today is . . .