

When You Pray



When You Pray

by **J. Robert Ashcroft**

*Developed in Cooperation With
the Global University Staff*

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First, Let's Have a Talk

A Word From Your Study Guide Author

You have probably read on the back of this book some of the questions people ask about prayer. Please look at them now. Which ones are your reasons for studying this course? The author of this book, Dr. J. Robert Ashcroft, wants to help you find the answers. He says:

We have not met, but I want to be your friend. Someone loved me and shared with me the things that have helped me so greatly in life. Now I want to share some of these things with you. So let's just walk and talk together through these pages. As we go along, I pray that God will walk with us and that you may discover new depths of joy in talking with Him.

Your Study Guide

This book is a workbook that you can take with you and study whenever you have five or ten minutes free. Try to do at least a lesson a week.

You will notice that objectives are given at the beginning of each lesson. The word *objective* is used in this book to help you know what to expect from your study. An objective is something like a goal, or a purpose. You will study better if you keep in mind your objectives.

Be sure to study carefully the first two pages of each lesson. This prepares your mind for what follows. Next, study the lesson section by section and follow the instructions under the title *For You to Do*. If there is not enough room to write your answers to the study questions in the study guide, write them in a notebook so you can refer back to them when you review the lessons. If you are studying this course with a group, follow the instructions of your group leader.

How to Answer Study Questions

There are different kinds of study questions in this study guide. Following are samples of several types and how to answer them.

A *MULTIPLE-CHOICE* question or item asks you to choose an answer from the ones that are given.

Example of Multiple-Choice Question

- 1 A week has a total of
- a) 10 days.
 - b) 7 days.
 - c) 5 days.

The correct answer is *b) 7 days*. In your study guide, make a circle around *b)* as shown here:

- 1 A week has a total of
- a) 10 days.
 - ⓑ) 7 days.
 - c) 5 days.

(For some multiple-choice items, more than one answer may be correct. In that case, you would circle the letter in front of each correct answer.)

A *TRUE-FALSE* question or item asks you to choose which of several statements are TRUE.

Example of True-False Question

2 Which statements below are TRUE?

- a** The Bible has a total of 120 books.
- (b)** The Bible is a message for believers today.
- c** All of the Bible authors wrote in the Hebrew language.
- (d)** The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible.

Statements **b** and **d** are true. You would make a circle around these two letters to show your choices, as you see above.

A *MATCHING* question or item asks you to match things that go together, such as names with descriptions or Bible books with their authors.

Example of Matching Question

3 Write the number for the leader's name (right) in front of each phrase that describes something he did (left).

- | | | |
|----------------|---|-----------|
| . . . 1 | a Received the Law at Mt. Sinai | 1) Moses |
| . . . 2 | b Led the Israelites across Jordan | 2) Joshua |
| . . . 2 | c Marched around Jericho | |
| . . . 1 | d Lived in Pharaoh's court | |

Phrases **a** and **d** refer to *Moses*, and phrases **b** and **c** refer to *Joshua*. You would write **1** beside **a** and **d**, and **2** beside **b** and **c**, as you see above.

Your Student Report

If you are studying to earn a certificate, you will need to complete the Student Report. The Student Report and answer sheets are located at the end of the book.

There are two units in this course. In the Student Report there are questions for each unit. There is also an answer sheet for each of the two units. Your study guide will tell you when to answer the unit questions and to fill out the appropriate answer sheet.

Follow the instructions given in your student report for sending the answer sheets to the ICI office in your area. The address should be stamped at the top of the copyright page. When you do this, you will receive an attractive certificate. If you have already earned the certificate you will receive a seal to affix to it, indicating that you have completed another course in this unit of study.

About the Author

Dr. J. Robert Ashcroft made significant contributions to the field of Christian education. With a B.S. in Education, a M.A. in Higher Education, and an honorary doctorate from Vanguard University, Dr. Ashcroft served as president of these Assemblies of God colleges in the United States: Evangel College, Central Bible College, and Berean College—Assemblies of God colleges in the United States.

Widely known as a speaker for conferences, retreats, and seminars, Dr. Ashcroft was a guest lecturer in several parts of the world. In the late 1970s, he served as pastor of Christian Center, an English-speaking congregation in Brussels, Belgium. His rich background as a Christian leader well qualified him as the author of this study on prayer.

Now you are ready to begin Lesson 1. God bless you as you study!

Additional Helps

Other materials are available for use with this study guide, including supplemental audiocassettes, an Instructor's Guide, and an Instructor's Answer Key (for instructor's use only). Consult the ICI director in your area for information on these products.

Lesson
1

Think About God When You Pray

Do you ever wonder why some people receive such wonderful answers to prayer, while so many of your prayers seem to be unanswered? Or why some people talk to God so easily and you find it hard to know what to say? Or why sometimes you feel the presence of God, and at others you seem to be talking to a blank wall? Perhaps every Christian has asked himself these questions.

Even the disciples of Jesus had questions about prayer. They could see in His life how important prayer was to Him and what wonderful things happened in answer to His prayers. And so they begged Him:

Luke 11:1. “Lord, teach us to pray.”

Note: The reference at the beginning of the quotation you have just read (Luke 11:1) tells you where you can find the quotation in your Bible. It lists the name of the book, the number of the chapter or chapters, and the number of the verse or verses.



Jesus answered this request not only by His words but also by His example. He gave the disciples a prayer they could use and He showed them how to pray. God wants us to talk with Him. In fact, He is the One who has given us the desire to pray. Let us make the request of the disciples our request as we study these lessons in prayer. God is ready to teach us!

In this lesson you will study . . .

God Will Teach You to Pray
God Is Good
God Loves You
God Is Our Father
God Can Do Anything

This lesson will help you. . .

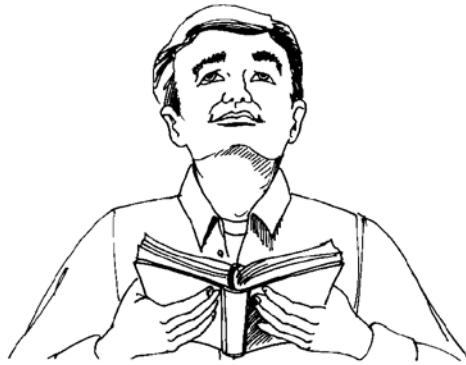
- Think about God when you pray.
- Pray with the assurance that God loves you and wants to do what is best for you.

GOD WILL TEACH YOU TO PRAY

Objective 1. *Identify God's purpose for us in prayer.*

When God made us, He put something in us that reaches out for Him. We realize that we need a power greater than our own to solve our problems, protect us, and meet our needs. We reach out to the world of the supernatural for help. But our urge to pray goes beyond that. We feel the need to worship, honor, and serve some supernatural being.

How important it is to direct this worship to the right Person—the One who made us, God! Only then can we find the deep satisfaction that He wants us to enjoy. God made us so that we could talk things over with Him and He could talk with us and help us. Life is not complete without this communication with Him.



God invites us to come to Him in prayer and ask Him for whatever we need. Just think of it—the One who made the world and everything in it, the Lord and Ruler of the universe wants to talk with us. He made us, understands us, loves us, and wants to help us. Time and again in the Book He has given us—the Holy Bible—He invites us to take our problems to Him, talk everything over with Him. That's what prayer is—talking with God. He tells us:

Jeremiah 33:3. “Call to me, and I will answer you; I will tell you wonderful and marvelous things that you know nothing about.”

You may be sure that God will teach you as you study and put into practice what the Bible tells us about how to pray. The title of each lesson in this book gives you a biblical principle, a simple rule that will help you when you pray. Then the lesson is full of practical suggestions on how to apply it. The principle for this lesson—think of God when you pray—is one that Jesus teaches us. If we follow the model He gave, we begin our prayers recognizing who God is, honoring Him, and praying for His will to be done.

Matthew 6:9-10. “This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven: May your holy name be honored; may your Kingdom come; may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.’”



For You To Do

In each of these *For You To Do* sections, the questions or exercises will help you review or apply what you have just studied. Follow the directions given for completing each one. When you are directed to, write your answers in your notebook. If you need to, review the section entitled How to Answer Study Questions at the beginning of this study guide.

- 1 Read Luke 11:1 and Jeremiah 33:3 five times each. How do you plan to use these verses as you study?
- 2 Look at the list of contents at the beginning of this course. With a pencil, make a check mark (✓) by things you already do when you pray. Mark a plus sign (+) by those you want to practice more.
- 3 This lesson teaches that when you pray, you should think more about
 - a) God—who He is, what He has done for you, and what He wants you to do.
 - b) Yourself—your problems, what you want God to do for you.

Check your answers with those at the end of this lesson.

GOD IS GOOD

Objective 2. *Describe the manner in which we should approach God in prayer.*

When we talk with someone, we don't just think about ourselves and our needs. We think first about the other person—who he is, what he does, and what he is to us. Our first lesson in how to pray effectively is to apply the same principle when we talk to God: *Think about God when you pray*. In fact, this is a basic part of worship. The word *worship* in English comes from *worth* + *ship* and means to recognize the worthiness of God.

First of all, let us realize that God is good. Because God is good, He wants to free us from the things that bring suffering. He wants to bless us, making us happy and healthy and helping us live good and useful lives. Thinking about how good God is makes us want to join in the song of the Psalmist:

Psalm 100

- 1 Sing to the Lord, all the world!
- 2 Worship the Lord with joy; come before him with happy songs!
- 3 Never forget that the Lord is God. He made us and we belong to him; we are his people, we are his flock.
- 4 Enter the temple gates with thanksgiving; go into its courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise him.
- 5 The Lord is good; his love is eternal and his faithfulness lasts forever.



For You To Do

4 Read Psalm 100 five times. Then answer the questions, finding the answers in the verses indicated.

a Who should sing to the Lord? (v.1)

.....

b How should we come to God? (v.2)

.....

c What should we always remember? (v.3)

.....

d With what attitude should we come to God? (v.4)

.....

e What is true about God? (v.5)

.....

GOD LOVES YOU

Objective 3. *State how God's love led him to provide for the forgiveness of our sins.*

God loves you and me. It is His very nature to love. The Father sent His Son Jesus Christ into the world to: 1) tell us about His love, 2) demonstrate that love in His life and death for us, and 3) make it possible for us to be with Him and enjoy His love forever. Jesus said:

John 3:16. "For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life."



Because God is good, He has set certain standards for the world He has made. He teaches us right from wrong in the Bible and helps us to do what is right. As Ruler of the universe, He must judge us for what we do, regarding those who do right and punishing those who do wrong. Unfortunately, we have all done wrong and were condemned to be separated from God unless there was some way to save us.

And there was a way! God loved us so much that He sent His own Son, Jesus Christ, to take our place. Jesus loves us too and died for our sins. He came back to life and went back to heaven. Someday He will come again to put everything right—here in His Father’s world.

John 10:10. “I have come in order that you might have life—life in all its fullness.”

When we pray, if we think about how God loves us, we want to please Him. We are sorry for the wrong we have done and ask Him to forgive us and help us do what is right.

1 John 1:9. If we confess our sins to God, He will keep his promise and do what is right: He will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrongdoing.



For You To Do

- 5 John 3:16 teaches that you can be sure God loves you because
 - a) you have a feeling that He loves you.
 - b) He gave His only Son so you could live.
 - c) other people say that He loves everyone.
- 6 1 John 1:9 says that we are forgiven of our sins if we
 - a) try to do what is right.
 - b) tell them to a priest.
 - c) confess them to God.

GOD IS OUR FATHER

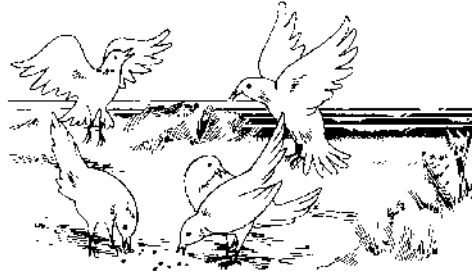
Objective 4. *Describe what it means to have God as our Father.*

When we accept Jesus as our Savior, God becomes a Father to us. He does more than just adopt us. He sends His Holy Spirit to live in us, give us a new nature and make us His children. Jesus teaches us to call God *Father* when we pray, just as He always did. Think what it means for us to be able to call the Creator of the universe *Father!* We can come to Him at any time and ask for whatever we need from our Father in heaven. Jesus tells us that the Father loves us and wants to give us what we need.

John 16:27. “The Father himself loves you.”

Matthew 6:25-26. “This is why I tell you: do not to be worried about the food and drink you need . . . Look at the birds flying around: they do not plant seeds, gather a harvest and put it in barns; yet your Father in heaven takes care of them! Aren’t you worth much more than birds?”

Matthew 7:11. “As bad as you are, you know how to give good things to your children. How much more, then, will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!”



Luke 11:9. “And so I say to you: Ask, and you will receive; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you.”

Our part is simply to *ask* God for what we need. This is an important part of prayer. We ask and He has promised to answer. We need not be afraid that we are asking for something that is too hard for God to do. He can do anything! And so we ask, knowing that God is our Father.

ASK AND YOU WILL RECEIVE

Luke 11:9

FOR YOUR NEED GOD’S SUFFICIENCY

Your Weakness	God’s Strength
Your Failures	God’s Forgiveness
Your Loneliness	God’s Love
Your Ignorance	God’s Knowledge
Your Problems	God’s Wisdom
Your Sickness	God’s Healing



For You To Do

7 Have you accepted Jesus as your Savior? If so, thank God for being your Father. If not, would you like to pray this prayer? God, I would like to have You as my Father. Thank you for sending Your Son to save me. Please forgive all the wrong things I have done and help me do what is right.

8 Read Matthew 6:25-26 five times and memorize these two verses.

9 Start a prayer notebook. First, review the list following “Ask and You Will Receive” to remind yourself of what God can do for you. Then write in your notebook any of those needs or any other special needs you want your Father to supply. Pray about them. As He provides, write beside each need the date that you receive the answer. This notebook will help you remember the things your Father has done for you.

GOD CAN DO ANYTHING

Objective 5. *Identify the infinite power of God to meet our needs.*

God can do anything because He is infinite, that is, He has no limits. He is not limited by time—He has always been and always will be; in other words, He is eternal. God sees the future just as clearly as He sees the past and present because He is infinite in knowledge. Nothing is hidden from Him—not even our thoughts.

God understands us much better than we understand ourselves and knows just what is best for us. As we go to Him in prayer and ask Him to guide us, we can trust in His infinite wisdom, goodness, and love. Whatever He does is right. We can surrender our lives to Him joyfully, knowing that He will take good care of us.

God Is Infinite In { Being
Wisdom
Knowledge
Goodness
Power
Love

God is infinite in power—He created the universe and operates it by His commands. The laws of nature are simply the patterns that God has established for His world; He is not limited by them. Whenever it suits His purpose God may speed up or slow down their operation. Or, He may even temporarily suspend their action by a higher law, the order of the Creator. The result is the miracles that Jesus did: He healed the sick, raised the dead, caused the blind to see and the deaf to hear; all with a word or a touch. We need never fear that our problems are too big for God!

Matthew 19:26. “For God everything is possible.”



For You To Do

10 Repeat these great truths:

God is good and wants to answer my prayers.

God has all power; He can help me now.

God is everywhere; He is with me now.

God is all wise; He will do what is best.

God is my Father; He wants to meet my need.

God loves me and I love Him.

What do you feel about God when you repeat these sentences? I suggest that each day you find a place of quiet meditation and repeat these truths before you pray. Do this until you have formed the habit of really thinking about God whenever you pray.



Check Your Answers

The answers to your study exercises are not given in the usual order. This is done so you will not see the answer to your next question ahead of time. Look for the number you need, and try not to look ahead.

- 6** c) confess them to God.
- 1** Your answer may be different from mine. I would make Luke 1:1 my prayer as I began to study each lesson, and then remind myself of God's promise in Jeremiah 33:3.
- 7** Your answer. I hope that you have received Jesus as your Savior. If you need to know more about this, ask your ICI teacher about it when you send in your answer sheet.
- 2** Your answer.
- 8** These verses will help you remember what is most important when you pray.
- 3** a) God—who He is, what He has done for you, and what He wants you to do.
- 9** Your answers. Your ICI teacher also will be praying that God will meet your needs.
- 4**
 - a** All the world.
 - b** With joy and happy songs.
 - c** That the Lord is God, that He made us, and that we belong to Him as His people and His flock.
 - d** With thanksgiving and praise.
 - e** That the Lord is good, that His love is eternal and that His faithfulness lasts forever.
- 10** You probably feel more confidence in God and have more desire to talk with Him in prayer.
- 5** b) He gave His only Son so you could live.

Lesson
2

Come to God the Right Way When You Pray

Have you ever heard children arguing as they play together?

“Give it to me, now!” one says.

“Why?” asks the other.

“Because I want it!” says the first.

And on they argue, back and forth. They have not yet learned how to approach others when asking for the things they want.

Some people act like these children when they pray. But although God always hears us when we pray, we need to come to Him the right way.

In this lesson, you will learn how to come to God with an attitude that shows Him the respect and honor He deserves. You will study what the Bible teaches about the way, time, and place to pray. The things you learn will give you confidence when you talk to your Heavenly Father.



In this lesson you will study . . .

What Is the Right Way?

With What Attitudes?

Where?

In What Position?

In What Pattern?

This lesson will help you . . .

- Come to God on the right basis and with the right attitudes.
- Follow the Bible teaching about how, when, and where to pray.

WHAT IS THE RIGHT WAY?

Objective 1. *Explain the importance of coming to God through His Son, Jesus.*

“Does it really matter how we pray?” some people ask. “Don’t all religions lead to God?” Jesus said:

John 14:6. “I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one goes to the Father except by me.”

And so we go to the Father through Jesus, on the basis of what He has done for us. We pray in Jesus’ name, presenting His promises just as we might write a check on the Bank of Heaven. His account is not overdrawn. And Jesus Himself is there to honor the promise, to identify us as authorized to draw on His account. The Bible tells us about this for those who believe in Him:

John 14:13. “And I will do whatever you ask for in my name, so that the Father’s glory will be shown through the Son.”

Hebrews 10:19. We have, then, my brothers, complete freedom to go into the Most Holy Place by means of the death of Jesus.

Hebrews 4:14-16. We have a great High Priest who has gone into the very presence of God—Jesus, the Son of God. Our High Priest is not one who cannot feel sympathy for our weaknesses. On the contrary, we have a High Priest who was tempted in every way that we are, but did not sin. Let us be brave, then, and approach God’s throne, where there is grace. There we will receive mercy and find grace to help us just when we need it.



For You To Do

- 1 Something to think about. Which of these do you mean when you use the words “in Jesus’ name” in your prayers?
 - a I ask not because of my goodness but because of what Jesus did for me, making me a child of God.
 - b I don’t really think of what the words mean but just use them from habit.
 - c I come to ask for and receive what Jesus has promised me.
 - d I belong to Jesus and ask Him to help me.
 - e This is something that Jesus would ask for, that will advance His cause, that will please Him, and so I ask for it in His name, for His sake.
 - f The words are like a magic formula that are supposed to make our prayers heard.
 - g Jesus, as my High Priest, please ask the Father for this is Your Name.
 - h I pray this way because Jesus told us to. I really don’t know what the words mean.
- 2 Hebrews 10:19 says that we have freedom to approach God because of the
 - a) death of Jesus.
 - b) sincere repentance we show.
 - c) prayers of the saints.

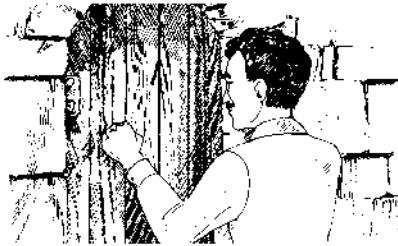
WITH WHAT ATTITUDES?

Objective 2. *Identify the proper attitudes we should have in approaching God.*

Respect, Joy, Thankfulness, Confidence

Thinking about who God is and of His goodness, love, and power makes it easier for us to come to Him with the right attitudes. We come with respect and submission to our Lord and Maker, ready to do whatever He tells us. We come to our Father with joy, thankfulness, and confidence. We know God will hear and answer our prayers because He loves us and because He has promised to give us what we need. Jesus has told us about prayer:

Luke 11:9. “Ask, and you will receive; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you.”



When we have truly prayed and have heard God speak to us or have seen Him answer, we learn from experience that He does hear and answer prayer. This strengthens our faith. Sometimes we have to wait with patience, but we can trust and thank God for the answer that will come.

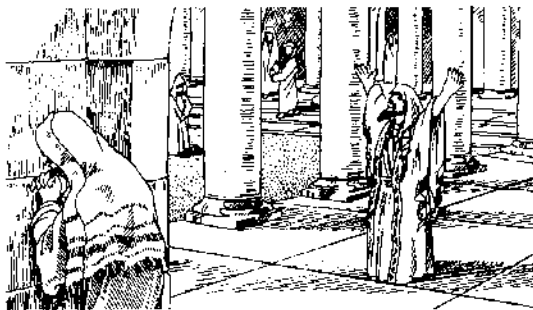
Remember, too, that God has no favorites. He loves everyone and welcomes us all. The apostle Peter learned this by experience and said:

Acts 10:34-35. “I now realize that it is true that God treats everyone on the same basis. Whoever fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him, no matter what race he belongs to.”

Humility and Repentance

Jesus once told about two men to illustrate the right and wrong attitudes in prayer:

Luke 18:10-14. “Once there were two men who went up to the Temple to pray: one was a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood apart by himself and prayed, ‘I thank you, God, that I am not greedy, dishonest, or an adulterer, like everybody else. I thank you that I am not like that tax collector over there. I fast two days a week, and I give you a tenth of all my income.’ But the tax collector stood at a distance and would not even raise his face to heaven, but beat on his breast and said, ‘God, have pity on me a sinner!’ I tell you,” said Jesus, “the tax collector, and not the Pharisee, was in the right with God when he went home.”



Pride and a critical attitude toward others are sins. And sin separates us from the presence and blessing of God. The Pharisee was shutting the door in his own face. But repentance (being sorry for the wrong we have done and wanting to stop doing anything that is wrong) opens the door for us to receive forgiveness and God’s blessing. Humility is the opposite of pride. The tax collector knew he was a sinner and acknowledged it. He knew he didn’t deserve God’s blessing (none of us do!) but he came asking for mercy. And God forgave him.

Forgiving and Loving Others

Hatred, resentment, and unwillingness to forgive those who have wronged us will close the door between us and God in prayer. Jesus said:

Matthew 6:14-15. “If you forgive others the wrongs they have done to you, your Father in heaven will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive the wrongs you have done.”

If we have done someone else a wrong, Jesus teaches us that we should make it right, ask forgiveness. We should be careful to treat others with love and kindness in our home, at work, or wherever we are. Harsh attitudes hinder prayer.

Matthew 5:23-24. “So if you are about to offer your gift to God at the altar and there you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar, go at once and make peace with your brother, and then come back and offer your gift to God.”

Estela, a young Peruvian school teacher, was praying for God to fill her with the Holy Spirit. As she prayed, God brought to her mind the resentment she felt against a certain person. “Lord,” she prayed, “I forgive her. Please forgive me for holding resentment against her. Tomorrow I will write her a letter and ask her to forgive me.” Immediately a deep joy and peace filled Estela and she praised God as He answered prayer and filled her with His Spirit.

Sincerity and Earnestness

Mean what you say when you pray. Too often we simply say a prayer without really thinking about what we are saying. Jesus had a great deal to say about this.



For You To Do

3 Below are a list of attitudes. Underline each one you want to have when you pray.

Joyfulness	Sincerity	Pride
Listening	Earnestness	Praise
Thankfulness	Repentance	Love
Forgiveness	Confidence	Humility
Worship	Obedience	Respect

WHERE?

Objective 3. *Discuss what the Bible says about when and where to pray.*

First, remember that God is everywhere; so, wherever we are, God will hear us and answer. However, we learn in the Bible that there are special places of prayer. Our churches, like God’s temple in Jerusalem, have been dedicated to God as His house where we go to meet with Him. They are special places of worship.

Mark 11:17. “God said, ‘My Temple will be called a house of prayer for the people of all nations.’”

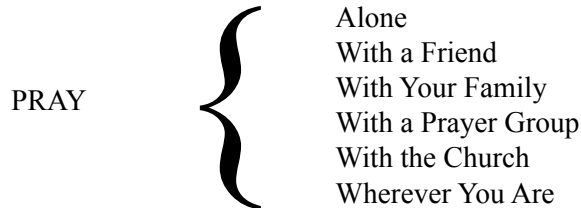
Jesus let people know that the place was not so important as the attitude, but He also said we should pray privately at home. We follow this principle when we pray silently within ourselves, but it is good to have a place where we can get alone with God regularly. There we can think and listen quietly for the voice of God when we pray.

Matthew 6:6. “But when you pray, go to your room, close the door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen. And your Father, who sees what you do in private, will reward you.”

God shows us in His Word that we should pray with others too. You may do this with a friend who is willing to be a prayer partner with you. If possible you should pray with your family. In many places prayer groups meet in homes or in other convenient places. We read about one such group in the book of Acts, a women’s group that met down by the river. And then of course, you will have a special opportunity to worship God as you join together with other believers in His house.



The Bible teaches that there are many times and situations when we can grow through the blessing of prayer. So, friend, pray wherever you are.



For You To Do

4 You have just read a list of six places or situations where you can pray. Write the list in your notebook, then describe the special benefit each situation has. Are you receiving all of these benefits by using all your opportunities to pray?

IN WHAT POSITION?

Objective 4. *Describe what the Bible says about physical positions for prayer.*

In the Bible we find that people sometimes stood to pray, showing respect and reverence. Sometimes they knelt, as they might before a king to show their respect, submission, and willingness to obey his orders. The Psalmist spoke of praying in bed during the night. We read that David “sat before the Lord,” and the 120 believers were sitting when the Holy Spirit filled them on the Day of Pentecost. If we are praying for a long time, it is important to be comfortable and relaxed, thinking about God instead of about how uncomfortable we are. Sometimes, though, we may want to stand up and walk about in order to keep wide awake when we pray.



Some pray with closed eyes to shut out any sights that would distract their attention from God. Some lift their eyes toward heaven in prayer as Jesus did. Sometimes we bow our heads and clasp our hands in an attitude of worship and of earnest request. Sometimes we take the hand of the person with whom we are praying, uniting our prayers in agreement. Sometimes, as people did in Bible times, we lift our hands to God in praise or stretch our hands in supplication as if to receive the answer. We may place our hands on the person for whom we are praying, in Jesus’ name, trusting that He will use our hands as His to heal or encourage the person or set him apart for a special work.

Psalm 95:6. Come, let us bow down and worship him; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker!

Psalm 134:2. Raise your hands in prayer in the Temple, and praise the Lord!



For You To Do

- 5 The examples of prayer in the Bible show us that when we pray, we
- must kneel down and bow our heads.
 - may be in any position.
 - need to close our eyes.

IN WHAT PATTERN?

Objective 5. *Analyze the Lord’s Prayer as a pattern for our progress.*

Jesus has given us the best pattern for our prayers as well as wonderful teachings about prayer. We call it “The Lord’s Prayer.” We use it in two ways: (1) as a prayer that we memorize and repeat, and (2) as a pattern for other prayers.

Matthew 6:9-13. This then, is how you should pray:
Our Father in heaven,
May your holy name be honored;
may your Kingdom come;
may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today the food we need.
Forgive us the wrongs we have done, as we
forgive the wrongs that others have done to us.
Do not bring us to hard testing,
but keep us safe from the Evil One.

You may be used to a different translation of this prayer. I like the ones that include the ending found on some ancient manuscripts: “For thine (yours) is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.” In this way we begin and end our prayer with recognition of who God is and looking forward to the time when He will establish His perfect rule here on earth. *Amen* means “may it be so.”

In this beautiful model prayer, Jesus tells us to pray “Our Father in heaven.” God is the One to whom we pray. We come with confidence as His children to talk with Him about our needs. We come respectfully, praying that His name may be honored—that we and others may honor Him.

One of the first and most important things for us to pray about in every circumstance is for God’s will to be done—that He may do what He knows is best. As we let Him guide us in prayer, He will impress on our minds what to pray for, what He wants to do. We cooperate with Him as we pray in His will for those things that are best for our family, our nation, and the church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our heavenly Father loves us and wants to give us whatever we need for each day—the work to earn our food, the strength and health to work, the wisdom, the right relationships, shelter, clothing—He tells us to ask for it.

We are to pray for God to forgive us for anything that we have done wrong. This includes getting rid of any bad feelings that we may have toward anyone else. It also means that we stop doing what is wrong. We ask for God’s help to do right, along with His forgiveness for our faults and failures.

We pray for God to guide us and help us, that He won’t let us surrender to temptation. And we ask to be kept safe from the power of Satan, the tempter, the evil one, the enemy of God and our souls. This may include deliverance from his attacks: from doubts, fears, wrong attitudes, sickness, discouragement, anything that would hinder us from doing God’s will.

We close by reminding ourselves that God is in control! He will give the victory. His power is sufficient for all our need. And someday we will see Him and live with Him forever in His perfect kingdom. His is the glory forever, Amen!

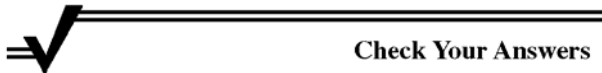


For You To Do

6 Read “The Lord’s Prayer” line by line. Think about the meaning of each line and talk to God about how the words apply to you.

7 Now pray, using each line as your pattern. You may begin like this: “My Father in heaven, may I bring honor to Your name today in all that I do. May I follow Your will and trust You for my daily needs . . .”

8 If you have not memorized the Lord’s Prayer yet, learn it now. If the congregation in your church prays it together, learn that version so you can pray it also.



Check Your Answers

- 4 Your answer. Learning to pray in all kinds of different situations will cause your relationship with your heavenly Father to grow stronger.
- 1 Answers **a, c, d, e,** and **g** are all good ones. When you pray in Jesus’ name, think of them. Too often, we could give answers **b, f,** or **h.** Answer **f** is, of course, completely wrong.
- 5 b) may be in any position.
- 2 a) death of Jesus.
- 6-8** I hope you were blessed in doing these.
- 3 Your answer. The attitude of pride is the only one you should avoid. I think these lessons will help you develop the right attitudes.

Lesson
3

Listen to God When You Pray

Has God ever spoken to you?

The Bible records several times when God spoke to different people. He spoke to a boy named Samuel, calling his name in the night and giving him a message for the priest, Eli. He spoke to a woman named Hagar, telling her not to be afraid and showing her where to find water in the desert. Samuel and Hagar both heard God's voice.

But though God does not always speak out loud as He did to Samuel and Hagar, He always speaks! He has many things to say to those who will listen.

Too often, our prayers are one-sided—we do all the talking! We must learn to pay attention to God and what He might be saying to us when we pray. If we will do this, we will discover how to become partners with Him. He will guide us, use us, and let us have a part in His work.

You belong to God's family! He has given you the wonderful blessing of His love and He wants to speak to you. In this lesson, you will learn about the ways He may speak and how you can hear Him.



In this lesson you will study . . .

God Wants to Talk With You
How God Speaks to You
How to Hear God Speak
Act on What God Tells You

This lesson will help you . . .

- Listen for God's voice.
- Recognize God's voice and do what He tells you to do.

GOD WANTS TO TALK WITH YOU

Objective 1. *Recognize the importance of listening to God in prayer.*

There are many Bible passages that tell us to listen to God. Most of them carry the idea that we are not only to hear what He says but also to act on it—do what He tells us.

Isaiah 55:3. “Listen now, my people, and come to me.”

Revelation 3:13. “If you have ears, then, listen to what the Spirit says to the churches!”



For You To Do

1 Suppose that you are a father. Your son comes running to you for help and tells you about his problem, but he does not listen to a word you say to him. You want to help but he runs away before you can even answer. How would you feel about it? What would you do? Are your prayers ever like that? Talk with God about it.

.....

.....

HOW GOD SPEAKS TO YOU

Objective 2. *Describe how God speaks to us in prayer.*

God reveals Himself—speaks to people and lets them know Him, in many ways. He speaks through nature, letting us know something of His wisdom, power, and goodness as we look at the world He has made. Our experience of His care brings us His message, “I love you.” He speaks through circumstances. He speaks through His church and its ministries. Sometimes He speaks through visions, dreams, and messages spoken under the direction of the Holy Spirit. He speaks through the advice and encouragement that we receive from other Christians. He speaks through history and through what is happening in the world today. We hear Him speak silently to our conscience and inner being that we call our spirit. He impresses His thoughts on our mind. And He speaks to us through His written Word.



Isaiah 30:21. If you wander off the road to the right or to the left, you will hear His voice behind you saying, “Here is the road. Follow it.”

Matthew 3:17. Then a voice said from heaven, “This is my own dear Son, with whom I am pleased.”

Acts 2:17. “This is what I will do in the last days, God says: I will pour out my Spirit on everyone. Your sons and daughters will proclaim my message; your young men will see visions, and your old men will have dreams.”

Of course, we must realize that not *every* thought that comes to our mind when we are praying is the voice of God. Neither is every dream or vision. Some of these are simply our own thoughts. Most dreams are just a mixture of the many impressions stored in our subconscious mind. But God *does* use these means sometimes to speak to us.



For You To Do

2 Suppose you have a friend who is praying for the Lord to lead him about whether or not to go to a certain city to work. Every time he thinks about it, he feels very uneasy. What answer is the Lord probably giving him? Which Bible verse above does this illustrate?

.....

HOW TO HEAR GOD SPEAK

Objective 3. *Name several ways to hear God speak to us.*

When you talk with God about something, expect Him to speak. Listen for the answer. Pay special attention to the first thoughts that come to your mind after you speak to God about a matter. Often these thoughts are from the Lord. They may be the words of a Bible verse and a flash of insight into how they apply to you. Or you may feel a deep peace about a problem you have prayed about. God is assuring you that He has heard and will work things out. Thank Him for it and wait silently to see if He impresses on your mind something that you should do about it.



Pray and listen for God’s voice whenever you read the Bible. And read some in the Bible whenever you have your daily devotions or special times of prayer. You will often find that the promises or instructions about what to do are found in the pages of this wonderful book. Ask God to speak to you through His Word. Sometimes as you think about a verse it will open up a complete message on the subject. This may be for your benefit or it may be a message that God wants you to share with someone. You may want to write down some of the thoughts God gives you. Keep thinking about them. God will use you as His witness or messenger.

The Word of God as we find it in the Bible is our final authority. God will not tell us something that is contrary to His written Word. And so everything that we might take as the voice of God must be examined and judged in the light of what the Bible teaches. This will help us to know the difference between our thoughts and the impressions or message that God gives us.

It is good to consult with mature Christians, too, about what we feel to be the leading of the Lord. Those who have more experience in interpreting the Word of God can help us. We need one another's help through the church. God often uses a sermon, a testimony, or someone else's advice to confirm what He has told us personally. This is all part of the Bible pattern. Even the apostles of Jesus consulted one another about the will of God and looked to Him for guidance until they could all recognize clearly what God wanted them to do.



For You To Do

3 Name the two main ways in which God speaks to us when we are praying.

.....
.....

4 What is the final authority by which we must test any revelation or message?

.....

ACT ON WHAT GOD TELLS YOU

Objective 4. *Decide to act on God's leading in prayer.*

When we have heard from the Lord and He has told us what to do, our part is to obey! This is important. Only as we obey God is He really Lord in our lives, the One whom we serve and obey. We honor Jesus as Lord by filling our minds with His teachings and doing what He says. Jesus said:

Luke 6:46. "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and yet don't do what I tell you?"

The Bible emphasizes two things about what we need in order to come to God with confidence and see our prayers answered:

- 1) Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 2) Love everybody.

1 John 3:19-24. This, then, is how we know that we belong to the truth; this is how we will be confident in God's presence. If our conscience condemns us, we know that God is greater than our conscience and that he knows everything. And so, my dear friends, if our conscience does not condemn us, we have courage in God's presence. We receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. What he commands is that we believe in his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as Christ commanded us. Whoever obeys God's commands lives in union with God and God lives in union with him.

The Bible gives us the general instructions from God about what we are to do. The Holy Spirit shows us how these apply to our circumstances. He brings to our minds the words we need at that particular moment or they may be for a situation that we will face that day. God is speaking to us; it is our privilege to listen to what He has to say. As we do, He will give us special instructions.



Let's act on the special instructions that God gives us. They may be something like this: "Be patient and trust Me; I will work it all out." Or, "Forgive and forget the harsh words of your husband. Show him that you love him by fixing something special for him to eat." "Remember the quarrel that you had with your neighbor. I want you to go to him and apologize." "The bill that you owe at Vincent's store is keeping me from blessing you as much as I want to. The store has given it up as a bad debt, but a Christian pays what he owes. You prayed for my name to be honored. This is how you can honor it." "Tell Uncle John that I love him and want to help him with his problems." "Invite the Jones' to dinner and tell them about my love."



As we listen and act on such messages from the Lord as those mentioned above, it will be easier and easier for us to recognize His voice in other matters too. As His children we can talk everything over with Him in prayer and have His guidance in all that we do. We need both courage and humility as we learn to act on what God tells us. We have already mentioned that we test impressions or messages by God's written Word. We also consult with other Christians, perhaps with our pastor or a mature, spiritual Christian who can pray with us and help us know for sure what God's will is. We must be humble and ready to take advice from others, or correction if we have made a mistake. God wants us to work together in harmony in the church and home. Sometimes, He tells us what to do but not when or how to do it. He leads us step by step. We prepare for what He wants us to do and then recognize the opportunity when it comes.

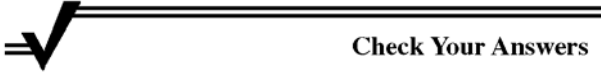
So, listen to God when you pray. Two-way conversation is a wonderful experience that you can enjoy at any time, wherever you are. Life becomes a series of exciting adventures with God as you follow His instructions. And you will see God do great things in answer to prayer.



For You To Do

- 5 Write in your notebook something that you have heard God say to you through each of these: a) nature, b) the Bible, c) thoughts.
- 6 Pray and listen to God now, then write down what He tells you. Act on what He says.

Now that you have completed the first unit, you are ready to answer the questions in your student report for UNIT ONE. Review the previous lessons, then follow the instructions in your student report. Send your answer sheet to the address given on the copyright page.



Check Your Answers

- 4 The Bible.
- 1 You would not like it, would you? You would call, “Wait a minute! Listen to me! How can I help you if you won’t listen?” Perhaps we are all guilty of praying and running.
- 5 Your answer. God has probably spoken to you through nature, showing you His wisdom, power, and care for His creation. If you haven’t already heard God speaking through the Bible or directly to you, begin listening each time you read the Bible and pray. Memorizing Bible verses will also make them available for the Lord to bring them to your memory when He wants to use them.
- 2 Probably, “Don’t go.” God often speaks to us through a deep peace and assurance when something is His will, or in an uneasy and troubled feeling about it when it is not His will. This illustrates Isaiah 30:21.
- 6 Your answer. These lessons will help you to the extent that you put the truths into practice. May God bless you as you do.
- 3 By thoughts that He impresses on our mind and through something in the Bible.

Lesson

4

Use God's Word When You Pray

Almost everything we do must be done with faith. In fact, life is built on faith. We eat food, believing that it will nourish us. We send letters, believing that the postal system will deliver them to people in other towns and cities. We go to see a friend, believing that he will keep his promise to meet us.

The Christian life is also built on faith. We believe God loves us and cares about our problems, and so we pray to Him with confidence, expecting Him to answer.

But why should we believe that God loves us? We believe He does because He says so in His Word, the Bible. We trust His Word like we would trust the word of a friend, but much more strongly. God's Word is completely reliable and dependable, just as He is. If it says He loves us, He does! When He invites us to pray, He means it!

This lesson explains ways in which the Bible helps you when you pray. You will learn how to study it, use it when you pray, and put its promises into action.



In this lesson you will study . . .

Use the Bible as Your Guide
Strengthen Your Faith With the Bible
Use Bible Verses When You Pray
Act in Faith on God's Promises

This lesson will help you . . .

- Grow stronger in your faith by praying in agreement with the promises God has made.
- See wonderful things happen as you begin to act in faith on God's promises.

USE THE BIBLE AS YOUR GUIDE

Objective 1. *State the importance of using God’s word as your guide.*

Jesus said that there is a direct link between His words and our prayers. He made this amazing statement:

John 15:7. “If you remain in me and *my words remain in you*, then you will ask for anything you wish, and you shall have it.”

This wonderful promise teaches us that the answer to our prayers may depend on what part the Word of God has in our lives. We must think about what the Bible says and let it guide us in our prayers. We follow the Bible teachings about how to pray, and let God speak to us through His Word when we pray. When we pray with others, reading from the Bible and talking about what we have read makes God’s presence more real to us. God applies its message to our conditions and shows us how to pray about problems in our homes, our communities, and our world.

The Bible teaches us God’s will for our lives and lets us know we must pray for His will to be done. We must pray for what will honor God and what will be best for others too, not just for what we want or for selfish pleasure.

James 4:2-3. You want things, but you cannot have them, so you are ready to kill; you strongly desire things, but you cannot get them, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have what you want because you do not ask God for it. And when you ask, you do not receive it, because your motives are bad; you ask for things to use for your own pleasures.

Matthew 26:41. “Keep watch and pray that you will not fall into temptation.”

Many of the prayers in the Bible are a good guide for us. We may pour out our soul in the words of David’s cry for forgiveness or in Jesus’ anguished prayer of submission just before He went to the cross.

Psalms 51:1, 10. Be merciful to me, O God, because of your constant love. Because of your great mercy wipe away my Sins! Create a pure heart in me, O God, and put a new and loyal spirit in me.

Matthew 26:39. “My Father, if it is possible, take this cup of suffering from me! Yet not what I want, but what you want.”

If we want our prayers to be effective, then let us fill our minds with God’s Word. Let’s read it, think about it, memorize it, talk about it, pray about it. It will shape our desires and guide our prayers. As it *remains in us* we can ask and receive the answer to our prayers.



For You To Do

1 Write John 15:7 from memory in your notebook. What do you think Jesus meant by “if my words remain in you?”

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2 How does the Bible guide you in prayer?

.....

.....

STRENGTHEN YOUR FAITH WITH THE BIBLE

Objective 2. *Discuss the importance of faith as an aspect of our Christian experience.*

Have you ever said, “I wish I had more faith,” or “I just don’t have any faith”? But you do already have some faith! Everyone does. At the beginning of this lesson, I said that many of the ordinary things we do each day are built on faith.

Now that you are a Christian, though, you have a new kind of faith. This faith is belief in God, a Person you have not seen. It is the foundation of your new life.

Hebrews 11:1. To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see.

God Himself gives us faith—the confidence that He will do what He has promised. He works through His Word to strengthen our faith, and we cooperate with Him in this. Our faith grows as we read about these wonderful things that happen to others. We think about God’s love for us and realize that what He did for people in the Bible He will do for us today. We go to His promises and believe what they tell us. We pray believing that the answer will come—and it does.

Hebrews 12:2. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end.

Romans 12:3. Judge yourself according to the amount of faith that God has given you.

Romans 10:17. So then, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message comes from preaching Christ.

In Romans 10:17 we are reminded that it is not just reading and thinking about God’s Word that brings faith. Hearing it preached strengthens our faith. And so we go to church services and listen to gospel broadcasts when we can. The sermons, songs, and testimonies about Jesus, the Son of God, strengthen our faith in Him.

We don’t understand everything about it, but we know that God works through our faith. If we don’t believe, this hinders His work. If we do believe, this makes it easy for Him to answer our prayers and do wonderful things.

Matthew 13:58. Because they did not have faith, he did not perform many miracles there.

Mark 9:23. Everything is possible for the person who has faith.

Matthew 9:20-22. A woman who had suffered from severe bleeding for twelve years came up behind Jesus and touched the edge of his cloak. She said to herself, “If I only touch his cloak, I will get well.” Jesus turned around and saw her, and said, “Courage, my daughter! Your faith has made you well.” At that very moment the woman became well.

Matthew 9:28-29. When Jesus had gone indoors, the two blind men came to him, and he asked them, “Do you believe that I can heal you?” “Yes, Sir!” they answered. Then Jesus touched their eyes and said, “Let it happen, then, just as you believe!”—and their sight was restored.



For You To Do

3 Give an example to show that everyone has some faith.

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4 According to Hebrews 12:2 and Romans 12:3, where does our faith come from to believe in God and trust His promises?

.....
.....

5 How does faith come according to Romans 10:17? What does this suggest to you about what you should do as often as possible?

.....

USE BIBLE VERSES WHEN YOU PRAY

Objective 3. *Identify the importance of depending on the promises of God's Word.*

God's promises to His children are like checks or bank drafts on the Bank of Heaven. We have them in the Bible (our checkbook) and just have to present them for payment. God's account is never overdrawn, so we can present these verses to God when we pray and know that He will honor the signature of His Son on them.

BANK OF HEAVEN	
<i>Every Believer</i>	
Pay to the order of	
the sum of <i>all he needs</i>
Philippians 4:19	<i>Jesus Christ</i>

God's Word is filled with promises that meet both our spiritual and physical needs. Because Jesus changed people, fed, and healed them, we know that He is concerned about all our needs. He promises comfort for our sin, grief, companionship for our loneliness, forgiveness of sin, deliverance from bad habits, and everything else we need.

Philippians 4:19. And with all his abundant wealth through Christ Jesus, my God will supply all your needs.

King David, head of the royal line from which our Lord Jesus came in His human nature, gives us a good example of how we can make God's promises a part of our prayers.



2 Samuel 7:25, 27-29. And now, Lord, God, fulfill for all time the promise you made about me and my descendants, and do what you said you would. Lord Almighty, God of Israel! I have the courage to pray this prayer to you, because you have revealed all this to me, your servant, and have told me that you will make my descendants kings. And now, Sovereign Lord, you are God; you always keep your promises, and you have made this wonderful promise to me. I ask you to bless your descendants so that they will continue to enjoy your favor. You, Sovereign Lord, have promised this, and your blessings will rest on my descendants forever.

You can pray a similar prayer for any member of your family that does not believe in Jesus or has not accepted Him as his personal Savior.

Father, I thank You because You love my (fill in the relationship and name)
..... who doesn't yet know You. In Acts 16:31 You told a jailer, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your family." I do believe in the Lord Jesus and am asking for all of my family to be saved.

Please help to believe in Jesus. Use me to help him (her). Tell me what I should do and help me to do it. Thank you for answering this prayer. I know that what you did for the jailer you will do for me too, and I do thank you for it. In Jesus' name. Amen.



For You To Do

- 6 Make out a "Bank of Heaven" check in your notebook like the example given here. Fill in your name after *Pay to the order of*. Then after *the sum of* write a definite need of yours that you want God to meet. Talk with Him about it, quoting Philippians 4:19.
- 7 If any members of your family are not yet believers in Jesus, fill in the blanks in the prayer based on Acts 16:31 (Believe in the Lord Jesus, etc.).
- 8 Memorize Philippians 4:19 and try quoting it in your prayers. Does it make you feel a stronger assurance (faith) for the answer?

.....

ACT IN FAITH ON GOD'S PROMISES

Objective 4. *Describe four ways to act on God's promises.*

Prepare for the Answer

The director of a Bible institute and his wife were praying for the Lord to give them some cows to provide milk that the students needed. They had plenty of pasture land for cows but some of the fences were down or needed repairing. One day the Lord spoke to them in their thoughts: "Where would you put the cows you are praying for? If you expect Me to answer, get ready. Fix the fences." So they had the fences repaired. A few days after the work was finished, God provided the cows.

A sick man who had not been able to leave his bed for a long time decided to ask the pastor to come and pray for his healing. He told his wife, "Get my clothes ready. I'll be getting up after they pray for me." He did—perfectly well.

Do you have some "fences to fix" to get ready to receive what you have prayed for and God has promised to give you? Go ahead and do your part, counting on God to do His, believing that the answer is on the way.

Believe and Thank God

Suppose you are poor, jobless, hungry, and in debt. Then a rich uncle of yours comes and tells you he is going to pay all your debts and give you a good job. He gives you a check so you can get the food you need and some clothes. Would you say, "It all sounds wonderful but I must first see if this check is good. If I get the money for it, I will thank you. And when I get my first pay for the job you offered me, I will surely thank you."? Of course you wouldn't talk like that to your uncle! You would be very happy believing you actually had what he promised you. How you would thank Him for it? Shouldn't we do the same to God! He is happy when we believe and sincerely thank Him for what He offers us before we have it in our hands. So, let's praise God for the answer!

Mark 11:24. When you pray and ask for something, believe that you have received it, and you will be given whatever you ask for.

James 1:6. But when you pray, you must believe and not doubt at all.

Keep on Believing

The story of Abraham (ancestor of both the Arabs and Jews) teaches us to keep on believing. God told Abraham that he would be the father of many nations. But 25 years passed and Abraham had no children.

Romans 4:19-21. He was then almost one hundred years old; but his faith did not weaken when he thought of his body, which was already practically dead, or of the fact that Sarah could not have children. His faith did not leave him, and he did not doubt God's promise; his faith filled him with power, and he gave praise to God. He was absolutely sure that God would be able to do what he had promised.

Abraham's example teaches us to turn away from the natural view of faith. Let's stop looking at the problem and focus our sight on the promise. Don't look at your limitations or the mountain of difficulties that block your path—look to Jesus. Even when everything seems to go wrong, keep trusting and praising God. The mountain of problems can't keep you from going forward with

Jesus. He will either remove them, show you a way through them, or lift you over them. Mountains are no problem to Him.

Matthew 21:21-22 Jesus answered, “I assure you that if you believe and do not doubt. . . you will even be able to say to this hill, ‘Get up and throw yourself in the sea,’ and it will. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.



Accept and Act

When we believe that we receive, we act on it. People who pray for harmful habits to be broken may take a step of faith by throwing away the things that they have asked God to free them from. Those who pray to be used of God step out in faith to do what He tells them to do, trusting in His power to help them. As we start acting on God’s promise, we see it fulfilled. This is the Bible pattern.

James 2:17-18. So it is with faith: if it is alone and includes no actions, then it is dead. “I will show you my faith by my actions.”



For You To Do

9 The titles for this part of the lesson name four ways to act on God’s promise when (or after) we pray for something. What are they?

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.....

10 Which of the four ways to act on faith do you plan to use regularly?

.....

11 Write in your notebook something you are praying for, the promise you are claiming, and the four things you are going to do now about it—your steps in acting on the promise. After you have done them, write the results.



Check Your Answers

- 5 From hearing people preach Christ, from the Word of God. This suggests we should listen to gospel preaching at church or wherever we have the opportunity.
- 1 “If you remain in me and my words remain in you, then you will ask for anything you wish, and you shall have it.” “If my words remain in you” means “if you remember what I teach you and do what I have taught you to do,” or “as long as you obey me.”
- 6-8 Your answers. I hope that doing these things has helped you.
- 2 It tells you how to come to God and what to pray for. The prayers in the Bible are an example for you.
- 9 Prepare for the answer, believe and thank God, keep on believing, accept and act.
- 3 You might mention the food we eat, the letters we send, the appointments that we keep with other people.
- 10 I hope you will use all four of the above.
- 4 From Jesus, from God.
- 11 May God bless you as you put these things into practice in your prayers.

Lesson
5

Think About Others When You Pray

What do you do when you know of someone who is hurting or in some kind of trouble?

You would probably say, “I would try to help him.” But what if you are too far away? What if he needs something you don’t have? What if he has a difficult problem that is beyond your skill or ability to solve? What if you have other duties that prevent you from going to help him?

In those situations, you can pray. Even when you think you can help someone, you should still pray. He or she may have needs that can’t be seen. As you pray, God may show you those needs and speak to you about how you can give help in ways that you had not thought of before.

This lesson explains some of the keys to praying for others. It will help you know what to pray for and how to pray. As you put what you learn into practice, you will be following the examples given in the Bible. You will make the wonderful discovery that God can and will touch others through you.



In this lesson you will study . . .

Look at the Needs of Others
Pray for Your Family
Pray for Others
Help Meet the Needs

This lesson will help you . . .

- Look at the needs of other people and pray for them with love and concern.
- Cooperate with God to answer your prayers for others.

LOOK AT THE NEEDS OF OTHERS

Objective 1. *Identify with individuals who have needs for which you can pray.*

Jesus looked at the people about Him and saw their needs. He felt concern for all those who were suffering. He welcomed the poor, the outcasts, the blind, the lepers. Even while the crowds were listening to His teaching, Jesus knew they were hungry and told His disciples to give them something to eat.

Jesus' love for people made Him suffer with those who suffered and it will do the same for us. The love of God in us will help us to look through Jesus' eyes at those who are blinded by sin, victims of Satan, lost, headed for eternal suffering. Such love will drive us to prayer just as it burst out in prayer on the lips of Jesus. He even looked at the need of those who mocked Him as He hung on the cross for their sins and cried out.

Luke 23:34. "Forgive them, Father! They don't know what they are doing."

Time and again we read that Jesus was "filled with pity" or "moved with compassion" as He looked at the people's needs. *Compassion* means "suffering with, feeling another's suffering as if it were your own." This compassion led Jesus to prayer and action. His miracles were to a great extent the result of His compassion, the manifestation of God's love in meeting people's needs.

Matthew 14:14. When he saw the large crowd, his heart was filled with pity for them, and he healed their sick.

Some people think only of their problems or interests and don't see the needs of those around them. Worse still, some people can see the troubles of others without feeling any concern. Many can see accidents, poverty, and tragedy without any pity or sympathy for those who suffer. We should pray that God will make us more sensitive to the problems of the people around us. Then we can help God answer that prayer by looking around us every day and praying for the needs that we see. As we do this, God will pour into us His love for the people we are praying for and we can pray with the compassion of Christ.

This concern for those who have needs, this feeling of compassion, produces the most effective prayers. It brings deep earnestness in what we call intercessory prayer (prayer for others), and produces faith for the answer as we realize how God is concerned over the need.



For You To Do

- 1 Copy in your notebook the needs in the chart that follows Luke 11:9 in Lesson 1. By each one write the name of someone you know who has that need.
- 2 Think of the needs of every person you meet today. Write in your notebook the names and needs of any for whom you feel especially concerned.
- 3 Ask God to help you love people and feel their needs as if they were your own. Pray with compassion for the people on your list.

PRAY FOR YOUR FAMILY

Objective 2. *Describe the importance of praying for members of our family.*

In the Bible we find many examples of men and women praying for their children and other members of their families. Abraham's prayers saved his nephew Lot from death when the city of

Sodom was destroyed. God answered prayer in the choice of a wife for his son, Isaac. Isaac prayed for God to heal his wife Rebecca. She prayed for her children before they were born. Manoah prayed that God would let them know how to bring up their son. Job prayed every day for God to keep his children from sinning or to forgive them when they sinned. Parents took their babies to the temple and dedicated them to God. Mothers took their children to Jesus for His blessing and also for healing.

Throughout the Bible we see that God wants the whole family to serve Him together and enjoy His blessing on their home. So, if any members of your family have not yet accepted Christ as their Savior, your most important prayer for them is their salvation. Here is a wonderful Bible verse that tells us what we may expect if we believe:

Acts 16:31. “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your family.”

This is a good verse to memorize and quote when we pray for salvation of any of our family. This strengthens our faith as we remind ourselves that God wants the whole family to believe and be saved. By faith we can claim their salvation.



Prayer + Patience+ Love + Obedience = Results

Our love for our families should make us patient and kind with them even when they strongly oppose the gospel. Of course Satan does not want our family and friends to be saved. Sometimes the more we pray for them, the more they seem to rebel against the things of God. It is very important that we: 1) keep on praying and praising God in faith for the answer, 2) be patient, 3) show them that we love them, and 4) obey the Lord as He shows us how to witness to them or pray with them.



For You To Do

- 4 Mark an X beside any prayers for the family that we find examples of in the Bible.
- a Food for the day.
 - b Healing.
 - c Guidance in rearing children.
 - d Protection.
 - e Forgiveness for sin.
 - f Protection against sinning.
 - g Dedication of children.
 - h Blessings for children.
 - i Guidance in choice of a spouse.

In the exercise above underline any prayers that you have made for any member of your family. Place an X *after* any that you plan to talk to God about now.

5 In your notebook list one below the other the names of your family and relatives. Ask God to help you recognize and feel their needs. As He helps you see them, write the needs beside the name of each one, then pray for them each day. As God answers your prayers, write the date when the need was met. If you have no family or relatives, you may want to do this for some other family or friends.

6 Memorize Acts 16:31 and quote it as you pray for the salvation of any of your family (or for the family of any Christian friends).

PRAY FOR OTHERS

Objective 3. *Describe how we should pray for others.*

What a privilege we have in working with God to help others through prayer! People everywhere need encouragement and help. We pray for our family, friends, and neighbors. What about the school teacher, church leaders, government officials? They need God's help. We pray for our nation and for others, for all those who suffer, for those who need Christ, for new converts, and God's people everywhere. All have problems too big for them. But God is concerned about every human need and has a solution for every problem. We work as His partners by sharing His concern, taking people's needs to Him, listening to His instructions, then doing what He tells us to do. His Word shows us how to pray for others.

1 Timothy 2:1-4. First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, requests, and thanksgivings be offered to God for all people; for kings and all others who are in authority, that we may live a quiet and peaceful life with all reverence toward God and with proper conduct. This is good and it pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to come to know the truth.

Matthew 5:44. "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

Jeremiah 37:3. "Pray to the Lord our God on behalf of our nation."

Psalms 122:6. "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem."

Jeremiah 42:3. "Pray that the Lord our God will show us the way we should go and what we should do."

2 Thessalonians 3:1-2. Our brothers, pray for us that the Lord's message may continue to spread rapidly and be received with honor, just as it was among you. Pray also that God will rescue us from wicked and evil people; for not everyone believes the message.

James 5:13-16. Is anyone among you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? He should sing praises. Is there anyone who is sick? He should send for the church elders, who will pray for him and rub olive oil on him in the name of the Lord. This prayer made in faith will heal the sick person; the Lord will restore him to health, and the sins he has committed will be forgiven. So then, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you will be healed. The prayer of a good person has a powerful effect.



The oil mentioned here had no power to heal but it represented the Holy Spirit who would do the work. In Bible times oil was placed on a person's head when dedicating him to God and His service. Prayer for healing included confession of faults and dedication to God. Many people today tell how God has healed them of even incurable diseases as they obeyed God's instructions in James 5:13-16.

Let us pray this prayer together now:

Our heavenly Father, we love You because You are worthy of our worship and love. You are the all powerful God, Creator of all things, here with us now and inviting us to pray.

You see all of our faults and our failures. We confess them to you. We ask You to forgive us and to help us do what You want us to do. We do thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, to save us from our sins. We thank you for making us Your children. And so we come to You with joy, Lord, to be partners with You in prayer for others.

We ask You to bless our families and meet each person's need. Please show us how we can help each one. Some of them need Your salvation. Help us tell them about You and show them Your love in all we do and say.

We pray for the leaders of our nation and of other nations. Give them wisdom. Help them to know and serve You. Bring Your peace to the world. Provide food for the hungry, health for the sick, and freedom for those who are oppressed.

We pray for our friends and fellow Christians, for our pastors and churches. We pray for Your people and Your work in every land that Your kingdom may come and Your will may be done in earth as it is in heaven. Help us to do our part that this may be so. We ask in Jesus' name and for Your glory. Amen.



For You To Do

7 Read carefully again the Bible verses in this part of the lesson, asking God to show you any area that you may have neglected in your prayers. Write in your notebook whatever He tells you to do about it.

8 Now I suggest you pray the prayer on the preceding page again. Make each part definite instead of general: "I love you . . . my faults (name them) . . . my family (name them and pray for their special needs)." Name the leaders you are praying for. Mention any specific problems, the special areas of need. And thank God for the privilege of helping through prayer.

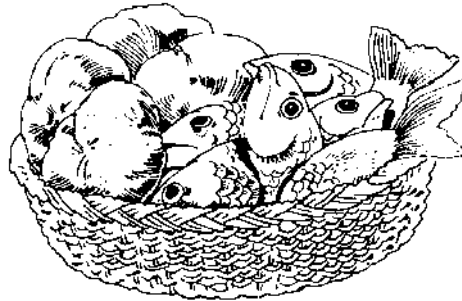
HELP MEET THE NEEDS

Objective 4. *Explain the role we have in meeting others' needs.*

God sets many forces into motion in order to answer prayer and meet human needs. First, He helps us see a need and shares with us His concern about it. Then He shows us how to pray about it and gives us faith for the answer. He lets us know what He wants us to do and helps us to do it, so that we will have the blessing of working with Him as partners. Besides that, He works in other people, in circumstances, and in supernatural ways to do what would be humanly impossible. He even sends His angels to work out His will and answer our prayers.

HOW GOD ANSWERS PRAYER	
Tells us what to do	Works in circumstances
Tells others what to do	Works in us
Tells angels what to do	Defeats the evil powers
Works in nature	Works miracles

Jesus' miracle of feeding the 5,000 shows us one way we can help Him answer prayer. He prayed over a boy's lunch, multiplied it, and put it in the hands of the disciples to share it with the crowd. The boy could have eaten it. The disciples could have eaten it. But because they gave it to others the miracle took place. As they shared, God multiplied it until everyone had plenty to eat and twelve baskets full were left over! We too must do more than pray for the needs of those who are hungry—either for natural bread or for the Bread of life. God will bless us and supply all of our needs too as we pray and share with others. Jesus said:



Luke 6:38. “Give to others, and God will give to you. Indeed, you will receive a full measure, a generous helping, poured into your hands—all that you can hold. The measure you use for others is the one that God will use for you.”

The whole book of Nehemiah is an inspiring personal testimony of how God works in the person who prays, in others, and in circumstances to answer prayer. Nehemiah, in exile in Babylon, had a good position as a trusted servant of the emperor. But he was concerned for the needs of others, especially those of his countrymen who had returned to Jerusalem. When his brother brought him news of all the trouble there, Nehemiah cried.

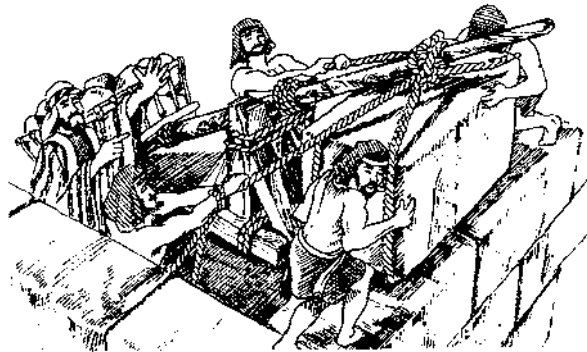
Nehemiah 1:4. For several days I mourned and did not eat. I prayed to God.

Nehemiah prayed about the walls that needed to be rebuilt to protect the people from their enemies, and God put in his heart a plan to do something about the need. Nehemiah felt so concerned that the emperor noticed it and asked why he was sad. Nehemiah was afraid because no one was supposed to look sad in the presence of the emperor. He could be punished or lose his position or even his life for displeasing the emperor. But Nehemiah sent a quick, silent prayer up

to God and took the opportunity to speak to the emperor about the needs of his country. Nehemiah had prayed, "Give me success today and make the emperor merciful to me." God did exactly that. Instead of being displeased, the emperor discussed the problem with Nehemiah, asking him what he wanted.

Nehemiah 2:4-6. I prayed to the God of Heaven, and then I said to the emperor, "If Your Majesty is pleased with me and is willing to grant my request, let me go to the land of Judah, to the city where my ancestors are buried, so that I can rebuild the city." The emperor, with the empress sitting at his side, approved my request.

What a thrill! The emperor becomes a partner in Nehemiah's project as God answers prayer. He gives Nehemiah a leave of absence, authorization, supplies, and a military escort to protect him.

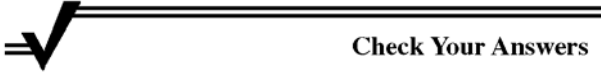


God helped Nehemiah time after time in answer to prayer. What problems he faced! But he was able to overcome them all. He rebuilt the walls and served as governor in Jerusalem. Nehemiah gives his secret of success in the words, "Because God is with me." We might also say that great things were accomplished through his prayers because he was willing to be a partner with God in answering them.



For You To Do

- 9 Nehemiah is a good example of praying for others because he
- a) had a good position and influence in the government.
 - b) made specific requests and was ready to act.
 - c) trusted the emperor as an enemy of God.



Check Your Answers

- 10** Now go back over the needs that you have written in your notebook and have prayed for in this lesson. Ask God to show you what He wants you to do about any of them. Listen for His answer. Write in your notebook any ideas that He gives you about how He wants you to help answer your prayers. Then take the opportunities He gives you to help Him meet the needs.
- 9** b) made specific requests and was ready to act. Phrase c) is false. Though Nehemiah was in exile, he did not look at the emperor as an obstacle to the solution but as a potential partner.
- 4** All of these examples are in the Bible.

The other exercises in this lesson are actual practice in prayer. I hope that they have helped you. I suggest you review them now and what you have written in your notebook in response.

Lesson
6

Join With Others When You Pray

Have you discovered the blessings that come from praying with other Christians? Have you made it a practice to gather your family together for prayer to thank God for His goodness and to bring your needs to Him? Do you attend the prayer meetings of your church?

God draws His people closer together when they share their joys and concerns. His plan is for them to understand and care about the needs of others. We experience many blessings when we follow His plan. What a relief we feel when a friend prays with us about our problems! What a deep sense of friendship we have when we can lift the burden from a brother or sister's heart through prayer. Our faith is made stronger as we encourage each other to trust God's promises.

This lesson explains the principles of praying with others and gives us this kind of prayer from the Bible. As you apply the principles you learn, your spiritual life will become richer and more full. You will feel a stronger bond—both with your Heavenly Father, and with the brothers and sisters who are a part of His family with you.



In this lesson you will study. . .

Pray With a Friend
Pray With Your Family
Pray With a Prayer Group
Pray With the Church

This lesson will help you . . .

- Find and use your opportunities to pray with others.
- Advance God's work in your community as you encourage others to pray.

PRAY WITH A FRIEND

Objective 1. *Discuss the importance of praying with a friend.*

Jesus has promised to be with us in a special way wherever two or three meet together in His name. Like the two disciples on the road to Emmaus to whom the risen Christ appeared as they were talking about Him, you and a friend can sense His presence. He will speak to you through the Scriptures. He is there to bless you, fill you with joy in His presence, and send you to tell others that He is alive.

It was at the dinner table that Jesus let the disciples at Emmaus know who he was. Eating together with a friend provides an opportunity to get better acquainted with one another and with the Lord as we talk about what He has done for us. Many Christians invite a friend or friends to dinner to introduce them to Jesus. And He is there!

I hope you have a Christian friend who can be a prayer partner for you, someone you can pray with regularly—if not daily, at least once a week. It is very important to have someone who can agree with you in prayer. This may be someone to help and encourage you, or a new Christian who needs your help in prayer. You will certainly want to pray often with any friends whom you lead to the Lord.

We have two wonderful promises of Jesus for the two or three that meet together for prayer and agree on what they ask in His name: He will be there and He will answer!

Matthew 18:19-20. “Whenever two of you on earth agree about anything you pray for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them.”



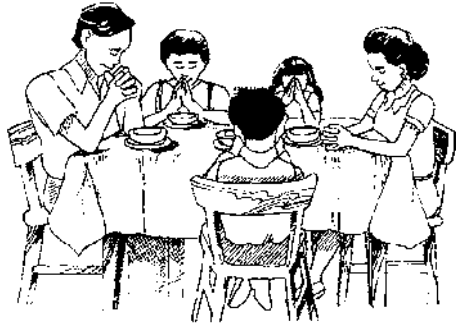
For You To Do

- 1 Memorize Matthew 18:19-20.
- 2 Write in your notebook the names of friends with whom you pray individually, or with whom you might pray. If you do not have a prayer partner, see if you can find one.

PRAY WITH YOUR FAMILY

Objective 2. *Initiate a pattern for family prayers.*

A Christian home is one of the greatest blessings a person can have. In fact, it can be a little bit of heaven on earth as the whole family worships and serves God together! If your family knows the Lord, they should enjoy with you the spiritual growth and benefits that come through family prayers every day. During these times of daily prayer, which are sometimes called “family devotions,” the parents should lead, the husband as the head of the home and the wife joining with him. If only one parent in the home is a Christian, that person should gather the children and pray with them each day, being careful to do so with the attitude of gentleness and consideration. The same applies to the home where there is only one parent.



Though parents should lead the time of family devotions, any member of a Christian home should feel free to ask the others to read the Bible and pray with him. A Christian family also prays together at their meals, thanking God for the food and asking Him to bless it.

1 Timothy 4:3-4. But God created those foods to be eaten, after a prayer of thanks, by those who are believers . . . Everything is to be received with a prayer of thanks.

How wonderful it is when children are taught to pray for one another and for any needs in the home! They can go to their parents at any moment and have them pray for their problems. And they form a life-long habit of recognizing God's provisions for them and looking to him for guidance and help. The family that prays together strengthens the ties of love that bind them together. Life is smoother because they pray over family relationships and God answers.

PRAY

FOR the Family

Salvation for All
 Family Relationships
 Needs of the Family
 Individual Needs

WITH the Family

In Family Devotions
 At Meals
 At Church
 With Individuals

In case you want to have family devotions in your home (or want to help some other family to do so) here are some simple suggestions.

Suggestions for Family Devotions

1. Choose a regular time that is most convenient for everyone. Early in the morning is good. Some families have prayers at the breakfast table. Others find the evening more practical.
2. Pray together daily at the same time if possible.
3. Let each member of the family take part. This may be in reading, requests for prayer, comments, and praying.
4. Read a short and easily understood part of the Word of God, especially if there are small children in the family. (You may want to use a Bible storybook with small children.) Many families use a daily reading from a devotional book as well as from the Bible.
5. Let members of the family share any questions or comments on what has been read.
6. If you like, sing a chorus or two of praise and thanksgiving or worship.
7. Give an opportunity to mention any special needs or reasons to give thanks.
8. Have a short time of prayer in which one may lead or all may take part. (I suggest short

prayers so the family won't get tired and grow to dislike prayer time.)

9. Encourage all to listen for God's voice. Expect Him to speak to all who take part.
10. Do not get discouraged if there are interruptions and times when it is impossible to have family prayers. Keep on trying. Don't try to follow a set program but adapt it to the circumstances and as the Lord leads.



For You To Do

- 3 Talk with other Christians about the value of family prayers, the best time, and a good plan to follow. If you live at home, discuss this with your family. If you already have family prayers, write in your notebook any suggestions for improvement.
- 4 Name four opportunities to pray with the other members of a family. Which of these are you using or will you use now?
- 5 If you have the opportunity to start family prayers, I hope you do so—even if you begin with a prayer with one other person for a special need.

PRAY WITH A PRAYER GROUP

Objective 3. *Describe how to start a prayer group.*

God is working in a wonderful way today in small prayer groups all over the world. Friends gather to study the Bible and pray: God answers prayer as they unite in faith for each one's requests. Unsaved neighbors usually accept an invitation to a friend's home more readily than they would to a church. Many are finding Christ in these home prayer meetings. Miracles of healing are taking place, God is solving problems in family relationships, and thousands are being filled with the Holy Spirit in small prayer groups.

What is happening today is like what happened in New Testament times. Those first Christians met in the Jewish temple and synagogues (Jewish places of public worship) and also in the homes of believers. Later they were persecuted and driven out of the synagogues. But they still had Christ's promise and saw it fulfilled as they met together in small groups; He was there! In homes, in caves, down by the river, in underground caverns among the catacombs, in prison—they prayed together and God answered prayer!

It was in the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, that Peter first preached the gospel to people who were not Jews. God filled with the Holy Spirit all who had gathered there and made clear that the gospel was for all people everywhere.



Later Peter was in prison, sentenced to be put to death the next day. But many believers met in the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark, and prayed earnestly for him. An angel brought him out of the prison. The shackles fall off, the doors open, deliverance comes when God's people meet together and pray!

The church at Philippi started in a prayer group. Paul and Silas found a group of women meeting for prayer down by the river. One of the women, Lydia, accepted Christ. She opened her home to Paul and Silas so they could have a base for their work while they were in Philippi. Great things can come out of a women's prayer meeting! If you read the letter that Paul sent to the church at Philippi many years later, you will see what a strong, spiritual church it was.

Small groups today are usually very flexible in their program. Some meet weekly in the same home. Others meet in the homes of the different members of the group by turn. Others meet in churches, factories, offices, and schools. A group can start with only two or three persons. If there are more than fifteen it will be hard for all to take part as freely as in a smaller group. Many women's groups meet in the morning or afternoon while the men are at work and the children are in school. Mixed groups (men and women) usually meet in the evening. Some have refreshments and a time of fellowship after prayers. Others don't. Some are prayer breakfasts or luncheons held in a hotel or restaurant.

The persons in charge of a prayer group should consider the circumstances and the responsibilities of those who attend. If the meeting is too long, some will not be able to attend because of duties at home (duties should not be neglected). Some may lose interest if it is too long. However, some groups are able to put everything else aside and spend hours in communion with God. If some members have to leave early, they are free to do so. And when God is working miracles, transforming lives, and filling people with His Spirit, the time seems short!

The suggestions in this lesson for family devotions can be helpful for leading a prayer group. In general, these are good steps:

1. Begin with a short time of singing. This helps focus our thoughts on God and His goodness and encourages faith.
2. Have a brief time of reading and sharing in the Word of God. This may be a Bible study with a teacher, or each one may give a Bible verse and tell how it has helped him.
3. Have reports about prayers that have been answered. In this way, each one can thank God for what He has done and all are encouraged to pray for other needs.
4. Encourage those who have special needs or requests for prayer to share them with the group.
5. Encourage all to take part in praying for the needs and for others as the Lord leads.

Some prayer groups are part of the program of a local church. Through them, many people can have a personal experience of belonging to the family of God. A church in Seoul, Korea, for example, grew from 23,000 members to 35,000 in just one year because of the prayer groups that were started. The groups were organized into basic units of ten people each, and they met once each week in homes all over the city. The results were amazing: conversions, miracles, growth! Today, this church is still growing as its "prayer cells" continue to meet and multiply.

In other areas, people from different church backgrounds meet in groups. God transforms lives, revives churches, and brings greater unity in the body of Christ as His people pray together.



For You To Do

- 6 What prayer groups are there in your area? List in your notebook any that you know of, when they meet, and where. Underline those that you would recommend to a friend living in your neighborhood. Pray for them.
- 7 If there is no prayer group in your neighborhood, pray about the possibility. Write in your notebook whatever the Lord says to you about the possibilities where to meet, whom to invite, the time, how to start. Do whatever He tells you to do.

PRAY WITH THE CHURCH

Objective 4. *Identify needs in your church for which you can pray.*

The prayer-group movement is wonderful, but the church is more than prayer groups. The church has a job to do. It must take Christ to the world, establish Christians in the faith, train them for service, and help them in their daily life and work for God. We may find great blessings, friendships, and ministry in prayer groups, but we also need to take part in a local church. And those whom we lead to Christ in the prayer groups should also be let into the fellowship of a local church. They need its ministry and should develop into strong members who can take their place in its work.



Prayer is a vital part of the church—its power. Jesus talked about the temple as a house of prayer. The disciples went to the temple to pray. The leaders of the church spent much of their time in prayer. God wants every house that is dedicated to Him for public worship to be a house of prayer, a place where He meets with His people.

Isaiah 56:7. “I will . . . give you joy in my house of prayer . . . My Temple will be called a house of prayer for the people of all nations.”

Acts 2:42-43. They spent their time in learning from the apostles, taking part in the fellowship, and sharing in the fellowship meals and the prayers. Many miracles and wonders were being done through the apostles.

Acts 2:46-47. Day after day they met as a group in the Temple And every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.

Acts 3:1. Peter and John went to the Temple at three o’clock in the afternoon, the hour for prayer.

At the gate of the temple, as they were going in to pray, Peter and John saw a beggar who could not walk. In Jesus' name they ordered him to get up and walk, and he did! As a result of this healing and Peter's message to those who saw it, about 3,000 people accepted Christ that day. The authorities put Peter and John in jail for preaching about Jesus and ordered them not to do it again. As soon as they were released they met with the other Christians and prayed that God would give them boldness to keep on telling people about Jesus.

Acts 4:31. When they finished praying, the place where they were meeting was shaken. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to proclaim God's message with boldness.

How can we make God's house a house of prayer today? We include prayer in all of the various services there—Bible classes, worship services, youth meetings, evangelistic services. We give opportunities for prayer requests and have testimonies about answered prayer. Some churches have prayer rooms in which people gather to pray before the public service. Those who want to accept Christ or to be filled with the Holy Spirit go to the prayer rooms at the end of the service. Christians counsel them and pray with them. In other churches people go to the altar in the front of the church to pray before and after the service.

Many churches are open for people to come in and pray at any time of the day. Many have an early morning prayer service before people go to their work. In many of the Korean churches hundreds of men and women meet at 5:00 o'clock every morning to pray.

Does your church need a spiritual awakening, a revival? Does your pastor or priest need more of the power of God in his ministry? Do you want the members of the church all to be filled with the Holy Spirit and have the same boldness to witness that the early church did? Do you want to see miracles in answer to prayer and have the Lord add daily to your church people who are being saved? If so, pray for your church, in your church, and with your church. God is doing these very things in many churches today. He can use you to bring these results to your church too as you do your part and as you encourage others to pray!

Psalm 122:1. I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the Lord's house."

Psalm 134:2. Raise your hands in prayer in the Temple, and praise the Lord!



For You To Do

- 8 List in your notebook the needs in your church for which you intend to pray. Pray for them.
- 9 Ask God how you can help develop a deeper ministry of prayer in your church. Write His answer in your notebook.



Check Your Answers

- 4 In family devotions, at meals, at church, and with any member of the family individually at any time, especially when he or she has a special need. Or it might be when you have a need. Many a mother can tell of being healed instantly of a headache or of other problems when a small child placed its hand on her head and asked Jesus to make her well.

All of the other answers were your own application of the principles you have been studying. To review the lesson, I suggest you go back over the "For You To Do" sections now and what you have written in your notebook. If you are doing faithfully what is suggested, I'm sure you are growing in a ministry of prayer.

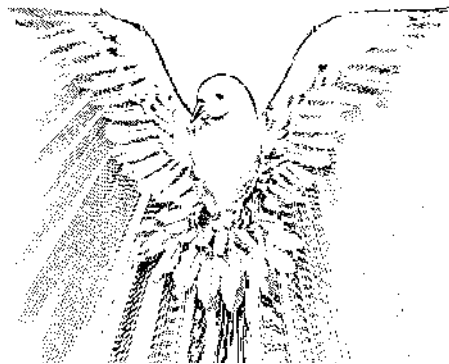
Lesson
7

Let the Holy Spirit Help You When You Pray

“Oh, his poor feet, Lord, his poor feet!” prayed Mrs. Dean. She was shocked at her own prayer. Why? Because she had just read the report that the man she was praying for, Victor Plymire, had been killed while taking the message of Jesus into the interior of Tibet.

How foolish Mrs. Dean felt praying for a dead man’s feet! Yet she knew so strongly that she should. What she didn’t know was that report was wrong. Victor wasn’t dead. He was somewhere on a snow-covered trail, high in the Himalayan mountains, with both feet partially frozen.

Except for a miracle, Victor was likely to die of gangrene infection before he could reach civilization. But the Lord had another plan. Through His Spirit, He told Mrs. Dean, a woman who lived on the other side of the world, to pray for Victor. She obeyed, the miracle happened, and Victor was healed.



Other people have had the same kind of experience that Mrs. Dean had. The Holy Spirit has directed their prayers, and wonderful things have happened. The Holy Spirit has many ways of helping us when we pray! As you study the ones this lesson explains, you will learn how to let Him help you.

In this lesson you will study . . .

Listen to the Spirit’s Voice
Feel What the Spirit Feels
Let the Spirit Pray Through You
Act in the Spirit’s Power

This lesson will help you . . .

- Let the Holy Spirit show you what to pray for and how to pray.
- Reach a deeper level in worship and greater victories in prayer as you let the Holy Spirit pray through you.

LISTEN TO THE SPIRIT'S VOICE

Objective 1. *Identify the work of the Holy Spirit in our prayers.*

We have already talked about listening to God when we pray. It is the Holy Spirit who speaks to us in this two-way conversation as we pray and read the Bible. He sometimes shows us things in our lives that do not please God. He helps us confess them to God and ask His forgiveness. And then He gives us peace and the assurance that God has forgiven us. Our lives are changed as we listen to the Holy Spirit and let Him help us day by day.

Romans 8:26-27. In the same way the Spirit also comes to help us, weak as we are. For we do not know how we ought to pray; the Spirit himself pleads with God for us in groans that words cannot express. And God, who sees into our hearts, knows what the thought of the Spirit is; because the Spirit pleads with God on behalf of his people and in accordance with his will.

THE SPIRIT HELPS US PRAY

Romans 8:26-27

Our Problem	His Help
Lack of Prayer	Encourages Us to Pray
Little Faith	Gives Us Faith
Ignorance of the Need	Tells Us What to Pray For
Ignorance of God's Will	Prays for Us in God's Will
Satanic Opposition	Gives Us Victory
Limitation of Our Speech	Prays Through Us

Thank God that the Holy Spirit helps us pray! He has come to live in us, give us a new nature, guide us, and help us to worship and serve God. Jesus said:

John 4:24. "God is Spirit, and only by the power of his Spirit can people worship him as he really is."

As the Spirit leads us, we experience the joy of knowing God as our Father.

Romans 8:14-17. Those who are lead by God's Spirit are God's sons. For the Spirit that God has given does not make you slaves and cause you to be afraid: instead, the Spirit makes you God's children. And by the Spirit's power we cry out to God, "Father! My Father!" God's Spirit joins himself to our spirits to declare that we are God's children. Since we are his children, we will possess the blessings he keeps for his people.

The Holy Spirit helps us to understand God's Word and brings to our mind the truths we need.

John 14:26. "The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and make you remember all that I have told you."

Isaiah 11:2. "The spirit of the Lord will give him wisdom."

The teaching and guidance of the Holy Spirit come most often through the Bible. So meditate on God's Word as you read. Repeat phrases. Memorize verses and repeat them during the day. Take a promise in the morning and keep it in your mind during the day. Let the Word become a part of you. The Holy Spirit can then bring the right words to your memory and apply them to your

circumstances when He wants to guide or encourage you. He will also use the Word to make your faith grow and you will see greater answers to prayer.



For You To Do

- 1 You may notice that we are reviewing in this last lesson of the course some of the truths that we have already studied. This is an important part of thorough learning. I suggest that you go back to lesson 3 and read it again. Read what you have written in your notebook for that lesson.
- 2 Write briefly in your notebook several things that the Holy Spirit has told you to pray about or to do since you began studying this course. What were the results?
- 3 Review lesson 4. Are you using the Word as suggested? How is this helping you?

FEEL WHAT THE SPIRIT FEELS

Objective 2. *Describe how feelings enter into our prayers.*

We have talked about concern for those who are lost and about feeling other people's needs as if they were our own. This comes from the love that God has for them. His Spirit in us loves people and causes us to love them too. The more we let Him have His way in our lives, the more His love will fill us.

Romans 5:5. God has poured out his love into our hearts by means of the Holy Spirit, who is God's gift to us.

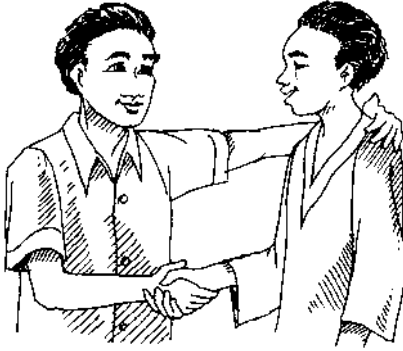
The strong compassion of the Holy Spirit may sometimes make the tears flow as we pray for people, but at other times the joy of the Holy Spirit will cause us to rejoice and praise God.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-17. Be joyful always, pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances.

2 Thessalonians 1:3. Our brothers, we must thank God at all times for you.

Philippians 1:3-4. I thank my God for you every time I think of you; and every time I pray for you all, I pray with joy.

Romans 12:15. Be happy with those who are happy, weep with those who weep.



We have talked about attitudes in prayer. May the Holy Spirit so enter into every part of us that we will feel what He feels: a deep hatred of sin, a longing to please God in all we do, an urgent desire to help others be free from sin and its results, desire for Jesus to come back to earth and set up His kingdom, love for God and for people, deep sincerity and earnestness in our prayers, joy in communion with the Father, assurance that He will answer, willingness to do whatever He tells us to do.



For You To Do

- 4 Review Lesson 1 asking the Holy Spirit to take you to a deeper level of worship as you take time to think about God.
- 5 Review Lesson 2 praying for the Holy Spirit to strengthen the right attitudes in you.
- 6 Let the Holy Spirit help you pray the Lord's prayer. Take time to feel every part of it deeply.

LET THE SPIRIT PRAY THROUGH YOU

Objective 3. *Explain what it means to pray in the Spirit.*

So many times we don't know just how to pray. We don't understand what the needs of a person are or what the solution is. We are not sure of what the will of God is. Or, perhaps we just don't have words to express the love of God that wells up in us—or the agony that seems to tear us apart, the inner conflicts, the fears, the separation. The Holy Spirit offers to take all these longings and needs of the soul and talk with the Father about them Himself. Sometimes He may do this by pouring out through your lips in your prayer language that comes from Him and not from your own mind. Under His inspiration you are pouring out your soul's deepest longings or worship to God. At other times, He may prefer to do this in a language of His own—a special prayer language.



For You To Do

- 7 Read Romans 8:26-27 again. Write any advantages you see in letting the Holy Spirit pray through you.

1 Corinthians 14:2. The one who speaks in strange tongues does not speak to others but to God, because no one understands him. He is speaking secret truths by the power of the Spirit.

What wonderful release comes to our own spirit through such prayer! We don't have to understand all about the problem and the solution—the Spirit presents it in His own words and asks for what is best. He prays according to God's will; this gives us the assurance that the prayer will be answered.

This kind of praying is called “praying in the Spirit” or “speaking in tongues.” People sometimes refer to it as *glossalalia* from the Greek word for “tongues.” Millions of Christians in the world today let the Holy Spirit pray through them in whatever language He chooses.

This first happened to 120 of Jesus' followers on the day of Pentecost. They were filled with the Spirit and began to praise God in languages that they had never learned. In the crowd that gathered, people from many countries understood what the Christians were saying in these different languages. They were talking about the wonderful things God had done!

Acts 2:4. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak.



The apostle Paul evidently let the Spirit pray through him in tongues a great deal as he interceded for the needs of new Christians, Christian workers, and the churches that he had founded. (He refers to it as “praying with his spirit”.) But this didn't keep him from praying earnestly in his own words, too. The Spirit helps us pray in both ways.

1 Corinthians 14:14-15. If I pray in this way, my spirit prays indeed, but my mind has no part in it. What should I do then? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray also with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will sing also with my mind.



For You To Do

- 8 If you feel the need of a deeper level of prayer, talk with the Holy Spirit about it.
- 9 Now review Lesson 5 asking the Holy Spirit to help you feel what He feels about the needs you have listed. Let the Holy Spirit direct you and pray through you for each one. Speak the words He gives you; He will pray for them according to the will of God.

ACT IN THE SPIRIT'S POWER

Objective 4. *Discuss the importance of putting the Spirit's power into practice in our lives.*

All through this course we have talked about letting God use us to help answer our prayers. We listen for the Holy Spirit to give instructions, but how can we do what He tells us to do? Through His power!

Philippians 2:13. God is always at work in you to make you willing and able to obey his own purpose.

After we pray in the Spirit and ask for His help to do what He wants us to do, we can go out and do it trusting Him to work through us. We ask Him to save our friends; He tells us to tell them about Jesus. We ask Him to help us do it, and He does. We can speak and act with confidence knowing that God is answering our prayers.

1 John 5:14-15. We have courage in God's presence, because we are sure that he hears us if we ask him for anything that is according to his will. He hears us whenever we ask him; and since we know this is true, we know also that he gives us what we ask from him.

This power of the Spirit is not only for *speaking* as witnesses for Jesus but also for *living* for Him, being the kind of person He wants us to be. Our lives speak louder than words about the love and power of God.

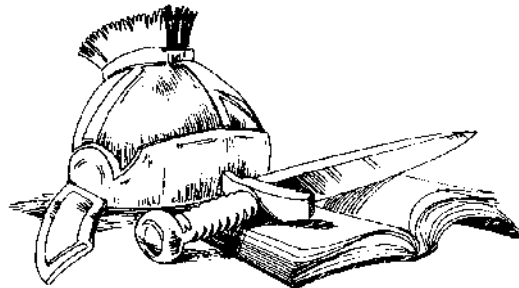
Acts 1:8. "But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me."

2 Timothy 1:7. For the Spirit that God has given us does not make us timid; instead, his Spirit fills us with power, love, and self-control.

Galatians 5:16. Let the Spirit direct your lives.

Now as you finish these studies, the main test is to put into practice what you have learned. Of course, Satan, the Evil One, will try to hinder you. He opposes God's work and doesn't want you to pray. But the Holy Spirit will help you! He will give you the victory over Satan and the power to do God's will. May He bless and use you to win great spiritual victories for yourself and for others when you pray!

Ephesians 6:17-18. Accept salvation as a helmet, and the word of God as the sword which the Spirit gives you. Do all this in prayer, asking for God's help. Pray on every occasion, as the Spirit leads.



2 Corinthians 10:4-5. The weapons we use in our fight are not the world's weapons but God's powerful weapons. . . . We destroy false arguments; we pull down every proud obstacle that is raised against the knowledge of God; we take every thought captive and make it obey Christ.

Jude 20. But you, my friends, keep on building yourselves up on your most sacred faith. Pray in the power of the Holy Spirit.



For You To Do

10 Review briefly Lesson 6, asking the Lord to help you act in His power as you pray with others and do what you can to encourage others to pray.

11 I suggest you list in your notebook any problem areas in your life where you need the power of the Holy Spirit. Talk with Him about them and for His power.

You have finished your study of *When You Pray*. I hope these lessons have opened your eyes to the wonderful privileges and power of prayer. May God bless you as you choose each day to put into practice the things you have learned.

Now you are ready to fill out the last half of your student report for Lessons 4–7. Review these lessons, then follow the instructions in your student report. When you send your answer sheets to your instructor, ask him about another course of study. If you are interested in studying more about the Holy Spirit and His work, ask for the ICI course *Your Helpful Friend*.

Now you are ready to answer the questions in your student report for *UNIT TWO*. Review the lessons in unit two, then follow the instructions in your student report. When you send your answer sheet to your instructor, ask him about another course of study.



Check Your Answers

The exercises in this lesson have asked you to review what you have learned. Are you applying the principles to your life now? The blessings of prayer come not to those who simply learn about prayer, but to those who actually pray. Don't be a silent Christian! God, your Father who loves you, is ready to hear, speak, and answer.

One Final Word

This is a special kind of book because it was written by people who care about you. These are happy people who have found good answers to many of the questions and problems which trouble almost everyone in the world. These happy people believe that God wants them to share with others the answers they have found. They believe that you need some important information in order to answer your own questions and problems and find the way of life that is best for you.

They have prepared this book in order to give you this information. You will find this book based on these fundamental truths:

1. You need a Savior. Read Romans 3:23, Ezekiel 18:20.
2. You cannot save yourself. Read 1 Timothy 2:5, John 14:6.
3. God desires that the world should be saved. Read John 3:16-17.
4. God sent Jesus who gave his life to save all those who believe in Him. Read Galatians 4:4-5, 1 Peter 3:18.
5. The Bible shows us the way of salvation and teaches how to grow in the Christian life. Read John 15:5, John 10:10, 2 Peter 3:18.
6. You decide your eternal destiny. Read Luke 13:1-5, Matthew 10:32-33, John 3:35-36.

This book tells you how to decide your destiny, and it gives you opportunities to express your decision. Also, the book is different from others because it gives you a chance to contact people who prepared it. If you want to ask questions, or explain your needs and feelings, you may write to them.

In the back of the book you should find a card called *Decision Report and Request Card*. When you have made a decision, fill out the card and mail it as indicated. Then you will receive more help. You may use the card to ask questions, or make requests for prayer or information.

If there is no card in this copy of the book, write to your ICI instructor and you will receive a personal answer.

When You Pray

UNIT STUDENT REPORTS AND ANSWER SHEETS

STUDENT REPORT DIRECTIONS

When you have completed your study of each unit, fill out the answer sheet for that unit. Do only one unit at a time. Return each answer sheet to your ICI instructor or office in your area as soon as you have completed it.

The following are directions on how to indicate your answer to each question.

EXAMPLE

There is one best answer. Blacken the space for the answer you have chosen.

- 1** To be born again means to
- a) be young in age.
 - b) accept Jesus as Savior.
 - c) start a new year.

The correct answer is b) *accept Jesus as Savior*, so you would blacken space **b** like this:

1	A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C
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Now read the questions in your Student Report and mark your answers in the answer section as we have shown in our example. Choose your answer and blacken the space **a**, **b**, or **c** according to your choice.

STUDENT REPORT FOR UNIT ONE

For all questions, be sure the number beside the spaces on the answer sheet is the same as the number of the question.

- 1** Which of the following best describes God's purpose for us in prayer?
 - a) Talking with God.
 - b) Reminding God of our needs.
 - c) Doing our religious duty.
- 2** The word *worship* means to
 - a) intercede for others.
 - b) plead with God for a need to be met.
 - c) recognize the worthiness of God.
- 3** God's forgiveness is best shown by
 - a) God's understanding of our weakness.
 - b) The sacrificial death of God's Son.
 - c) The many sacrifices described in the Old Testament.
- 4** When we pray, we should first think about
 - a) God, our Father.
 - b) other people and their needs.
 - c) our own needs.
- 5** When we say God is infinite, we mean He has
 - a) few limits.
 - b) no limits.
 - c) the same limits as man.
- 6** On what basis can we make requests of the Father?
 - a) We do good deeds for others.
 - b) Jesus bought us the right by dying for us.
 - c) We give our service and finances to the church.
- 7** Why is it necessary that we come to God through Jesus?
 - a) Because Jesus was a better priest than Moses or Aaron.
 - b) Because Jesus' teaching was better than any other religious teacher.
 - c) Because Jesus is the way to God; no one can come to God except through Him.
- 8** The Pharisee in Luke 18:10-14 did not please God because he was
 - a) a good man.
 - b) an evil man.
 - c) a proud man.
- 9** The tax collector pleased God because he
 - a) prayed a long prayer.
 - b) repented of his sin.
 - c) was a good citizen.
- 10** Jesus taught that God forgives us
 - a) even when we do not forgive others.
 - b) when we prove that we are good enough.
 - c) in the same way that we forgive others.

- 11** Which is most important in prayer?
- a) Attitude of the heart
 - b) Location of the person
 - c) Position of the body
- 12** Which of the following describes the biblical teaching of one's physical position in prayer?
- a) May be in any position.
 - b) Following the postures taught by your pastor.
 - c) Eyes closed, head bowed, hands clasped.
- 13** The prayer Jesus taught His disciples is found in
- a) Matthew 6:9-13.
 - b) Matthew 6:25-28.
 - c) John 3:16-19.
- 14** The Bible treats which of the following as an important part of our prayer life?
- a) kneeling
 - b) listening
 - c) making specific requests
- 15** Any message concerning God's will must be judged by the
- a) advice others give.
 - b) dreams we might have.
 - c) Word of God.
- 16** In what ways does God most often speak to His people?
- a) Dreams and visions
 - b) An audible voice and thoughts during prayer
 - c) The Bible and your conscience
- 17** In which way might God speak to Christians?
- a) Fortune tellers
 - b) Horoscopes
 - c) Sermons or testimonies
- 18** When we listen, how will God normally speak to us?
- a) Through a message for us or for someone else.
 - b) Through a vision of the future.
 - c) Through the sins and failures in the lives of others.
- 19** We learn how to apply the Word of God to a particular situation by
- a) listening to the Holy Spirit.
 - b) reading books about others.
 - c) waiting for a dream.
- 20** What is needed to experience God's leading?
- a) To know everything about the scriptures.
 - b) A willingness to obey God.
 - c) A detailed plan of how to fulfill God's will.

This is the end of the requirements for Unit One. Please stop here and return your Answer Sheet for Unit One to your instructor. Continue your study in Unit Two.

STUDENT REPORT FOR UNIT TWO

For all questions, be sure the number beside the spaces on the answer sheet is the same as the number of the question.

- 1** We are told in John 15:7 that God will answer our prayers if we
 - a) dwell in Christ and the Word dwells in us.
 - b) give great sums of money to the church.
 - c) live good clean lives.
- 2** James 4:2-3 tells us our prayers are not answered when we
 - a) are unworthy servants.
 - b) fail to pray long prayers.
 - c) have a selfish motive.
- 3** The woman in Matthew 9:20-22 was healed of severe bleeding because she
 - a) begged for healing.
 - b) exercised her faith.
 - c) fasted and prayed.
- 4** We can depend on the promises of God's Word because
 - a) Jesus' actions in the Bible show His concern about all our needs.
 - b) they apply to every area of our life.
 - c) they are like checks.
 - d) His Word is filled with promises.
- 5** How long did Abraham wait for the promise of a son to be fulfilled?
 - a) 10 years
 - b) 25 years
 - c) 100 years
- 6** Abraham's experience teaches us to believe God's promises
 - a) in spite of natural conditions.
 - b) when they are within the realm of possibility.
 - c) until your patience runs out.
- 7** Compassion means to
 - a) feel the hurts of others.
 - b) see the suffering of the world.
 - c) suffer in silence.
- 8** Intercessory prayer is
 - a) praise and worship.
 - b) prayer for oneself.
 - c) prayer for others.
- 9** Why is prayer for one's family so important?
 - a) Prayer will stop a child from sinning or disobeying God.
 - b) Prayer for the family is demanded in the Ten Commandments.
 - c) God loves the family and wants the family to serve Him together.
- 10** Why does the Bible encourage prayer for others?
 - a) By praying for others we share God's concern.
 - b) There are many who are sick and others who have sinned.
 - c) When we pray, we do not have any more physical needs.

- 11** Nehemiah was an example of a man who
- failed to pray over his work.
 - was used by God to answer his own prayers.
 - prayed fervently without results.
- 12** In Luke 6:38, we are told that God gives to us
- as we give to others.
 - just enough to meet our needs.
 - more than we can imagine.
- 13** It is important that we pray with a friend because
- Jesus is present in a special way when two or three come together.
 - it enables us to get better acquainted with our friends.
 - the Bible commands us to.
- 14** It is important to have a time of family prayer because
- this will prevent problems from arising.
 - God will more readily hear prayers from families than from individuals.
 - prayer strengthens the ties of love that binds the family together.
- 15** Small prayer groups
- exist only in America.
 - have no precedence in the early church.
 - were very common in the early church.
- 16** The way to see a spiritual awakening in a church is to
- form a committee to plan it.
 - discuss your program.
 - pray for it.
- 17** The work of the Holy Spirit in our praying is to
- sometimes show us things in our lives that do not please God.
 - translate our prayer into a language that God understands.
 - listen carefully to what we say.
- 18** We can feel what the Holy Spirit feels by
- loving other people more.
 - letting Him have His way in our lives.
 - lacking about our concern for others.
- 19** To pray in the Spirit means
- asking the Spirit to take all our problems to the Father.
 - voicing a prayer language that comes from the Spirit.
 - listening carefully to what the Spirit is saying to you.
- 20** It is important to put the Spirit's power into practice in our lives so that we can
- get whatever we pray for.
 - live a life free from problems.
 - do what the Lord wants us to do.

End of requirements for Unit Two. Please return your student report Answer Sheet for Unit Two to your ICI instructor. Now that you have completed your study of this course, ask your instructor to recommend another course of study.

When You Pray

Answer Sheet for Unit One

CL1210

Please fill in the blanks below:

Your name

Your ICI Student Number

(Leave blank if you don't know what it is.)

Your Mailing Address

.....

City State or Province

Zip or Postal Code

Country

Age Sex

Occupation

How many members are in your family?

How many years have you studied in school?

If you are a member of a church, what is the name of your church?

.....

What responsibility do you have in your church?

.....

How are you studying this course: Alone? In a group?

What other ICI courses have you studied?

.....

Now, turn the page and answer all questions.

ANSWER SHEET FOR UNIT ONE

Blacken the correct space for each numbered item.

1	A	B	C
2	A	B	C
3	A	B	C
4	A	B	C
5	A	B	C
6	A	B	C
7	A	B	C

8	A	B	C
9	A	B	C
10	A	B	C
11	A	B	C
12	A	B	C
13	A	B	C
14	A	B	C

15	A	B	C
16	A	B	C
17	A	B	C
18	A	B	C
19	A	B	C
20	A	B	C

Write below any questions you would like to ask your instructor about the lessons.

.....
.....
.....

Now look over this answer sheet to be sure you have completed all the questions. Then return it to your ICI instructor or office in your area. The address should be stamped on the copyright page of your study guide.

For ICI Office Use Only
Date Score

Christian Life Program

When You Pray

Answer Sheet for Unit Two

CL1210

Please fill in the blanks below:

Your name

Your ICI Student Number
(Leave blank if you don't know what it is.)

Your Mailing Address

.....

City State or Province

Zip or Postal Code

Country

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The ICI office in your area will be happy to send you information about other courses that are available and their cost. You may use the space below to ask for that information.

.....
.....
.....
.....

Now, turn the page and answer all questions.

ANSWER SHEET FOR UNIT TWO

Blacken the correct space for each numbered item.

1	A	B	C
2	A	B	C
3	A	B	C
4	A	B	C
5	A	B	C
6	A	B	C
7	A	B	C

8	A	B	C
9	A	B	C
10	A	B	C
11	A	B	C
12	A	B	C
13	A	B	C
14	A	B	C

15	A	B	C
16	A	B	C
17	A	B	C
18	A	B	C
19	A	B	C
20	A	B	C

Write below any questions you would like to ask your instructor about the lessons.

.....

.....

.....

CONGRATULATIONS

You have finished this course. We have enjoyed having you as a student and hope you will study more courses with ICI. Return this student report answer sheet to your instructor or to the ICI office in your area. When we have checked your answers, we will send you a certificate for this course in your program of studies.

Please print your name below as you want it to appear on your certificate.

Name

For ICI Office Use Only
Date Score

Christian Life Program

CL1210 When You Pray
Decision Report and Request Card

After studying this course, I have placed my trust in Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord. I am returning this card with my signature and address to your ICI office for two reasons: first, to testify to my commitment to Christ and, second, to request information about more material to help me in my spiritual life.

NAME.....

ADDRESS

.....

SIGNATURE



**THE GREATEST OF ALL
IS THE SERVANT OF ALL**

Serving is one of the greatest ways we can show our love to God. ICI courses prepare you to better serve others.

Using our courses will create an orderly system of Bible study and encourage a better understanding of spiritual truths.

The following courses will assist you in becoming an able servant of the Lord to others:

- THE GREAT QUESTIONS OF LIFE
- GOD LOVES YOU
- WHO JESUS IS
- WE BELIEVE
- GOD'S DESIGN—YOUR CHOICE
- CHRISTIAN WORSHIP
- PERSONAL EVANGELISM
- ALIVE IN CHRIST
- CHRISTIAN MATURITY

If you desire a more detailed description about each course or directions on how to enroll in any of these courses, contact your local ICI director.

**SEND US THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES
OF YOUR FRIENDS**

We will send them Lesson 1 of
“The Great Questions of Life.”

Print Clearly

Name

Mailing Address

City.....

Province or State

Country

E-mail.....

Name

Mailing Address

City.....

Province or State

Country

E-mail.....

Name

Mailing Address

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Your Name

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