



Mustard Seed Children's Summary for January 20, 2008
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"God Answers Prayer"

MEMORY VERSE:

"I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Luke 11:9)

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT: Luke 11:5-13

5 And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves;

6 For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?

7 And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee.

8 I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.

9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?

12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that God says we should go on asking for His help even though we do not see an answer right away.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. Jesus wants us to continue asking God for what we need.
2. If God does not give exactly what we ask for, what He does give will be better.
3. Our Father likes to give His children what is good.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS:

For Helping to Remember, cut construction paper crosswise into 2-inch strips so that each child will have wristbands of three different colors. The class will also need crayons, colored pencils, safety scissors (as appropriate for the age levels), and masking tape. Make a copy of the word search for each student.

LESSON BACKGROUND:

Chapter 11 in Luke's gospel deals with the topic of prayer. In the opening verses of this chapter (verses 1-4), Jesus' disciples see Him praying and ask that He teach them how to pray. Jesus gave His disciples a model prayer that presented a guide for effective praying. We know this as the Lord's Prayer, which consists of worship, praise, petition, confession of sins, forgiving others and the desire for deliverance from temptation and evil.

After giving the disciples a pattern for praying, Jesus proposed an imaginary scenario that would further teach them how to pray. This scenario (the friend at midnight) is the focus of this week's lesson and teaches the power of persistent prayer, along with looking at those who take part in prayer – the one praying and the One hearing.

TEACHER'S NOTES / TELLING THE LESSON:

Consider the following as you prepare your lesson for your students:

1. How did Jesus inspire his disciples to pray?

The Bible records that Jesus spent time in prayer – talking and communing with the Father. We also know that His disciples observed Him praying and wanted to learn how to pray (Luke 11:1). Jesus inspired His disciples to pray by His example.

The disciples saw Jesus pray and wanted to learn more about prayer. Jesus further inspired His disciples by giving them a pattern (Luke 11:2-4) that taught the effective way to pray (the Lord's prayer). He also gave them an example of how we each should be persistent in prayer (Luke 11:5-8) and trust that God hears and answers prayer.

2. Summarize Jesus' parable about the "friend at midnight".

In this parable, Jesus tells of a traveler on a long journey that arrives at a friend's house in the middle of the night. To show hospitality to his guest, the friend wants to offer him something to eat, but all the bread in the house had been eaten. The friend goes to a neighbor's house to borrow some bread to give to his guest.

At this late hour, the neighbor is already in bed. The neighbor's family is also in bed, and he does not want to go through the trouble of opening the door to lend the bread. But since the friend needed the bread for his guest, he keeps knocking until at last the neighbor gets up and gives him all the bread that he needed.

This parable illustrates that when you need something, you should keep asking God for it and not give up. Pray like people who keep looking until they find the thing they have lost. Pray like people who keep knocking on a door until someone lets them in.

3. Why is persistence in prayer important?

Persistence in prayer would suggest a commitment to continue, to endure and to not give up. There is power in persistent prayer because it not only shows our commitment to seeking God, but it demonstrates our faith and dependence on God. We should persevere in prayer because God likes to hear His children pray.

As we persist in prayer, we learn and grow as believers. We come to see that prayer is not just a time of presenting a list of wants and desires for God to fulfill. We grow as we pray. We come to see that sometimes our requests are not in line with God's will and that He has much more in store for us.

4. How does Jesus use the provision of a loving father to explain God's response to prayer?

In Luke 11:11-13, Jesus teaches that a good father will always give his son or daughter what is good. Jesus said that God is like that. God is a good Father. He will always give His children what is good, not something that will hurt them. A loving father would not try to trick his children by giving them something bad that looks like the good thing they asked for.

If a child asks for something good, a loving father will not give them something harmful instead. In the same way, our God is a gracious Father, and it is He who hears our prayer. So if an earthly father gives good gifts, how much more can we expect that our heavenly Father will do even better? God will even give his best gift – the Holy Spirit – to those who ask Him!!

5. Does persistence in prayer ensure that we receive everything we ask for?

Luke 11:9 seems to convey increasing levels of persistence when it comes to prayer – ask, seek, and then knock. We go to God with a request (ask). After asking, we focus and go in search of what we desire (seek). Then we try to get into the place where we think the desired object is located (knock). We persist until we obtain the desired object.

But we are not to be discouraged if what we ask is not given at once or not given at all. Our heavenly Father knows better than we do. If we ask for something that we think is good but that He knows is not best, usually He does not do what we asked. It is His way of saying, “No, just wait. I have something better for you than that.”

We can be sure that God hears our prayers. Even if the answer may at times be, “No”. God listens to our prayers, and whatever He does will be good!

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

Discuss and explain to your students that God likes to hear us pray. God knows everything already and knows what we need before we ask, but He likes for us to come to Him in prayer. As we go to God in prayer, we should use the model that Jesus gave us (Luke 4:1-4) – worship and praise our Father in heaven, present our petitions, confess our sins, forgive others and pray to overcome temptation and evil. These dynamics of prayer should be a part of our daily lives as believers.

Once we understand the dynamics of prayer, we can then be inspired to keep asking, seeking and knocking. We must persist in prayer – not so much to get God to grant our requests but to communicate with God, examine ourselves and develop a deeper fellowship with God.

HELPING TO REMEMBER (ACTIVITIES):

Use the following activities, or create your own, to emphasize the key points of the lesson: Distribute three of the paper strips to each child. Make sure that you fit each child's strips to his or her wrist. Be sure to leave enough overlap to join the ends later. The children should write a different word on each band: “Ask,” “Seek,” and “Knock”. Then they can decorate the bands. Help them tape the ends so that their wristband will fit.

Repeat the memory verse and let each child practice saying the verse. A word search for this week's lesson is included at the end of this summary with key words from the lesson.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

“I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you” (Luke 11:9)

Jesus said prayer is like asking for something until you get it. It is like looking for something until you find it. It is like knocking until someone opens the door and lets you in. He tells us not to give up praying. God likes to give His children what is good.

ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:

Next week's lesson is “Trusting God” from Luke 12:22-34 and focuses on the God who can be trusted to provide the necessities of life.

Lesson Summarized By:

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WORD SEARCH
God Answers Prayer
Luke 11:5-13

Find each of the following words.

JOURNEY
IMPORTUNITY
GIFTS
FATHER
BREAD

PRAYER
SERPENT
LOAVES
CHILDREN
ASK

MIDNIGHT
SEEK
ANSWERS
FRIEND
KNOCK

HOLY SPIRIT
STONE
GOOD
FISH
TROUBLE

M O F E S H H D E T N O S R E W S N A S E P R O O S
S H T U S R H F U D O R I I R G T G I F T S N E P S
E R N I S P N E T E I E E I P S N T S Y S D G C R R
V U F N S T V I M P O R T U N I T Y E O O M I Y E E
A C E T R D I W G E B T E H P R L N E I I H S R I H
O F R I E N D B L U T E P L E T R A K D O E N U B R
L A O U E N Y B Y N R N L O S U R J N L O S N E K T
S E R Y Y E U W E I E F M A O I R I Y R E Y A R P T
R S L E D O E P T R B T R J K T G S I K T P S H E F
N T E D R E R U R R N H T Y I H P P E C I H T E K O
T E J T K E B U E K O I T K T I N I G O O D O E R F
E O A Y S K R A H I S L T D R T L K C N I N N F T K
I R E E O K D N T A M Y O I S E S L N K O E E C S S
T U K E Y N O S A N R E T L V N H O I R J L W I F T
O G A S K E J S F K H I N E R D L I H C S P F L R O
E F S I Y S R L T K K N P E E E T I K H N I T K F A

Solution to Word Search – God Answers Prayer (Luke 11:5-13)

 H S R E W S N A
S S G I F T S
E I S Y
V F I M P O R T U N I T Y E M
A E N E I H
O F R I E N D L T R K D O
L B N U N L
 U E O I Y R E Y A R P
 O P B J G S K S
 R R R R H P C T
 T E E T I G O O D O
 S A H R N N
 D T I K E
 A T
A S K F N E R D L I H C