



## **Mustard Seed Children's Summary for 31 August 2008**

**Released on Wednesday, August 27, 2008**

### **"Pray Always"**

**BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE:** James 5:1-20

**DEVOTIONAL READING:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22

#### **MEMORY VERSE:**

"...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16)

#### **SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT:** (James 5:13-18)

13 Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.

14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

16 Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

17 Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

#### **OBJECT IN VIEW:**

Encourage students to pray to God at all times.

#### **TRUTHS TO STRESS:**

1. We should pray at all times.

2. We should pray for each other.

### **PLANNING LESSON AIDS:**

For Helping to Remember, bring a whole and half paper plate for each student, safety scissors, yarn, and markers. Bring slips of paper to write requests on.

You will also need a copy of the word search and quarterly review, at the end of this summary, for each student.

### **BEGINNING THE LESSON:**

Six-year-old Jerry prayed, but he always said the same words:

"Dear Jesus, thank You for the food. Help me sleep well tonight. Help me have a good day tomorrow. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen."

Was Jerry really praying? Was he really talking to God?

God wants us to pray always, but we need to think about what we are saying. If we are always praying, we need to make sure that it is meaningful to us and touches the heart of God - not just saying words.

### **LESSON BACKGROUND:**

Time: about A.D. 45

Place: from Jerusalem

In this week's devotional reading, we are told to "pray without ceasing" (I Thessalonians 5:17). This week's lesson illustrates this practice.

The believer should be in an attitude of prayer, ready to talk to the Father at all times. Jesus prayed at all times—in the morning, all night long, at His baptism, when crowds surrounded Him, when alone, with His disciples, on a mountain, in a garden, in times of popularity, and in times of anguish.

The key to answered prayer is not words; it is faith (James 5:15). "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6).

### **TEACHER'S NOTES / TELLING THE LESSON:**

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

Prayer is our means of talking to God, and we should do this, not only in our times of need, but also in times of rejoicing and worship. Prayer is also a powerful and necessary tool in our experience as Christians. We should be encouraged to pray because God hears and answers prayer. God helps His people and demonstrates His power through prayer.

## **OCCASIONS FOR PRAYER (James 5:13-14)**

In James 5, James told believers to pray always. (Locate passage in students' Bibles)

James asked the Christians a question: "Are any of you afflicted?"

"Afflicted" means to have great troubles. It could mean that we need money to buy food. Perhaps someone is being treated badly because he asked Jesus to be his Saviour. Maybe a Christian has a disease. These are afflictions, or hard times in life.

What should Christians do when we are afflicted? We should pray.

James asked a second question: "Is anyone merry?"

We all like to be happy. God tells us to sing when we are happy. The book of Psalms is made up of songs of praise to God. In Psalm 13:6 David said, "I will sing unto the Lord, because he hath dealt bountifully with me." David sang praises for the many good things that God had given him. We can sing our thanks to God.

## **PRAYER FOR HEALING (James 5:14-16)**

The third question James asked is "Is anyone sick?" What should we do when we are sick or when someone we love is sick? The answer is the same. We should pray.

God created us. He made our bodies. When Jesus lived on earth, He healed the sick.

When we face sickness, we should ask God to heal us. James told sick people to ask the pastor and church leaders to pray for them. We should pray for them. We should pray in faith. We must believe that God has power to heal.

Sometimes God allows sickness in our bodies because of sin. When we confess sin, God forgives us.

If we have sinned against another person, we must confess that sin to him. We must ask him to forgive us.

We should pray for one another. God loves to hear His children pray. Praying earnestly for each other brings about the desired effect. God hears and answers the prayer of a Christian who obeys Him.

## **THE EXAMPLE OF ELIJAH (James 5:17-18)**

James understood the value of supporting his statements with real life examples. Here he pointed his readers to the well-known account of Elijah and the long drought (1 Kings 17-18). Elijah was one of the Old Testament prophets. He was human, like you and me. Because the Israelites were worshiping idols and sinning, Elijah prayed earnestly that God would stop the rain. God heard and answered Elijah's prayer. Elijah prayed in faith and God stopped the rain. For three and a half years, Israel received no rain. Food was scarce.

When Elijah prayed again and asked God to let the rain begin, God sent rain so that the crops would grow. Could anyone ask for a greater demonstration of the power of the "effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man" (James 5:16).

### **TELLING HOW TO LIVE:**

As children of God, we are saved individually, and there must be a prayer relationship between the Lord and us. It is just natural; there is not much of a relationship if we never speak to the Lord. Prayer is the speaking part of our relationship with God. There is power in prayer.

We are praying people. We pray in good times and in bad times. We pray for our situations and we pray for each other. Make a prayer list of all the requests of those in your class – be sensitive to people's feelings and do not include requests that someone does not want distributed outside of your small group. Be careful not to let the prayer request list become a gossip sheet.

Distribute a copy of the list to each student. The prayer request list should help your students learn to pray for one another and to do so more faithfully. The list will allow your students to pray with understanding at times of public prayer but they will also have the list to take with them for private prayer.

### **HELPING TO REMEMBER:**

Place a half plate on top of a whole plate to form a pocket. Punch holes around the outside and one at the top. Sew the plates together with yarn, and tie a loop through the hole at the top for a hanger. Write "Praying Always" on the outside and decorate it. Ask children to write prayer requests on slips of paper, and put them in the pocket as reminders to pray.

Have each student complete the word search, with key words from this week's lesson. A quarterly review is also included highlighting the memory verses from this quarter.

### **EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:**

"...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16).

When a person who truly loves and obeys God prays earnestly, God listens. Talking to God is important business. It should not be done in a careless way. God hears and answers believers who pray seriously.

Jesus set the example of praying in faith. He never had any doubt about being heard, and He had no sin in His life that would hinder His prayers. We as followers of Christ must seek to follow Him more and more in this. Have a strong conviction that God does hear and answer prayer, and keep your life as free from sin as you can. If we do our part, then God will do His.

**PRAYER:**

Dear God, thank you for encouraging us to talk to You in prayer. Help us to have faith in Your Word and to always pray. In Jesus' name, amen.

**ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:**

Next week's lesson is "Get Ready!" from Mark 1:1-8 and Matthew 3:1-3 and deals with getting ready to be born into God's family.

**Lesson Summarized by:**

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## WORD SEARCH- **Pray Always** (James 5:13-18)

Find each of the following words.

CONFESS

FAITH

ANOINTING

PRAYER

RAIN

SICK

OIL

PRAY

ELDERS

SAVE

ALWAYS

HEALED

FERVENT

HEAVEN

RIGHTEOUS

MERRY

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

## QUARTERLY REVIEW

### SUMMER 2008

1. God has in these \_\_\_\_\_ days spoken unto us by His Son, whom he has appointed \_\_\_\_\_ of all things (Hebrews 1:1-2).
2. Jesus is able to save to the \_\_\_\_\_ those who come to God by Him, seeing He ever lives to make \_\_\_\_\_ for them (Hebrews 7:25).
3. By His own blood, Jesus entered in once into the holy place, having obtained \_\_\_\_\_ for us (Hebrews 9:12).
4. Let us run with \_\_\_\_\_ the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and \_\_\_\_\_ of our faith (Hebrews 12:1-2).
5. Jesus Christ the same \_\_\_\_\_, and to day, and forever (Heb.13:8).
6. They were \_\_\_\_\_ at His doctrine: for his word was with power (Luke 4:32).
7. Jesus healed many that were \_\_\_\_\_ of divers diseases, and cast out many \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark 1:34).
8. Jesus gave us an \_\_\_\_\_, that we should do as He did to His disciples (John 13:15).
9. When asked by Jesus who they believed that He was, Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the \_\_\_\_\_, the Son of the \_\_\_\_\_ God (Matt. 16:15-16).
10. James encouraged us to be \_\_\_\_\_ of the word, and not \_\_\_\_\_ only, deceiving our own selves (James 1:22).
11. God has chosen the poor this world rich in \_\_\_\_\_, and heirs of the kingdom which he has \_\_\_\_\_ to them that love him (James 2:5).
12. We should speak wisely because "out of the same mouth proceedeth \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_" (James 3:10).
13. To live godly lives, we must draw \_\_\_\_\_ to God, and He will draw nigh to us (James 4:8).
14. The \_\_\_\_\_ fervent prayer of a \_\_\_\_\_ man availeth much (James 5:16).





## **ANSWERS TO QUARTERLY REVIEW (Summer 2008)**

1 – last, heir

2 – uttermost, intercession

3 – eternal redemption

4 – patience, finisher

5 – yesterday

6 – astonished

7 – sick, devils

8 – example

9 – Christ, living

10 – doers, hearers

11 – faith, promised

12 – blessing, cursing

13 – nigh

14 – effectual, righteous