

Prayer: Conversations with God

Pray With Thanks- giving

Lesson Five

Prayer: Conversations with God

Pray With Thanksgiving

Scriptures: Psalm 13; 27; 138; I Chronicles 16:7-36;

Lesson Goal: To encourage believers to be thankful.

Memory Verse: I will praise the name of God with song and magnify Him with thanksgiving. Psalm 69:30

David, who most likely wrote the 13th Psalm, spent the first part of that Psalm challenging God. He felt deserted and overwhelmed in the face of his enemies. But, before he ended his song, he remembered God's unfailing love and His great salvation, and ended the Psalm with thanksgiving. He said, "I will sing to the Lord, for He has been good to me." (Psalm 13:6) We are encouraged to "...come before His presence with thanksgiving, Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms." (Psalm 95:2)

David, the king, celebrated with his people their readiness to build the Temple in Jerusalem. He prayed, "Now therefore, our God, we thank you, and praise your glorious name." (I Chronicles 29:13) Daniel thanked God when God revealed a mystery: "To you, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, for you have given me wisdom and power..." (Daniel 2:23) Anna, the prophetess, prayed, "giving thanks to God" for the gift of Jesus, the Messiah. (Luke 2:38) Paul told the church at Philippi that he offered a prayer of thanksgiving to God for every memory he had of them. (Philippians 1:3) He told the church at Ephesus that they should give thanks always for everything. (Ephesians 5:20) The writer of Hebrews said that we should continually praise God and give thanks in the name of Jesus. (Hebrews 13:15)

Jesus gave thanks. While the crowd was waiting for Lazarus to come out of the tomb, Jesus said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me." He knew that God was about to send Lazarus back from the dead. (John 11:41) Jesus also gave thanks for food. (Mark 14:22)

What do we learn from the Biblical prayers? Among other things, we learn:

First, that no matter what comes our way, sorrow, pain, defeat, loneliness or any other negative thing, we can remember God's unfailing love and be grateful.

Second, that the very best of God's servants took time to praise Him and be thankful for His blessings.

Third, that God gives good gifts, and for all those, we should express our thanks to Him.

Pray, Always:

To God
Through Jesus
By God's Holy Spirit

In Thanksgiving
With Joy
For Others

For Forgiveness
For Salvation
To Confess

For Necessities
For Ability

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Fourth, that when God gives us insight and wisdom, we should express our gratitude to Him.

Fifth, that we should be especially appreciative for the gift of His Son.

Sixth, that we should thank God for friends and fellow workers in the Kingdom.

Seventh, that we should be grateful for our food, thanking God who originally provided it.

These and so many other things provide us opportunities to express our appreciation to God for being our provider. With Jesus, as in the case of the raising of Lazarus, we can thank God in advance for answering our prayer.

Thankfulness, whether to God or to others teaches us humility and the true meaning of fellowship. When we express gratitude, we honor the giver and show our willingness to submit to partnership and fellowship in living the Christian life.

If we sing along with David, as he is quoted in Psalm 13, we will be singing in gratitude for God's salvation. That is the thing for which we should be most grateful. Psalm 13:5b

*Underlined sentences in the Teacher's Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher's Guide.

Pray, like Jesus:

When Jesus was preaching the Sermon on the Mount, He said, "This, then is how you should pray: 'Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'" Matthew 6:9-13

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Pray By God's Holy Spirit

Memory Verse: I will praise the name of God with song and magnify Him with thanksgiving. Psalm 69:30

- >David remembered God's unfailing _____ and His great _____, and ended the 13th Psalm with _____.
- >Hebrews says we should continually praise _____ and give thanks in the name of _____.
- >No matter what comes our _____, sorrow, pain, _____, loneliness or any other negative thing, we can _____ God's unfailing _____ and be grateful.
- >Second, we learn that the very best of God's _____ took time to praise Him and be thankful for His _____.
- >God gives _____ gifts, and for all those, we should express our _____ to Him.
- >When God gives us insight and _____, we should express our _____ to Him.
- >We should be especially appreciative for the _____ of His _____.
- >We should thank God for _____ and fellow _____ in the Kingdom.
- >We should be grateful for our _____, thanking God who originally _____ it.
- >When we express _____, we honor the giver and _____ our willingness to submit to _____ and fellowship in living the _____ life.

How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that there is a God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.

Fifth, believe that He has answered your prayer and be ready to live for him all the rest of your life.