



# What Do We Believe?

## Lesson 41

# What Do We Believe?

## Lesson 41: Prayer: The Way We Pray

### Scriptures:

II Chronicles 7:14; Jeremiah 29:11-12; Matthew 5:44, 6:7, 9-44; Luke 6:12,13, 9:28; John 12:27, 17; Acts 7:60; Romans 8:26, 27; Philippians 4:4-7; Hebrews 5:7-10; James 5:16

### Lesson Goals:

To assist the learner to understand the basics of praying  
To assist the learner in understanding the role of Jesus and God's Holy Spirit in prayer  
To assist the learner to understand the need for corporate prayer

### Scripture Memory:

**Pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. I Thessalonians 5:17, 18**

### The Lesson:

Willie was on a Boy Scout camping trip. He had been worried for quite a while about some friends who were experimenting with illegal drugs and alcohol. He needed someone to talk to about it. His Scout leader was a good guy and Willie had talked to him about other serious things. Scout Master Jacobs must have realized that Willie had something on his mind and invited Willie to eat his lunch with him out under a tree... away from the others. They talked about several things and then Mr. Jacobs said, "Willie, you seem to have something on your mind." Willie was surprised. He said, "Well, I have been concerned about something, but I really don't know how to say it." Mr. Jacobs said, "Well, Willie, just start somewhere and tell me what you are thinking. Don't worry about the words."

Prayer is simply communicating with God. You don't have to use special words. You don't have to be especially talented. You don't have to sound like a preacher. You should sound like you. Remember, God knows everything about you, even your thoughts. You aren't going to be informing God of something that will surprise Him, certainly not something that He hasn't already planned for in your life.

When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, Jesus gave them a very simple model prayer. It is recorded in Matthew 6:9-13. The words that many of us memorized in early life may seem too formal... church words. It may seem a little more like us to say it as The Message translation says it, "Our Father in heaven, Reveal who you are. Set the world right; Do what's best – as above, so below. Keep us alive with three square meals. Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others. Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil. You're in charge! You can do anything you want! You're ablaze in beauty! Yes. Yes. Yes."

Prayer is our conscious practice of communicating with God. There are different kinds of praying: meditation (quietly thinking about God and His will for us), worship (including singing, speaking prayers, reading God's Word, listening to others talk about God and His will), and praying for others, called intercession. You can pray in words or thought. Prayer isn't only humans communicating with God. God's Holy Spirit may say things to us, just like we are saying things to Him.

There are some words, that we don't normally use, that describe what some think are the kinds of praying we should do. They are: invocation (making an humble request usually for God to be present), adoration (having more to do with praising God), confession (telling God about sins we have committed), petition (asking God for something...forgiveness, help, etc.), pleading (telling God about our desires... dreams...hopes...), dedication (making commitments or promises, and celebration), thanksgiving (expressing gratitude for God and to God), and blessing (added to thanksgiving...an expression of approval).

Praying is not just an individual thing. Joining others in prayer not only encourages us, but encourages them. It is not a matter of “ganging up on God,” but the joy of agreeing with others in finding the will of God. Jesus encouraged group prayer, see Matthew 18:19.

One of the more difficult prayers is for our enemies. Yet, the Bible is very clear that we are to pray about everything, even those who do harmful things to us. The other side of this kind of praying is that God’s Holy Spirit helps us in praying, even translating our prayer to the Father into heavenly language on our behalf, praying for us when we can’t find the words. (Romans 8:26)

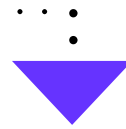
### Life Application:

When Jesus’ disciples asked Him to teach them how to pray, Jesus gave them an example of how to pray. The words aren’t some magical incantation that gets us everything we want just by repeating them. In fact, Jesus said not to keep babbling on, thinking that God hears you because you say a lot. Instead, we are to pray, “Our Father.” That’s how the model prayer begins and it’s a very important beginning. Why? Because it speaks of a relationship between the person praying and the One listening. Do you have that kind of relationship with God? If you do not, then your sin is in the way of that relationship. Our sin separates us from God, and all of us are sinners. Rather than keeping us separated from Him, God made a way for us to be children of God. He sent His one and only Son, Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life, died an awful death for no fault of His own, was raised again and sits at the right hand of God. There, He prays to the Father for us. But His sacrificial death made a way for us to be right with God, children of God. Are you ready to place your trust in Him today? Confess Jesus as Lord of your life - the One in control, the One calling the shots - and believe that God raised Him from the dead and you will be saved!

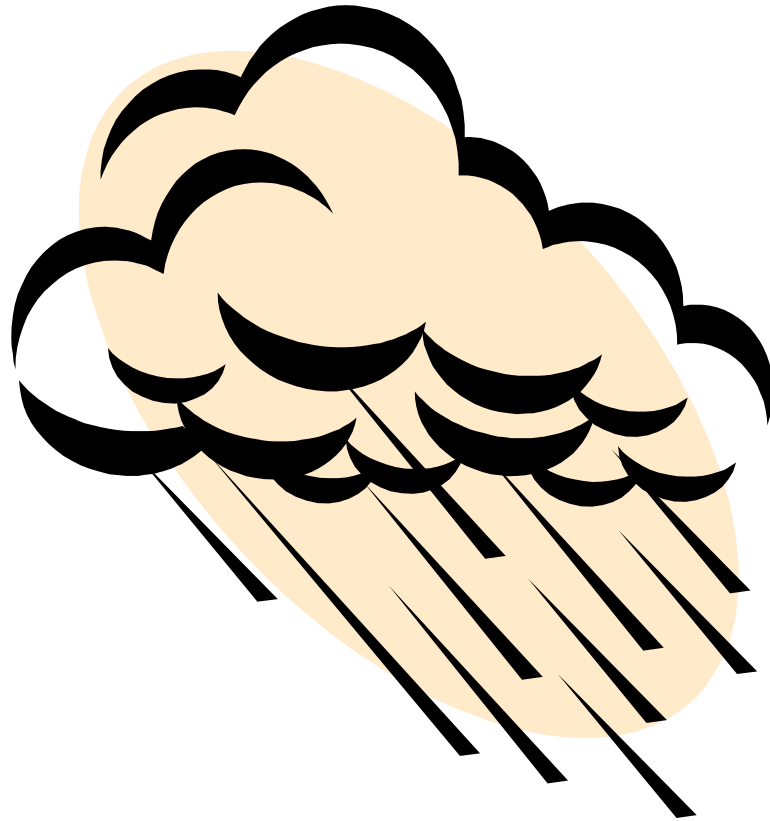
Now that you have become a child of God, calling God your Father, are you spending time with Him? Do you talk to God with words, with song, telling Him your desires, your worries? Are you asking Him to show you the plan He has for your life? If not, why not begin today? He longs to hear from you. Don’t worry about the words, just begin . . .



**Planning for Lesson 42**  
**Evangelism: Leading**  
**Others to Faith**



- ◆ **Memory Verse Activity** - We have talked about knowing God's will for our lives. With verses like our memory verse, it is simple. Review the verse several times and discuss what God wants us to do. Talk about ways to be obedient.
- ◆ Practice praying by the model of the Lord's Prayer, making motions that will help you remember what to pray for.
- ◆ To help your students grow more comfortable with prayer, make a list of how you want to pray, for example, "Thank you God for . . .," "God we praise you for . . .," "God please help . . ." Circle up for prayer. Begin with the first topic and encourage each student to say what they are thankful for, etc.
- ◆ Sing "Amazing Grace/My Chains are Gone," "If My People," "Awesome in this Place," "Be Thou My Vision," "Better is One Day," "Blessed Be Your Name," "Breathe," "Come, Now is the Time to Worship," "Draw Me Close," "Fairest Lord Jesus," "Sweet Hour of Prayer," "God of Wonders," "Great is Thy Faithfulness," "He Reigns," "How Great Thou Art," "Indescribable," "Lord, I Give You My Heart," "Lord, You Are," "Morning Prayer," "Near to the Heart of God," "Prince of Peace," "Sanctuary," "Search Me, O God," and "Speak to My Heart."
- ◆ **Dig Deeper:** Read Matthew 6:7-14. Encourage your students to re-write the model prayer in their own words.



**Pray without ceasing;  
in everything give thanks,  
for this is God's will for  
you in Christ Jesus.**

**1 Thessalonians 5:17, 18**

# Word Works

Prayer is simply communicating with God. You don't have to use special words. You don't have to be especially talented. You don't have to sound like a preacher. You should sound like you.

Look at the model prayer in Matthew 6:8-13 (NIV). Fill in the blanks with the letters that are missing. Then use the circled words to complete the sentence below.

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

Pray without ceasing; in \_\_\_\_\_ give thanks, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 6:17, 18

# Word Works

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Look at the model prayer in Matthew 6:8-13 (NIV). Fill in the blanks with the letters that are missing. Then use the circled words to complete the sentence below.

OUR FATH(E)R  
IN HEA(V)EN MAY  
YOUR NAM(E) BE HONORED  
MAY YO(R) KINGDOM COME  
MAY WHAT (Y)OU WANT IO HAPPEN BE DONE  
ON EAR(T)H  
AS II IS DONE IN (H)EAVEN  
G(I)VE US IODAY OUR DAILY BREAD  
FORGIVE US OUR SI(N)S . . .  
KEEP US FROM FALLIN(G) IN IO SIN . . .  
SAVE US FROM THE EVIL QONE .

Pray without ceasing; in **EVERYTHING** give thanks, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 6:17, 18

# Word Search



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

Our Father

in heaven

name be honored

your kingdom come

your will be done

daily bread

forgive sins

as we forgive

keep us from sin



# Word Search



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

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