

DAILY LIVING - TEACHINGS FROM JAMES

LESSON 7: BECOMING A PRAY-ER

After completing this lesson, the children will know how they should pray, when they should pray, and why it is important to include prayer as a regular part of their daily living.

TOPICS

Christian Living, James, Prayer

AS KIDS ARRIVE (15 minutes)

How Would I React? (Activity)

For younger children, you may simply want to read to the different situations found in this activity to them. Then you can discuss what their answers would be to each instead of having them write them down.

OPENING PRAYER AND PRAISE (5 minutes)

MEMORY WORK (10 minutes)

"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." James 5:16 NIV

Read the verse together several times, then write the verse on the board. Say the verse together as a class, erase a word or two and say the verse again. Continue in this manner until the words are all erased.

SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION (20 minutes)

Introduction:

James closes out his letter with a very important topic. Can you guess what that is? (prayer) Let's read and find out exactly what James wrote about prayer.

Read the passage two times. The first time tell the kids to count the number of times James uses the word pray or prayer. (It is found 7 times.) In this short passage, seven times is quite a lot. Prayer must be very important. Read the passage again as the children follow along. This time have them listen for the different kinds of prayer mentioned.

Read James 5:13-18

Discussion Questions:

1. James gives three examples when we should pray. What are they? (*When in trouble, when happy and when sick- James 5:13-14.*)
2. What should we pray for when...
 - We are in trouble? (*Pray for help or guidance.*)
 - We are happy? (*Give prayers of praise, or songs of praise.*)
 - We are sick? (*Pray for healing.*)
 - We have sinned? (*Pray for forgiveness.*)
3. Why do you think James talks about oil in verse 14? (*Allow for discussion. In the Old*

Testament, when someone was anointed with oil, it symbolized that they were now set apart for God. But oil was also used as something else. Oil was used as medicine to heal wounds. In other words, the elders, who were there to help people in the church, would come and pray over anyone who was sick. If there was anything the elder could do, he would do it. Say for instance that you have a really bad cold. Someone can pray over you, but you also need to take your medicine.)

4. How are sin and sickness related in verses 15 and 16? *(Allow for discussion. Some people's sin actually causes them to get sick. Have you ever done something bad and hid it from your parents. Have you ever felt so bad about doing that bad thing, that your stomach started hurting? This is one case when you would need to confess and tell your parents what you did. This is just one simple example of how sin can affect your health.)*

5. Why should we pray for each other? *(We should help each other every way we can, but especially through prayer!)*

6. When you know someone is struggling with something, what's one thing you can always do? *(Pray.)*

7. In verse 16, James says, "The prayer of the righteous man is powerful and effective." What does righteous mean? *(Acting in a morally correct manner.)*

8. Who is the righteous man who has powerful and effective prayers? *(Allow the kids an opportunity to answer.)*

Actually, James is talking about us. However, we are not naturally righteous people. Philippians 3:9 says our righteousness doesn't come from us, but through faith in Jesus. We can be righteous because of Christ in us, and when we pray we can trust that God hears our prayers.

CLASS EXERCISE (15 minutes)

Let the Prayers Begin (Skits)

ALTERNATE CLASS EXERCISE (20 minutes)

Off to the Races (Game)

Review Questions to use with Off to the Races: (use in any order)

1. According to lesson 1 in this series, what must we become to be mature and complete? *(Perseverant.)*
2. According to lesson 2, we should not merely be hearers of God's Word, but what? *(Doers.)*
3. What part of our body is the most difficult to control according to lesson 3? *(The tongue.)*
4. According to lesson 4, there are two types of these, one comes Heaven and one from earth? *(Wisdom.)*
5. In order to resist the devil and be lifted up, we must humble ourselves and be _____ to God? *(Submissive.)*
6. We should not give this to our self, but to who it belongs, especially to God. *(Glory or praise.)*
7. Since we are considered righteous, what should we do in every situation? *(Pray.)*
8. In our skit with Joe running the race, Matt's mom made treats. Name one of them. *(Ice cold lemonade or chocolate chip cookies.)*

9. In lesson 2, we played a game similar to Mother May I. Name three of the five characters mentioned. (*College student, maid, bookworm, football player, basketball player.*)
10. In our skit about taming the tongue, Angela was annoyed at Kelly for doing something. What? (*Befriending Jamie, giving Jamie her phone number, etc.*)
11. From lesson 3, name at least one thing the tongue is like. (*Fire, rudder, deadly poison.*)
12. What are the two different kinds of wisdom mentioned in lesson 4? (*From Heaven, and from earth.*)
13. The demons believe there is but one God. What is their reaction to that information? (*They shudder.*)
14. In our story about Jess and Jim, why did the teacher want them to do more than just read the book? (It was a difficult book to understand, however, it was required reading.)
15. In one of our memory verses, we're compared to a mist, that is here for a while, then does what? (*Vanishes.*)
16. In our skit called Help or No Help, what did Jason help the other three boys do? (*Study for the test.*)
17. Give three examples of when we should pray. (*When we are in trouble, happy, sick, when we have sinned.*)
18. How many chapters are there in the book of James? (*5*)
19. What must we learn to do with our tongue? (*Tame it.*)
20. According to James 1:12, what does God promise to those who love him? (*Crown of life.*)

APPLICATION (2 minutes)

We can all pray no matter what we are experiencing—trouble, joy, frustration, or sickness. We can and should always pray and know that God hears our prayers because we belong to Jesus.

CLOSING PRAYER (2 minutes)