

Prayer – Talking with God

Topic: Prayer

Purpose of this study:

To provide students with essential instructions about prayer and what to expect from God through prayer.

Motivation for teaching this study:

At its very foundation, the Christian life is a relationship between God and man. Relationships require two-way communication and prayer is our means to communicate with our heavenly Father. This study is designed to simply educate and stimulate young believers to pray and learn how to communicate with God. Hopefully this will be the beginning of a life-long dialogue of communicating and communing with God for your students.

Introducing the Lesson:

How you introduce this lesson will depend to a great extent, on how familiar your students are to the subject of prayer. If your students are relatively new to prayer, you could begin with, “God speaks to us through his Word, and we can speak to God through prayer.” If your students are already praying you could share how God recently answered (yes, no, or wait) one of your prayers and tell them you want to discuss the whole area of prayer as a group.

The three “scale” questions are designed to help you understand how much your students really grasp and apply prayer in their own lives. Don’t be afraid to ask your students to explain their responses.

The speeding scenario raises questions commonly asked when we pray to God as believers. Many people pray to God only in times of crisis or real genuine need and they wonder if God really hears them. The first question involves when can we ask for God’s help in our lives, particularly when we have transgressed the law ourselves. The second question centers on how God responds to us when we seek Him. The third dabbles with God’s response being dictated by who He is. Is He a gracious God when we come to Him in times of distress or does He merely let us experience the consequences of our own sin? You can go as deep as you wish here but the purpose of this section is to engage the students in thinking about prayer.

How should we pray explains the four types of prayer available to us. **When should we pray** encourages us to always have an attitude of prayer.

It would be helpful to have other illustrations of God answering prayer through “yes, no and wait.” This is a perfect opportunity to model prayer through sharing answers you have personally received from the Lord as you have sought Him.

God always grants requests for prayer according to His will. We can search God’s Word to discover many exciting aspects of God’s will for our lives. For example God desires that we rejoice always (1 Thes. 5:18), be holy in our conduct (1 Thes. 4:3), do not be bound together with unbelievers (2 Cor. 6:14), love God with all our being (Mk 12:30), and treat others as we want to be treated (Mt. 7:12). All of God’s moral commands in scripture are His will for our lives. Praying these for people will help them and even ourselves to live more Godly lives.

Closing the Lesson:

Encourage your students to have one point of application such as keeping a prayer diary, praying during their quiet times, or going to a special place to meet God in prayer.

Evaluation:

1. Do my students really grasp how important prayer is to their growth?
2. Are they praying on their own?
3. When they pray, do they reflect a good balance of adoration, confession, thanksgiving and supplication?