

Prayer, Conversations with
God

Pray For Others

Lesson Eight

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Scriptures: Matthew 5:44, 45; Romans 8:34; Ephesians 1:15-18; 3:14-21; Philippians 1:3-6;

Lesson Goal: To encourage believers to be intercessors.

Memory Verse: "...I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men..." I Timothy 2:1— "...Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know." I Tim. 2:1 MSG

One of the greatest privileges of a Christian is praying for others. It is sometimes called intercession. That's a good label for it. Intercession is standing up for, making a plea for, taking the position of and advocating for another person.* We are told in Scripture that Jesus is now sitting at the right hand of God making intercession for us. (Hebrews 7:25) Also we know that God's Holy Spirit speaks to God on our behalf, interceding for us. (Romans 8:27)

With this as our example, we have this strong option for making a difference in our world. We can pray for others. Samuel, the great prophet and leader of Israel told the people in his farewell address, "far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you." (I Samuel 12:23) His indication there is that failing to pray for those we know and for whom we should pray is a sin.

The final prayer of our Lord Jesus was one of intercession. He prayed for the disciples who had been with Him, and He prayed for "...those who would believe in Me through their message..." (John 17:20) Jesus prayed for you, if you are a believer. Remember, Jesus told Peter, "...I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail." Simon did deny Jesus, three times, but later was restored fully and became a bold preacher and even contributed to the New Testament.

Stephen, one of the first deacons and martyrs of the church, prayed for those who were killing him with stones. One of those standing there hearing the prayer was Saul, who became Paul, the great apostle. (Acts 7:60) Saul/Paul saw the total commitment of Stephen and his forgiveness and compassion for those who stoned him...his enemies. It must have made a significant impression on Paul, certainly God heard Stephen's prayer and not only forgave, but blessed Paul with a magnificent missionary ministry.

For whom, then, should we pray?

The Bible tells us that we should pray for political leaders. Those who make decisions that affect our lives, who guide the government, who guide our relationship with other nations, need and deserve our prayer.

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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We should pray for our families. One of the most important things that families can do is to pray together and to pray for one another. God blesses those who share their spiritual experiences. Paul prayed for his church family and that prayer can guide us in how to pray for our own family. Read Philippians 1:9-11.

We should pray for our friends. We can “carry each other’s burdens” as we are told to do in Scripture. It is a wonderful experience to talk to God about our friends. (Galatians 6:2)

We should pray for our enemies. We can follow the example of Stephen and carry out our Lord’s instructions if we “...pray for those who persecute you...” (Matthew 5:44) It may not be an easy thing to do, but it is also following the example of our Lord Jesus when He prayed for those who were crucifying Him.

We should pray for workers in the harvest fields. Jesus encouraged His disciples to pray for God to send people into the world that is like a harvest field. There were and are so many who need to know about God and about His Son Jesus. It is our responsibility to pray for those who should be working (witnessing). They need our prayer support. (Matthew 9:38)

We should pray for those who are lost. Paul had such a burden for his Jewish friends that he would have been willing to die for them. (Romans 9:2, 3) Also, he pled with the Corinthians, in Christ’s name, to be reconciled to God. (II Corinthians 5:20) When we pray for the lost, we are often led to them as a witness.

Is praying for others a privilege or a responsibility? Actually, it is both. Praying for others not only follows our Lord’s commands, but also follows His example. Praying for others is a privilege that God grants to His children, allowing us to express our concern as well as our gratitude for His presence in the lives of others.

*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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Student Worksheet

Pray For Others

Memory Verse: "...I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men..." I Timothy 2:1— "...Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know." I Tim. 2:1 MSG

>Intercession is _____ for, making a _____ for, taking the _____ of and advocating for _____ person.

>We know that God's _____ speaks to God on our behalf, interceding for us. Romans 8:27

>Samuel indicated that failing to _____ for those we know and for whom we should pray is a _____.

>Jesus prayed for _____, if you are a _____.

>For whom, then, should we pray?

1. The Bible tells us that we should pray for _____.
2. We should pray for our _____.
3. We should pray for our _____.
4. We should pray for our _____.
5. We should pray for _____ in the harvest fields.
6. We should pray for those who are _____.

>Praying for others not only follows our Lord's _____, but also follows His _____.

>Praying for others is a privilege that God grants to His _____ allowing us to express our concerns our gratitude for His _____ in the lives of others.

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.