

Prayer, Conversations with
God

Pray For Forgiveness

Lesson Nine

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Pray For Forgiveness

Scriptures: Psalm 32; 51; 103; Matthew 6:9-13; Mark 11:25;

Lesson Goal: To encourage learners to pray for forgiveness.

Memory Verse: “Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.” Luke 11:14

Doing the wrong thing is human. After all, we are children of Adam and Eve. Those two set the pattern. They took the forbidden step. God had given them the best place that you can imagine to live. He had provided them with the best food. He had created them as perfect beings in a perfect world. If two people ever lived a “dream existence,” it was Adam and Eve. And yet, they sinned. They ignored God’s warning and chose to do what they knew would not please God. God had told them that such action would cause their death. They did it anyhow!*

We find ourselves doing what they did. We do things that are against God’s will. We do things that hurt ourselves and/or others. And, we sometimes even try to justify our actions by saying, “Well, I’m not hurting anyone but me.” That is your opinion...it is not necessarily correct. Any time we sin, we sin against God. We harm our relationship with God.

There are two kinds of prayer for forgiveness. The first is that which we pray when we give our lives to God, asking Him to become the Savior and Lord of our life. This prayer is expressing our regret, our sorrow for all the sin of our life. It is not necessarily a listing of all the sin we have ever committed. It is more about telling God that in the light of who He is, we are sorry for our disobedience...our failures. When we think about how wonderful God is...how good He is...about His perfection...it makes our lives seem pretty bad. When we think about all that we can be...have potential for...and yet fail to accomplish, we find ourselves far short of righteous living.

We must ask God for His righteousness. A first step in that process is asking His forgiveness for all the sin in our lives. That involves genuine sorrow for our sin. We should stop trying to justify it and just admit that we have been wrong and need God’s forgiveness. When God forgives us of our sin, we inherit His righteousness...His goodness. When we ask Him to be our Savior and Lord, we become, as we have recently studied, His adopted children and thus have His goodness as our own. Romans 3:22 says, “This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.” When we ask, God gives us His rightness, His goodness, for our own.

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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The second prayer for forgiveness is that of a Christian, already forgiven of those sins committed before salvation. God has done away with all our past sins. Jeremiah 31:34 says, “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.” God can choose what to forget. He removes our sins “as far as the east is from the west.” (Psalm 103:12)

However, humans continue to sin, even after our salvation. We continue to have that Adam and Eve trait... that tendency to sin. So, since we keep on sinning, we keep on needing forgiveness. One of the most heart felt Biblical prayers is that of David in the 51st Psalm. He is depending on God’s love and compassion to forgive him. (51:1) He realizes that his sin is against God. (51:4) He knows that God expects truth when we confess our sin. (51:6) He knows that when God takes away his sins, he will be thoroughly clean. (51:7) He believes that God can give him a brand new start. (51:10) He pleads with God to give him back the joy that he experienced at salvation. (51:12) He promises God that with his new, forgiven life, he will not only praise God, but he will work joyfully in telling others about God’s grace. (51:13-15) David understands that God expects brokenness, sorrow, for sin. (51:17)

Sin creates trouble in our lives. Not only are we victims of the result of the sin, but the guilt can be overwhelming. Psalm 32:5 tells us that not only does God forgive us of the sin, but He also relieves us of the guilt that sin causes in our lives.

*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: “Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.” Luke 11:14

- >Adam and Eve ignored God’s _____ and chose to do what they knew would not _____ God. God had told them that such action would cause their _____. They did it anyhow!
- >Any time we sin, we _____ against God. We harm our _____ with God.
- >When we give our lives to God, asking Him to become the Savior and _____ of our life, we tell God that in the light of _____ He is, we are sorry for our disobedience...our _____.
- >We must ask God for His _____.
- >We should stop trying to _____ our sin and just admit that we have been _____ and need God’s _____.
- >When we ask Him to be our Savior and Lord, we become His _____ children and thus have His _____ as our own.
- >Jeremiah 31:34 says, “For I will _____ their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”
- >Since we keep on _____, we keep on needing _____.
- >When God takes away our sins, we will be thoroughly _____. Psalm 51:7
- >David understands that God expects brokenness, _____, for sin. Psalm 51:17
- >Psalm 32:5 tells us that God forgives us of the _____. He also relieves us of the guilt in our _____.

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.