

Lesson 6 - Prayer

Ages: 3 to 11 years

In this lesson, we will be learning about ten different kinds of prayer. Prayer is talking to God and it is an act of obedience. We must read the Bible which teaches us how to pray.

Eph 6:18: "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints." (NIV)

In this scripture, Paul is asking the people to pray with all kinds of prayers.

The 10 different kinds of prayers are recorded in the mnemonic 'INTERCEDES'.

For the younger age group i.e. 3-11 years, 'INTERCEDES', has been broken up for easier understanding into 'A-B-C-D-E-F-G-H-I-J'.

Kinds of Prayer:

A – Agreement	C - Co-operative
B – Bothering	N - Nuisance
C – Calling it done	D - Declaration
D – Deep	E - Earnest
E – Expose	R - Revelatory
F – Fast	I - Instant
G – Giving thanks	T - Thanksgiving
H – Hope	E - Expectancy
I – Inner self	S - Spirit
J – Jesus-praise	E - Exaltation

PART A

Provide examples from the bible and explanations for these different kinds of prayers.

Note for Teachers:

Teachers to provide real life examples after each prayer so that the children will have a clear understanding of what the prayer means, thereby making it easier for them to remember.

A - AGREEMENT (CO-OPERATIVE)

This is a prayer of agreement. For God to answer our prayers, we need to pray with people that are trusting God for the same thing.

Matt 18:19

"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on Earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done by my Father in heaven." (NIV)

B - BOTHERING (NUISANCE)

This is the kind of prayer that worries God. It is a prayer that we say over and over again until God answers. Jacob refused to let go until God blessed him.

C - CALLING IT DONE (DECLARATION)

This is saying you already have what you prayed for before asking God or without asking God. Example: saying you are healed before asking God to heal you.

Whatever we declare and decree must be from the Word of God.

Prov 18:21 reads: 'Death and life are in the power of our tongue'.

There is much power in the words we speak. What we say today will create our future. If we desire a healthy and prosperous life, we need to speak words that are according to God's Word that will bring positive results.

D - DEEP (EARNEST)

This prayer is when we are serious about what we are praying for. We must pray with passion and our prayers must be from the heart.

- Sometimes we might even cry when we pray. Eg: When Hannah prayed, in the temple, for a baby the priest thought she was drunk. The Word of God tells us in:
1 Kings 17:22 "The Lord heard Elijah's cry, and the boy's life returned to him, and he lived."(NIV)
- Sometimes people pray with a loud voice.
- We must confess and repent.
James 5:16: "Confess your trespasses to one another and pray for one another that you may be healed. The effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." (NKJ)

E - EXPOSE (REVELATORY)

There are 2 actions to this kind of prayer - Prophetic and Observation.

The Prophetic prayer follows when God's will is revealed to you.

The Observation prayer is when we pray asking God to keep us aware of the bad things that the enemy wants to make us do and to help us not to do it.

F - FAST (INSTANT)

This is praying on the spot as the need arises. Example: If someone is in an accident, you would pray immediately for God to heal them.

G - GIVING THANKS (THANKSGIVING)

This is being thankful to God for everything that He has given us in the past and that he is giving us now. This means we must live a life of continual thanksgiving at all times with a grateful heart and appreciation for everything that God does for us. It must be part of every prayer.

H - HOPE (EXPECTANT)

This is believing that you will receive what you have asked God for.

Mark 11:24

"Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. (NKJ)

These prayers are prayers of faith and are seen in the following actions:

1. Attitude:

1.1 Boldness

David boldly went to fight Goliath because he had hope that God will help him.

1.2 Being Happy During Bad Times

Paul and Silas were praying with hope even though they were in prison.

Acts 16:25 "But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them." (NKJ)

2. Speech

This means that whatever we say must confess and believe that our prayers will be answered.

3. Signs

There are real signs that show faith. For example:

Noah built the ark because he knew God was about to flood the Earth.
Building a garage when you are praying for God to bless you with a car.
How about carrying an umbrella, when the weather is dry, and praying for rain.

I - INNER SELF (SPIRIT)

1. Praying with the Spirit

This kind of prayer is praying in tongues. This happens when we get baptized with the Holy Spirit who leads us to pray. This is a gift of the spirit.

2. The Holy Spirit Praying

Here the Holy Spirit prays for us.

J - JESUS-PRAISE (EXALTATION)

This is when we praise God in our prayers.

Paul and Silas were freed from prison after they prayed and praised God.

PART B

1. SUPPORT THE SCRIPTURE BELOW WITH EVIDENCE FROM THE WORD OF GOD.

James 5:16 - "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

This scripture explains how our prayers get answered. The answer to our prayers doesn't depend only on the way we pray. It is mainly about the kind of person that is praying. For example, when our teacher prays for us, her prayer will be answered if she is living a holy and honest life before God.

An example of such a person is David, who we learn about in the Old Testament.

The Prayer of David:

David was a holy man of God and he had a heart after God's own heart. The Bible says in:

Acts 13:22 '...I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will'.

When David was surrounded by his enemies, he offered God 4 kinds of prayers:

- Jesus-praise: (Exaltation prayer)

Sam 22:4-7

4: I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised;

David called upon God and praised Him.

- Hope: (Expectant prayer)

so shall I be saved from my enemies.

David believed that God will protect him.

- Fast: (Instant prayer)

7: In my distress I called upon the LORD, and

When David knew he was in trouble and needed God's help, he called upon the Lord.

- Deep: (Earnest prayer)

cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, and my cry entered His ears. (NKJ)

This is a serious prayer where David prayed and cried out to God.

God was pleased with David because he was a good and holy man. God answered David's prayers with an earthquake, rainstorm, thundering and lightning.

David lived his life with clean hands, clean feet, and clean heart. **(Teacher to explain)**

Two other examples in the Word of God are: the prayer of Jabez and the prayer of Samuel.

2. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE RIGHTEOUS?

This means that we should always do what is right in God's eyes.

Note for Teachers:

Depending on the age of the children, here the mnemonic for 'R I G H T E O U S' may be introduced.

Some right actions are listed below:

A. CLEAN MOUTH

- We must be able to speak the Word of God without fear.
- We must be able to speak as messengers of God.
- We must be good examples to everyone and show the love of Christ at all times.
- We must not speak evil of anyone or be rude in the things that we say.
- We must always be kind in what we say to others.
- We must always speak the truth because this pleases God.

B. CLEAN HEART

- God is pleased with us when we have clean thoughts about our actions towards others.
- We must do good things for others in secret.
- We must be quick to apologise when we know we have done something wrong.
- We must desire to do good all the time.

C. CLEAN HANDS

- Serving your enemy. **Romans 12:20** says: *'Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him.'*
- Refusing bribes. **Exod 23:8** *"And you shall take no bribe"*
- Caring for the needy. Ezekial 18:7 : *"but has given his bread to the hungry and covered the naked with clothing;"*
Isa 58:7-8: "Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; when you see the naked, that you cover him, and not hide yourself from your own flesh?"
- Giving. Proverbs 21:26: *"but the righteous gives and does not spare."*
- Caring for God's creation. **Prov 12:10** *"A righteous man regards the life of his animal,"*

D. HUMILITY:

- We have to be humble at all times because the bible says that God gives grace to the humble.
- *Luke 18:14 "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."*

E. SELF-CONTROL

- We must discipline ourselves and live according to the Word of God.

F. CLEAN EYES

- We must treat everyone equally and be fair to one another.

G. CLEAN FEET

- We must obey all the commandments of the Lord. *Psalms 18:21 "For I have kept the ways of the LORD,"*

H. CLEAN KNEES

- *Dan 3:18 "...we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."*

I. CLEAN LOINS

- *2 Cor 1:12: "...in the holiness and sincerity that are from God."*

J. BELIEVING GOD

- *Gal 3:6: "Just as Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."*

3. WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BEING RIGHTEOUS?

1. RESCUE

- *Ps 34:19* “Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.”
- *Ps 37:40* “And the LORD shall help them and deliver them,”
- *Prov 11:8* “The righteous is delivered from trouble”

2. SECURITY (STABILITY)

- *Ps 55:22* “he shall never permit the righteous to be moved.”
- *Prov 12:7* “The wicked are overthrown and are no more, but the house of the righteous will stand.”

3. KINGDOM OF GOD

- *1 Jn 2:29* “If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.”
- The Kingdom of God is for those who practice righteousness.

4. ANSWERED PRAYER

- *James 5:16* “Admit your faults to one another and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous man has great power and wonderful results.”
- *Ps 34:17* “The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles.”

5. REVEALING (ILLUMINATION)

- *Prov 3:32* “For the perverse person is an abomination to the LORD, but His secret counsel is with the upright.”
- God will reveal his secrets to the upright.

6. WATCHING OVER US (OVERSIGHT)

- *Ps 34:15 "The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry."*

7. SUCCESS (SATISFACTION)

- *Ps 92:12 "The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,"*
- *Ps 37:19 "They shall not be ashamed in the evil time, and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied."*
- *Ps 37:25 "I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread."*

8. STRONGER AND STRONGER (UPGRADE)

- *2 Sam 3:1 "... David grew stronger and stronger and the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker."*
- *Job 17:9 "The righteous shall move onward and forward; those with pure hearts shall become stronger and stronger."*

9. FAVOR (NEPOTISM)

- *Ps 5:12 "For You, O LORD, will bless the righteous; with favor You will surround him as with a shield."*

This means that God will favour us.

10. JOY (EXULTATION)

- *Ps 64:10 "The righteous shall be glad in the LORD, and trust in Him..."*
- *Ps 97:11-12 "Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart. 12 Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name."*