

Talking to God!

Praying because He ANSWERS!

LESSON BACKGROUND: The Sermon on the Mount is one of the most treasured messages that Jesus gave. This lesson we look at the three key words Jesus shared when He talked about praying – Asking, Seeking and Knocking. Prayer should never be a one-time thing, it's a continual relationship. God wants us to seek Him and continue to knock until He answers, because He always will!

KEY PASSAGE: Matthew 7:7-8

KEY VERSE FOR THE MONTH: "Don't worry about anything. No matter what happens tell God about everything. Ask and pray and give thanks to Him."
Philippians 4:6 NIRV

BIG IDEA: "I can talk to God because He ANSWERS me."

Primary Prep-5 Bible – 12-13 March 2022

BIBLE MESSAGE – Ask, Seek, Knock

INTRODUCTION

This month we're looking at prayer and how to talk to God. Last week we looked at the acronym P.R.A.Y and learnt how to pray using those letters. We learnt that we can pray because God hears us. In today's lesson we're going to look at why we should pray and seek God continually?

<watch video or teach the lesson live>

In the book of Matthew 7:7-9 we read what Jesus said to a huge crowd about praying. Jesus said "Ask and God will give to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you." We can ask God for **anything**. We can ask Him to protect our family, to achieve good marks, to look after our pets, we can even ask Him for a million cupcakes. Jesus promised that when we ask that He will give to us. He may not give us exactly what we ask for if it's not the right time for us to have it or if it's not what's best for us, but **He will give us exactly what we need**.

There are three key words here: **ask, seek and knock**. When we pray we are **asking** God and He wants us to ask Him anything. Jesus says we also have to seek and we will find. What do you think this means?... It means that we need to **look** for the answers. Sort of like when a pirate needs to find a treasure and uses a map to get him there, or when a palaeontologist seeks for fossils digging into deep ground, we need to dig and seek what God is saying to us. We can seek by going to God's word, the bible and find our answers - and when we do, we will find what we need.

Lastly, Jesus said to **knock**. Why do we knock on a door? Because we hope someone will answer and open it. Jesus promises us that **God will answer us**. He may not answer right away, but that doesn't mean that He is not hearing us. We just have to keep **knock, knock, knocking** until He answers us.

The wonderful part is that we don't have to worry that we are bothering God when we ask, seek and keep knocking, because God loves it when we come to Him. Also we don't have to sneak around like a burglar trying to get something from God, we can just go right up to God's door by praying and asking Him.

APPLICATION

Ask, seek, knock – three simple words that mean so much. How can we apply these words when we pray to God? Let me share an example before we take a closer look. Imagine if you were lost at a new park and your dad went looking for you. He would go asking all the other people if they had seen you. He would seek you with all his energy, he would go looking for you everywhere. He would even go knocking on house doors hoping to find you. You get the example, now let's look at these three words when we pray.

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- **Ask** – asking is a **request** and God wants us to ask Him anything. He wants us to confidently come to Him and talk to Him, asking Him for anything. Of course, God doesn't give us everything we want, but He does give us what we need and He always answers our prayers. Sometimes He says 'YES', sometimes "No" and other times it's more like a "WAIT", but we do know He answers.
- **Seek** – is to **actively look for**. Jesus is telling us that we should seek God through prayer and seek a deeper relationship with Him. Seeking for God is like playing hide-and-go-seek. We look for God in the places that we think He will be. Sometimes we have to go and look for the answers. If we want to find God in our lives and be closer to Him, we have to seek Him out. You may ask, why does God want us to seek? Well seeking means that we are continually going to Him, it's about growing our friendship with God and when we seek God, we grow closer to Him to hear what He has to say. Where do you think you can seek for God? In the bible, during worship, during our prayer time with Him and even at church.
- **Knock** – knocking is to **repeated hit something, to make a noise and get attention**. Think to yourselves, have you ever walked up to a door to knock where no one came and answered? Jesus is saying that God answers the door that is knocked upon. We must remember to be good knockers, because God wants us to wholly desire Him. Knocking on the door one time does not show that we are interested in God. Our knocking needs to be continuous like we are eager to get inside [*knock on something continuously to give an idea*]. And when you pray, sometimes you need to keep on knocking because this shows God that you are really interested in what He has to say about your prayers.

Our Big Idea today is **"I can talk to God because He ANSWERS me."**

Our Memory Verse is "Don't worry about anything. No matter what happens tell God about everything. Ask and pray and give thanks to Him." Philippians 4:6 NIRV This verse is telling us that if we ask in the name of Jesus, God will answer us. The answer might not come right away or be the answer that we hoped for, but God will hear us and answer us according to His will.

Let's pray:

Dear God, thank you that you always hear and answer our prayers. Help us to ask, seek and continue to knock as we pray to you and grow in our friendship with you. We love you. In Jesus' name, Amen.