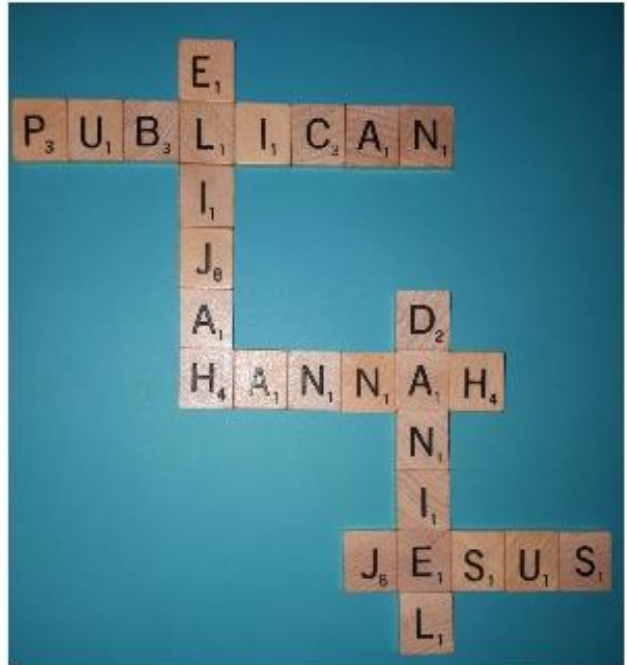
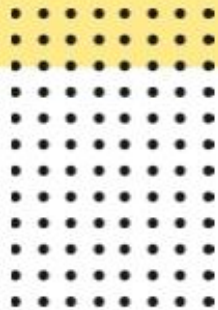


PEOPLE WHO PRAYED



Devotional activities
for children
age 8-12



Marina Moree

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Ask, and It Shall Be Given You

Series: Prayer, Part 1

Read in the Bible:

1 Samuel 1:9-18

Hannah's Prayer

Hannah is very sad. She is married to Elkanah, but she didn't receive any children yet. Peninnah, Elkanah's other wife, does have children. She teases Hannah a lot about that. That makes Hannah even more sad.

Elkanah and his family go to the temple every year to worship and to sacrifice unto the Lord. They do that this year as well. When the sacrifices are offered, they eat some of the meat of the animal they sacrificed. Elkanah gives a portion of the meat to Peninnah and to all her children. He gives an extra-large portion to Hannah, because he loves her so much. However, Hannah doesn't feel like eating. Peninnah keeps teasing her because she doesn't have children. It makes Hannah so sad, that she cries. Elkanah asks her, "Hannah, why are you crying? Why are you not eating? And why are you so sad? Am I not better to you than ten sons?" But Hannah isn't comforted by his words, even though she knows her husband loves her a lot.

Hannah stands up after the meal, and goes to the temple. There, she prays to the Lord, and she cries. She pours her whole heart out for the Lord, and tells Him about all her sadness. She also makes a promise, she vows a vow: "O Lord, if Thou wilt give me a man child, a son, I will give him back to Thee, so that he may serve Thee all his life." She promises to make her son a Nazarite. He wouldn't cut his hair or shave himself, to show that he would serve God his whole life.

Then she hears an angry voice: "How long will you be drunk? Put the wine away from you!" Who says that? It is Eli, the priest. He sees Hannah's mouth moving but he doesn't hear any words. He thinks she is drunk! But Hannah answers him, "No, I am not drunk. I poured out my soul before the Lord, because I am so sad." Eli's face softens. He says to Hannah, "Go in peace. The God of Israel will give you what you asked of Him." When Hannah leaves, she is no longer sad. She believes God will give her a son!

Then it says in verse 19: "The LORD remembered her". He gives Hannah a son. Samuel is his name. Hannah remembers her promise, her vow, to the Lord as well! When Samuel is old enough, she brings him to the temple, to the priest Eli. Samuel may live there, and help out in the temple, and serve God.

The story of Hannah's prayer teaches us something. Just like Hannah told all her sadness to the Lord, you may also bring everything to the Lord in prayer. You may tell Him about your sadness, your fears, and your worries. He heard Hannah's prayer. He hears your prayers as well!

Thinking Questions

- How does "Ask, and it shall be given you" (Matthew 7:7) connect to the story of Hannah's prayer?
- Read James 5:13. How does this Bible text connect to the story of Hannah's prayer?
- Hannah didn't only pray to the Lord, she also thanked the Lord: She remembered her vow, and brought her son Samuel to the temple to serve God. What can you learn from that?
- Do you know of someone else in the Bible who was a Nazarite, and wasn't allowed to use a razor?

Puzzle

The title of this chapter is the first part of Matthew 7:7. Can you decipher the words below? Then you will read the second part of this Bible text.

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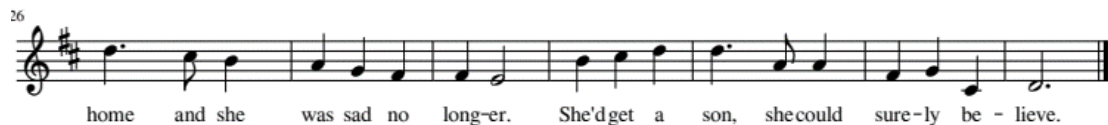
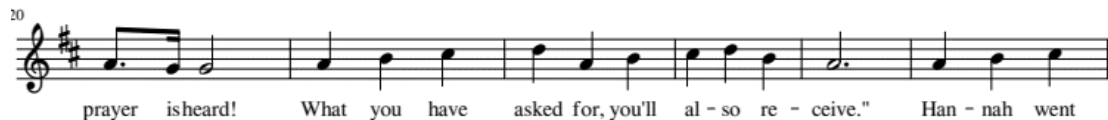
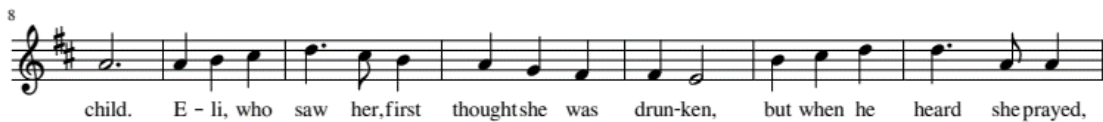
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♪ = a, 🕊️ = b, £ = c, → = d, ☆ = e, 🗨️ = f, ♪ = h, □ = i, ✂ = k, 📖 = l, * = n, £ = o,
 👉 = p, € = s, 😊 = t, 🖋️ = u, © = y

Song

Marina Moree

William M. Runyan



Not Afraid to Pray

Series: Prayer, Part 2

Read in the Bible:

Daniel 6:1-10

Daniel Prays Three Times a Day

King Darius appoints a hundred and twenty princes. Each prince rules over a different part of his kingdom. He also appoints three presidents, who have the oversight over those hundred and twenty princes. Daniel is the most important of the three presidents. Daniel is a very talented man, and that's why king Darius chooses him for this important position. Of course, Daniel received his talents from God.

The other presidents and princes are jealous of Daniel. Therefore, they would like to get him into trouble. The problem is, they can't find any fault in him! He is very faithful and doesn't do any wrong things. That's why they come up with a plan. They know Daniel prays to his God three times a day by the open window. They go to king Darius, and say, "King Darius, live forever. All the presidents, governors, princes, counsellors and captains came together, and we think you should make a command. For thirty days, everyone should only go to you with their requests. If someone prays to any God or man, he should be thrown into the den of lions." King Darius thinks it is a good plan. He writes the command, and signs it.

Daniel hears about it. Do you know what he does? He goes into his house, he opens his windows in the room that faces Jerusalem, and he kneels down. He prays and gives thanks to God three times a day, just like he did before. Doesn't Daniel know that he will be thrown into the den of lions? Yes, he does, but he also knows that he has to obey God more than king Darius. Daniel teaches us here that we shouldn't feel ashamed or afraid to pray, whatever the consequences may be.

The men are happy. They found something wrong about Daniel; he offended the command of the king! They go to king Darius to tell him about it. King Darius is sad. His command says that he has to throw Daniel into the den of lions. He can't change that anymore. With a sorrowful heart, he throws Daniel into the den. But the Lord remembers Daniel! Daniel wasn't afraid to pray, and now the Lord helps Daniel. The lions don't harm Daniel at all! The next morning, he comes safely out of the lion's den.

Thinking Questions

- Read Daniel 6:24. What happened to the men who made the evil plan, and reported Daniel?
- Read Daniel 6:26. King Darius made a different command (decree). What was in this command?
- Daniel prayed three times a day. How often do you pray every day, and when is that?
- Daniel wasn't afraid to pray, whatever the consequences what be. You probably won't be thrown before the lions when you pray but you could get other negative reactions. What kind of reactions could you get when you pray at someone else's house or in a public place? Would that stop you from praying in these places?
- Do you know of countries where people could be in danger of being thrown in jail or getting killed when they are caught praying?

Puzzle

Find the answers in the word search. The first letter of every answer is given to help you. The letters that are left, form a sentence. This sentence is what king Darius said after Daniel came out of the den of lions.

R	T	M	T	H	R	E	E	H
E	E	E	G	M	F	O	T	S
V	D	L	R	O	A	F	H	N
E	D	A	R	I	U	S	I	O
R	H	S	D	A	L	N	R	I
O	I	U	E	L	T	I	T	L
F	S	R	T	H	E	L	Y	I
T	N	E	L	L	E	C	X	E
V	I	J	N	G	G	O	D	!

1. This king appointed Daniel as the most important president. (*D*)
2. In Daniel 6:3 it says that there was an ... spirit in Daniel. (*E*)
3. The presidents and princes wanted to get Daniel into trouble but they couldn't find any ... in him. (*F*)
4. The presidents and princes went to the king, and say, "King Darius, live ..." (*F*)
5. The people in the kingdom of king Darius weren't allowed to pray to any God or any man besides king Darius for ... days. (*T*)
6. Daniel prayed ... times a day. (*T*)
7. When Daniel prayed, he faced the city of ... (*J*)
8. Daniel was thrown before the ... (*L*)
9. The lions don't ... Daniel at all. (*H*)

Song

Marina Moree

William B. Bradbury

Da-niel prayed to God three times a day, He knelt and faced Je -
Da-niel had no rea - son to a - larm. God stretched out His pro -

ru - salem's way. This caused his e - ne - mies to say: "Be -
tec - ting arm. The li - ons did not do a - ny harm. God

fore - the li - ons he must be thrown."
al - ways deep - ly cares for His own.

No Other Gods

Series: Prayer, Part 3

Read in the Bible:

1 Kings 18:20-39

Elijah on Mount Carmel

Many people are together on Mount Carmel. Everybody looks at the people in the middle. On the one side, you can see a group of four hundred and fifty people. They are all prophets of Baal. They think Baal is a god, and they pray to him and serve him. On the other side, you can see Elijah. He is a prophet of God. Many of the people of Israel worship and pray to Baal as well, just like the four hundred and fifty prophets. There are not many people who worship and pray to the God of Elijah. Who is the real God? Elijah says they will find out today Who the true God is.

“You have to build an altar,” the prophet Elijah says. “Then you have to choose a bullock, a young cow, and you have to prepare it to be sacrificed. You have to lay it on the altar. However, you are not allowed to light the fire on the altar. Then pray to your god, Baal, and ask him to give fire. If he gives fire, he is the true god.”

The prophets of Baal build an altar. They choose a cow, they kill it, and they lay it on the altar. Then they start praying to their god. They call all morning long, “O Baal, hear us!” But no answer comes. They leap upon their altar, but no answer comes. When it is past noon, Elijah makes fun of them. He says, “Cry louder! He is a god. Maybe he is talking, or maybe he is on a journey, or maybe he sleeps.” The prophets cry louder. They even cut themselves with knives, they hope Baal will listen to them when he sees the blood gushing out. They try all afternoon to get Baal to listen. But no answer comes, no fire comes...

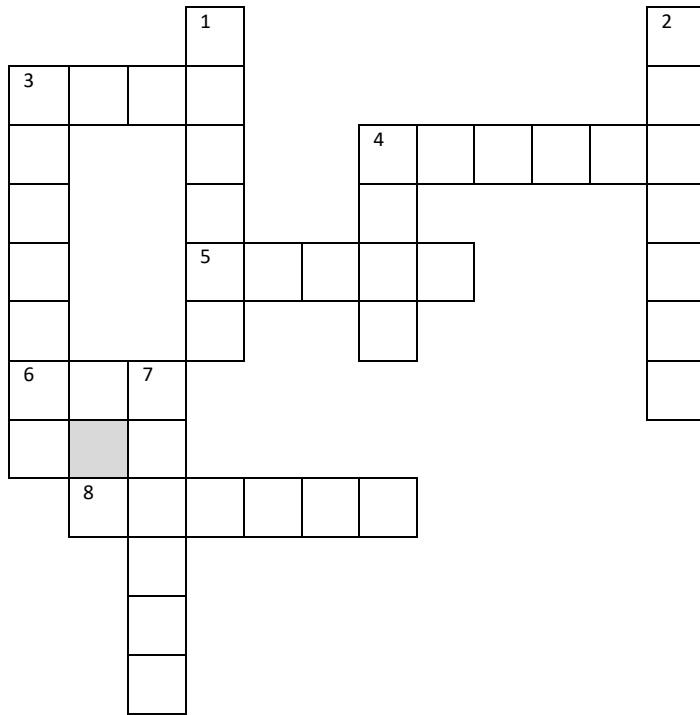
It is evening. Now it is Elijah’s turn. He builds an altar, and digs a trench around it. Then, he puts the wood on the altar, he kills the cow and cuts it in pieces, and lays the pieces on the wood of the altar. Then he asks some people to pour twelve barrels of water over the altar, so the cow and the wood and the altar are all soaked. The trench is also filled with water.

Then Elijah prays very reverently, “LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known today that Thou art God in Israel, and that I am Thy servant. Hear me, O LORD, hear me.” Elijah shows here how to pray: Not with screams, and leaping, and cutting yourself, but calmly and reverently. The answer comes right away: The Lord sends fire from heaven. It burns the sacrifice and the whole altar, which were both soaked in water. It also licks up all the water that was in the trench. The people fall on their faces, and say: “The LORD, He is the God!” The people see that they shouldn’t pray to Baal or any other idol. They should worship and pray to God alone.

Thinking Questions

- Why do you think Elijah drenched his altar and his sacrifice with water?
- Baal is not a god, it is an idol. An idol is anything you love more than God. Do you have idols? If so, who or what are your idols?
- What does it mean to pray reverently? How do you pray reverently?

Puzzle



Across:

3. Israel's idol
4. Elijah said the prophets had to cry ...
5. The prophets and Elijah both built an ...
6. The prophets ... themselves, so the blood gushed out.
8. The Lord sent fire from ...

Down:

1. The prophet of the Lord
2. Elijah wanted to have twelve ... of water poured over the altar.
3. Another word for "young cow"
4. The prophets did ... against the altar.
7. Elijah dug a ... around his altar.

Song

Marina Moree

William Croft

Proph - ets of Ba - al cried out loud, they cut and screamed and leapt. But
 E - li - jah made his al - tar wet, then he knelt down to pray. He
 The Lord sent fire from heav - en down. To Is - rael He made known: "I

5
 Ba - al did not ans - wer them, no mat - ter how they wept.
 rev' - rent - ly spoke to his God, Who ans - wered right a - way.
 am the one and on - ly God. Wor - ship, serve Me a - lone!"

Humble Prayer

Series: Prayer, Part 4

Read in the Bible:

Luke 18:9-14

The Pharisee and the Publican

The Lord Jesus tells a parable about two praying people: a Pharisee and a publican, a tax collector. On the outside it looks like the Pharisee leads a very good life. He lives according to God's law. That can't be said about the publican. Publicans are known for being dishonest, for stealing money from people.

The Pharisee and the publican both go up into the temple to pray. The Pharisee probably stands in a place where everyone can see him. His prayer is long: "God, I thank Thee, that I am not like other people, such as criminals, unfair people, or other sinners. I also thank Thee that I am not like this publican. I fast twice a week, and I give a tenth of all I have to the temple or to the poor."

The Pharisee is done praying, and goes home again. He feels very good about himself. He surely thinks God must be pleased with him and with his decent life!

Where is the publican? He stands farther away. He tries to make sure not many people can see him. He doesn't even dare to look up to heaven. He beats his chest, and he says, "God, be merciful to me a sinner!" This publican doesn't think he is a good person at all. He knows he is a sinner, and he sinned against God! Would God even want to listen to such a sinner as he is?

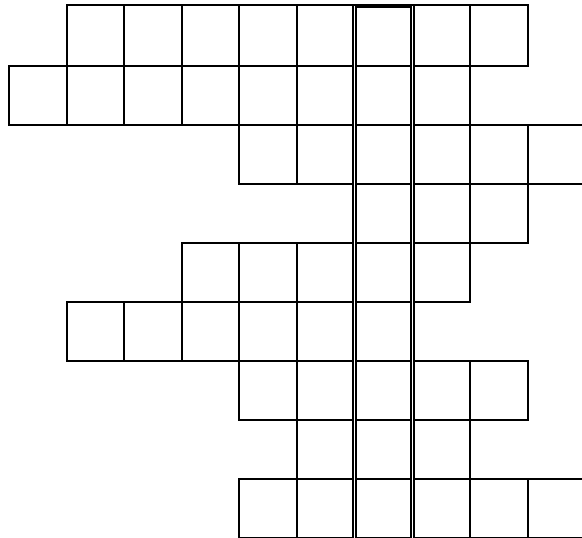
Do you see how differently those two people in Jesus' parable prayed? The Pharisee just wanted to tell God how good he was. He was very proud of himself. However, he didn't need God for anything. The publican on the other hand knew he was sinful; he knew he needed God to forgive his sins. The Lord wants to hear such humble prayers.

Thinking Questions

- The publican didn't dare to look up to heaven. Why do you think he didn't dare to do that?
- Of course, it is good to give thanks to the Lord in your prayers. It looks like the Pharisee gave thanks to the Lord as well. He started his prayer with: "God, I thank Thee." What was the problem with his thanksgiving?
- The Pharisee thought he was a very good person. He didn't think he had any sins that needed to be forgiven. Can a person really be so good, that he or she doesn't need forgiveness of sins? What about you, do you need forgiveness of sins?
- What does a "humble prayer" mean? Are you humble in your prayers?
- Do we deserve it if God hears and answers our prayers? Why or why not?

Puzzle

Answer the questions or fill in the blanks. If you do it correctly, you can read in the column with the double border who else prayed in a very humble way (Matthew 8:8).



He didn't dare to raise his eyes up to heaven.

He thanked God for how good he was.

"God, be merciful to me a ..."

A publican is a ... collector.

The Pharisee was very ... of himself.

The ... of the publican was very humble.

"I fast ... a week."

"... , I thank Thee that I am not like other people."

The publican knew he was ...

Song

Marina Moree

Conrad Kocher



The Pha-ri-see stood proud and tall when to God his prayer he raised.
The pub-li-can stood far a-way, did not dare to raise his eyes.



He want-ed to be heard by all but 't was more him - self he praised.
He did not have as much to say; hum - bly did his prayer a - rise.



"I thank Thee for who I am. Sin - ners, I am not like them."
"God, be mer - ci - ful to me, e - ven though I've sinned to Thee."

Thy Will Be Done

Series: Prayer, Part 5

Read in the Bible:

Luke 22:39-46

The Lord Jesus Prays

The Lord Jesus is in the garden of Gethsemane. He is scared. Why is He scared? He is God, right? Yes, He is God but He is a man as well. And in His human nature, as a man, He is scared. He knows what is awaiting Him. In the next few hours, He will have to suffer terribly. Then, He will have to die on the cross, which is a very painful death. He will feel God's wrath upon Him.

The Lord Jesus leaves His disciples behind, He kneels down, and He prays. He brings His fear and His sorrow to His Father in heaven. He knows that His Father in heaven always listens to His prayer.

What does the Lord Jesus pray? He asks, "Father, if Thou be willing, remove this cup from me." The Lord Jesus compares the suffering and death, which are awaiting Him, with a cup which He has to drink. He asks if His Father in heaven is willing to remove this cup from Him, so He doesn't have to drink it, so He doesn't have to suffer and die.

Then the Lord Jesus adds something really important: "Nevertheless (however), not My will, but Thine, be done." If it is His Father's will for Him to suffer and die, then that has to happen!

That is a very important lesson for us. We are allowed to bring all our sorrows, fears, griefs, questions, and problems to God in prayer. However, just like the Lord Jesus did, we should always add: "Not my will, but Thy will be done!"

Does Jesus' Father in heaven do what the Lord Jesus asks for, does He remove the cup of suffering and death from Him? No, He doesn't. He sends an angel from heaven to strengthen the Lord Jesus but Jesus will have to suffer and die. That was His Father's will.

Thinking Questions

- ☞ Why did the Lord Jesus need to suffer so terribly, and die on the cross?
- ☞ The Lord Jesus was really scared about what was going to happen. What does Luke 22:44 say about that?
- ☞ The Lord Jesus asked His Father to remove the cup of suffering and death from Him. What would have happened if the Lord Jesus did not suffer and die on the cross?

Review

Instead of a puzzle, this chapter has a review of all five chapters. Write down one or two lessons you learned from each person:

Hannah

Daniel

Elijah

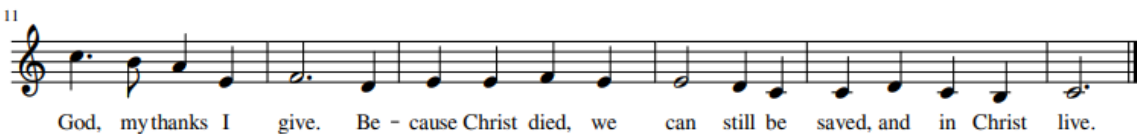
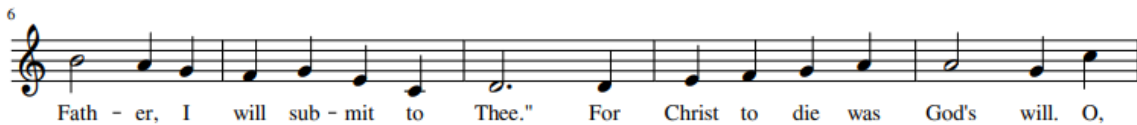
Pharisee and publican

Lord Jesus

Song

Marina Moree

Samuel S. Wesley



Answer Key

Ask, and It Shall Be Given You (Hannah's Prayer)
 Seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

Not Afraid to Pray (Daniel Prays Three Times a Day)

R	T	M	T	H	R	E	E	H
E	E	B	G	M	F	O	T	S
V	D	L	R	O	A	F	H	N
E	D	A	R	I	U	S	O	
R	H	S	D	A	L	N	R	
O	I	U	E	L	T	I	T	L
F	S	R	T	H	E	L	V	I
T	N	E	L	L	E	C	X	E
V	I	J	N	G	G	O	D	!

1. Darius
 2. Excellent
 3. Fault
 4. Forever
 5. Thirty
 6. Three
 7. Jerusalem
 8. Lions
 9. Harm
- The God of Daniel Is the living God!**

No Other Gods (Elijah on Mount Carmel)

			E						B		
B	A	A	L						A		
U			I			L	O	U	D	E	R
L			J			E					R
L			A	L	T	A	R				E
O			H			P					L
C	U	T									S
K		R									
	H	E	A	V	E	N					
		N									
		C									
		H									

Humble Prayer (The Pharisee and the Publican)

	P	U	B	L	I	C	A	N		
P	H	A	R	I	S	E	E			
			S	I	N	N	E	R		
						T	A	X		
		P	R	O	U	D				
P	R	A	Y	E	R					
			T	W	I	C	E			
				G	O	D				
		S	I	N	F	U	L			

Thy Will Be Done (The Lord Jesus Prays)
 Your own answers