

how to pray

introduction

Ask students to respond to the following questions: Does God hear us when we pray? Why should we pray? If someone has never prayed, how does he/she get started?

message

Today we are going to learn about prayer. Some of you may pray everyday. Others may have never even tried. Whatever your experience, the following principles will help you pray effective prayers.

1. Repent before you pray.
 - Proverbs 28:9 says that if we stop listening to the teachings of God, our “prayers are destable.” Don’t let pride and self-righteousness hinder your prayers. Submit to His Word. If you need to, ask Him to forgive you.
 - To repent, we must be willing to humble ourselves before God. The story of the tax collector and the Pharisee in Luke 18:9-14 teaches true humility. The Pharisee thought only he had a direct line to God. Wrong! God heard the tax collector’s simple prayer, “God have mercy on me.”
2. Believe that God hears you.
 - We need to believe that God will hear and act upon our requests. That doesn’t mean we can order Him to do something. His plans may be different from ours. He may wait several days, months or even years before acting. Reading His Word and regularly praying will help us know what to pray. (Read 1 John 5:13-15.)
3. Abide in Christ.
 - To abide in Christ means to make Him the center of our lives. When we do this, He hears and answers our prayers.
 - Reading God’s Word will help us abide in Christ. Don’t just read it. Believe in all it says and make it a part of your daily activities. This will forever change your life, and you will hear from God.
4. Obey God.
 - The Bible says we receive from God when we obey His commands. (Read 1 John 3:22-24.) Are you following His Word? Are you loving those around you. If not, maybe that’s why God doesn’t answer your prayers.

salvation appeal

Our first prayer to Jesus is a prayer to make Him our Savior and Lord. Some call it the “The Sinner’s Prayer” because it is a prayer that asks for forgiveness from sins. (Read 1 John 1:9.) You can pray this prayer right now.

challenge

God is an awesome God. He is all-powerful. Even though, He still takes time to hear our prayers. He loves us and wants us to change the world; therefore, we must pray.

