

2. What is the one thing which all these verses tell us to do? _____

Pray.

Christians believe that the Bible is God's word. In the Bible God tells us, what he wants us to do. We should do what he tells us in the Bible. This gives us the first reason why we should pray.

3. Who tells us that we should pray? _____

In your village you have some children. You love these children and you want to teach them well. You tell them things that they should do and things they should not do.

4. What do you expect your children to do when you tell them to do something?

If we have received Jesus, we are God's children. He loves us and wants to teach us. He tells us we should pray.

5. Is the fact that God tells us to pray a big enough reason to make us pray?

6. If we are God's children, what is the first reason why we should pray?

ANSWERS

5. Yes.

1. 6.

3. God.

6. We should pray because God tells us to pray.

4. They should obey.

2. They tell us to pray.

WEEK 2 - WHY SHOULD WE PRAY?

DAY 2

Yesterday we learned the first big reason why we should pray.

1. What is it? _____

When we tell our children what to do we expect them to obey us. Sometimes they understand why we want them to do a thing and sometimes they do not understand, but we still expect them to obey.

2 As we are God's children, should we pray even if we do not understand why he wants us to pray? _____

Yes, God expects us to obey when he tells us to pray. But he does not ask us to obey without understanding. He tells us many reasons in the Bible why he wants us to pray. We want to learn these reasons.

When we tell our children to do something, many times it is something which will help themselves. But sometimes it is to help us.

3. Do you think God ever asks us to pray because it helps him? _____

Remember that in the beginning God decided to make man in some ways like himself. Genesis 1:26:

Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image and likeness. . .'

We have seen already that after man was created, God went down to the garden to talk with him. What does this tell us about God? Does it not show that God wanted someone like himself to talk with him? I think it does.

4. So there is another reason why we should pray. What is it? _____

5. If God wants us to pray so that he can have fellowship with us, what do you think happens to God if we do not pray? _____

Look at James 4:8

Come close to God and he will come close to you.

Here we see that God wants more than just for people to ask for things. He wants to be close to them and have fellowship with them.

6. If you come close to God in prayer, what does he do? _____

7. From today's lesson, why should we pray?

ANSWERS

2. Yes
5. You could give different answers here like God is sad or he misses our fellowship.
1. We should pray because God tells us we should pray.
7. We should pray because God wants fellowship with us.
4. God wants someone to talk with him.
6. He comes close to you.
3. I asked you what you think, so your answer is all right, but I believe you will soon see that prayer does help God.

WEEK . 2 - WHY SHOULD WE PRAY?
DAY 3

We now have two reasons why we should pray. The first is that as God's children we should pray just because he tells us to.

1. What is the second reason? _____

But God is not just wanting fellowship for himself. He asks us to pray because he knows it will help us also in many ways. Today we want to find some of the ways praying helps us.

2. Who is helped when we pray? _____ and _____

Read this verse from 1 John 1:9:

If we confess our sins, he is just, and may be trusted to forgive our sins and cleanse us from every kind of wrong.

3. According to this verse, how does prayer help us? _____

This is one of the first things we should ask for. Before we can be helped by prayer in other ways we must bring our sins to God. We must see that as sinful people we are not right before him, and we must ask him to make us right.

4. How does prayer help our sins? What happens to them?

But God does not only want to keep on forgiving sins when we do them. He wants to help us overcome them. Do you remember how he prayed for his disciples when he was ready to leave them? John 17:15:

I pray thee, not to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one.

A little later he told the disciples, Matthew 26:41:
Stay awake and pray that you may be spared the test.

5. How did Jesus say the disciples should prepare for tests or temptations?

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So we see that God helps us with sin in two ways. He forgives the sins which we confess to him, and he helps us to refuse the temptations which cause us to sin again.

6. How can we get God to help us in these two ways? _____

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7. Why should we pray?

We should pray because that is how our sins are _____
and we have victory over _____

ANSWERS

3. Prayer helps us to be cleansed from sins.
5. By keeping awake and praying.
7. are forgiven, temptation.
2. God, ourselves.
4. They are cleansed or forgiven.
6. By praying.
1. God wants fellowship with us.

WEEK 2 - WHY SHOULD WE PRAY?

DAY 4

How well are you remembering the reasons why we should pray? Can you write them down here? If you want to, you may look back over Days 1, 2, and 3 before you write.

1. Why should we pray?

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

We have learned that we should pray because praying helps us with our sins. But this is not the only way in which praying helps us. There are two other ways which are found in John 15. Read the following verses carefully and see if you can find two more reasons why we should pray.

John 15:5-7:

I am the vine, and you are the branches. He who dwells in me, as I dwell in him, bears much fruit; for apart from me you can do nothing. He who does not dwell in me is thrown away like a withered branch. The withered branches are heaped together, thrown on the fire, and burnt. If you dwell in me, and my words dwell in you, ask what you will, and you shall have it.

Think first about a tree and its branches. They are joined together, are they not? Can the branches live if they are not joined to the tree? Of course not! Jesus said he is the tree and we are the branches.

2. Can we live spiritually if we are not joined to him? _____

No, the life of a Christian cannot go on if he is not joined to Christ. But in what way can we be joined to Christ? In what way does he keep giving life to us? Think about the tree again. Have you ever noticed that the trunk of a tree keeps giving water to the branches? It can do this because they are joined. Christ can keep giving us life if we are joined.

3. In what way can we keep joined with Christ? _____

Do you see here a very big reason why we should keep on praying? If we keep on joining with Christ through prayer, he can continue to give us life.

4. Why should we keep on praying? _____

John 15:17:

If you dwell in me, and my words dwell in you, ask what you will, and you shall have it.

Here is another reason why we should pray. This is the one people usually think of first.

5. As this verse says, what happens when we ask for things in prayer?

This is a wonderful promise from God. We should pray because we can get what we ask for. In this way, God will supply all the needs of our lives. But notice, this promise is only true if we dwell in him and his words dwell in us. How can we make this true in our lives? How can we make ourselves stay in him and his words in us? We can do it by praying always.

6. When you think about this, does it seem to you that we can pray only when we have needs and expect God to answer? _____

We should not only pray when we have needs. But if we have been keeping up in fellowship with Christ, then we can pray when we have needs and God will answer us. This is one of the big reasons why we should pray.

7. In John 15, what are two reasons why we should pray?

(1) _____

(2) _____

Now we have five reasons for praying.

- (1) Because God tells us to pray.
- (2) Because God wants fellowship with us.
- (3) Because that is how our sins are forgiven and we have victory over temptation.
- (4) Because that is how we keep alive spiritually.
- (5) Because that is how we get things we need.

8. Read these reasons again. Then cover them and try to say all of them.

ANSWERS

6. I asked what you thought, but I would say no.
4. We should keep on praying so he can keep on giving life to us.
2. No.
1. (1) Because God tells us to pray.
(2) Because God wants fellowship with us.
(3) Because that is how our sins are forgiven and we overcome temptation.
8. Be prepared to say them in class.
3. By praying.
5. They are done for us.
7. (1) We should pray so God can keep giving us life.
(2) We should pray so God can supply our needs.

WEEK 2 - WHY SHOULD WE PRAY?

DAY 5

There is still one very big reason why we should pray. Read these verses and try to find what kind of thing we are asked to pray for here.

Matthew 5:44:

But what I tell you is this: Love your enemies and pray for your persecutors.

Romans 15:30-31:

I implore you by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love that the Spirit inspires, be my allies in the fight; pray to God for me that I may be saved from unbelievers in Judaea and that my errand to Jerusalem may find acceptance with God's people. (Written by Paul)

1 Timothy 2:1:

First of all then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be offered for all men; for sovereigns and all in high office.

Luke 10:2:

He said to them: 'The crop is heavy, but labourers are scarce; you must therefore beg the owner to send labourers to harvest his crop.'

1. In these verses are we asked to pray for ourselves or for other people?

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In these verses and in many other places in the Bible we are asked to pray for other people. We are asked to pray for our enemies, for God's workers like Paul, and for all men. What should we pray about for them? Notice what the Bible says as we read from the verse about praying for all men. 1 Timothy 2:3-4:

Such prayer is right, and approved by God our Saviour, whose will it is that all men should find salvation and come to know the truth.

2. As we read in this verse, what is it that God wants to happen to all men?

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Notice Luke 10:1,2 again:

After this the Lord appointed a further seventy-two and sent them on ahead in pairs to every town and place he was going to visit himself. He said to them: 'The crop is heavy but labourers are scarce; you must therefore beg the owner to send labourers to harvest his crop.'

3. What kind of crop or harvest is the Lord talking about in these verses?

In all of these verses we are told to pray about work which God wants to do in changing peoples' hearts. But why should we pray for God to do his work? Can he not do it by himself? This is a very difficult question. We cannot answer it fully. But God has told us that when we pray, his power is free to work. When we do not pray, God's power is not free to work. This is the way he has made it to be.

4. God says that in order for him to work in peoples' hearts we must _____

Here is a big reason why we should pray. We do not only pray because God wants fellowship or because we are helped ourselves, but we must pray so that God can do his work.

5. When we fail to pray for God's work, what happens? _____

Now let me tell you again the reasons why we should pray. Read them carefully and think about them. Then look away from the paper and try to say them all.

- (1) We should pray because God tells us to pray.
- (2) We should pray because God wants fellowship with us.
- (3) We should pray because that is how our sins are forgiven and we have victory over temptation.
- (4) We should pray because that is how we keep alive spiritually.
- (5) We should pray because that is how we get the things we need.
- (6) We should pray because prayer frees God's power to work.

6. Do you have new thoughts about how important prayer is? _____

7. Without looking back, write the six reasons. Why should we pray?

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____
- (4) _____
- (5) _____
- (6) _____

ANSWERS

- 1. For other people
- 4. pray
- 6. I hope you do.
- 2. He wants them to find salvation.
- 5. God's power is not free to work.
- 3. He is talking about the harvest of preaching to people and bringing them to repent.
- 7. Because God tells us to pray.
Because God wants fellowship with us.
Because that is how our sins are forgiven and we have victory over sin.
Because that is how we keep alive spiritually.
Because that is how we get the things we need.
Because prayer frees God's power to work.