

LESSON

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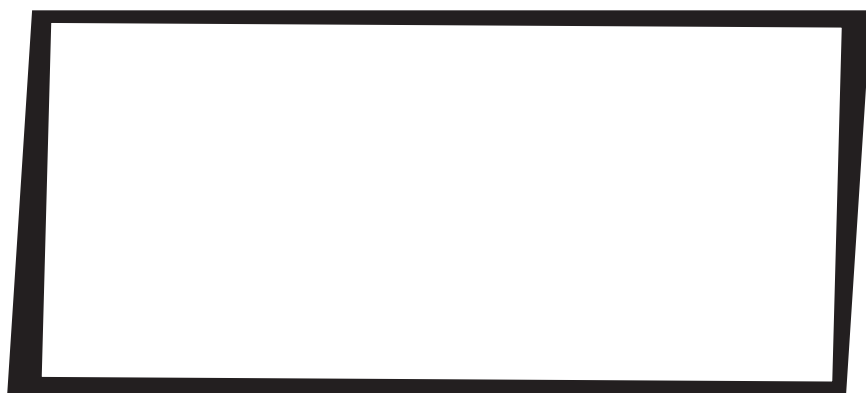
TALKING WITH JESUS

How Is Your New Life?

How is your new life with Jesus? Have you met other people who are part of God's family? (You can add their names to your circle on page 1-2.) What have you been thinking about Jesus?

GROWING & CHANGING

Have you looked in a mirror recently? Do you look different than you did one year ago? In what ways? Write or draw an example below:



Just like your body is growing and changing, you are beginning to grow in another way, too. God wants you to grow spiritually. Talking with Jesus will help you grow. Let's learn more.



THINGS THAT DON'T CHANGE

First, let's look at some truths that WILL NOT change as you grow.

JESUS IS YOUR FRIEND

Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.

John 15:13-14 NIV

GOD LOVES YOU AND ALWAYS HAS

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8 NIV

YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH JESUS

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

1 John 5:13 NIV

YOUR SIN IS ALL FORGIVEN

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9 NIV

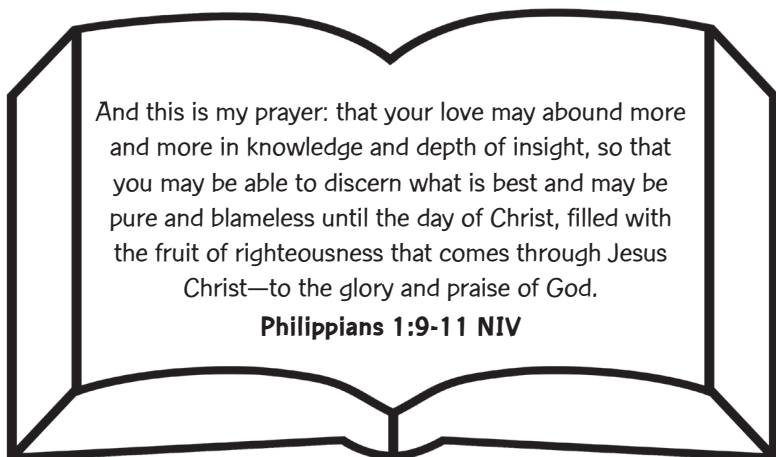


Read these words again. Circle or highlight the words that are most special to you today.



How Will You Grow?

How will you grow and change? The Apostle Paul wrote this prayer for followers of Jesus. It helps us answer this question.



Read these verses again. List some of the ways in which Paul wanted people to grow in their lives with Jesus.

Why do we want to grow in these ways? **To bring glory and praise to God!** To bring him glory means to make him famous.

WOW! Your growing will make God even more famous. Even kids can do this.



WHAT IS PRAYER?

Prayer is one of the most important ways we grow in our relationship with Jesus. It is simply communicating with him. People can pray out loud or silently. They can pray by singing or writing their thoughts and feelings to God. It doesn't matter. The most important part is learning to communicate openly with him.

As in any relationship, the better we communicate with God, the better our relationship with him will be. Here are some of the things the Bible teaches us about prayer.

GOD WANTS TO ANSWER PRAYER: Matthew 7:9-11 NIV

Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

GOD TEACHES US THROUGH PRAYER: Jeremiah 33:3 NIV

Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.

GOD CARES ABOUT OUR TROUBLES: Philippians 4:6-7 NIV

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

GOD HEARS PRAYERS FROM CLEAN HEARTS: Psalm 66:18 NIV

If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.



**THINK
ABOUT
THIS**

- ◆ How often do you talk with your friends?
- ◆ How often will you talk with God?
- ◆ How will this help your friendship grow?



WHEN DID JESUS PRAY?



Our best example for prayer is Jesus! When did Jesus pray? Read each of the verses below, then draw a line from the verse to the mark on the hour line when you think he was praying.

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

Mark 1:35 NIV

Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

John 6:11 NIV

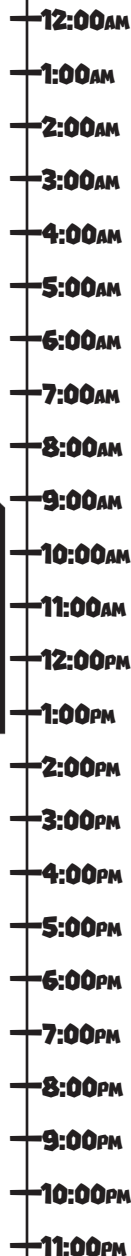
One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.

Luke 6:12 NIV

Do you think these were the only times Jesus prayed? No, he prayed often throughout his days and nights. Many times he went away to be quiet and alone with God. Why do you think he did this?



When will you pray? Circle these times on the timeline.





A BIBLE STORY

JESUS TEACHES HIS DISCIPLES TO PRAY

Jesus' disciples asked him to teach them how to pray. It was a great request. Here is what he taught them:

Matthew 6:6-13 NIV

(The Bible book of Matthew, chapter 6, verses 6 to 13)

⁶But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

⁷And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹This, then, is how you should pray:

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

¹⁰your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹Give us today our daily bread.

¹²Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."



**THINK
ABOUT
THIS**

- ◆ What do you learn about praying from what Jesus taught his disciples?
- ◆ How will this help you as you learn to pray?



LEARNING TO PRAY



Prayer is one of the big ways you can grow to bring honor to God. You will not become an expert all at once, but a little at a time, just like your body grows a little at a time. Here are some of the most important things to do when you pray:

P	PRaise GOD Thank God for anything good. Tell him what you love about him.	Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Psalms 103:1a NIV
R	REPENT Ask God to forgive you for any wrongs you have thought, said or done.	If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9 NIV
A	ASK FOR NEEDS Ask for God's help with problems, people, worries ... anything!	Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. Matthew 7:7 NIV
Y	SAY YES TO GOD Tell God you say "yes" to following him again today.	Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV

**Remember, you can talk
to God anytime, in any place,
about anything!**



SOMETHING TO DO...

WRITE IN YOUR JOURNAL

In your prayer booklet or journal, draw a simple calendar of the coming week (or use the one below). Draw a mark on every day you spend some time talking with Jesus in prayer.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

ASK YOUR QUESTIONS

Do you have questions about your new life with Jesus or prayer? Write your questions here or in your journal. Ask another person in God's family to help you find answers.

?

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TAKE TIME TO PRAY

Talk to God anywhere. Pray every day, if you can. Remember to:

P-Praise **R**-Repent **A**-Ask **Y**-Yes to Jesus

A Bible Verse to Remember

Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:39 NIV