

THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ July 7, 2019

Let's Study James!

Perseverance Wins the Race! I Will Not Give Up!



Scripture Reading: James 1:1-8, 12

Start out by reading the scriptures listed for today's lesson. We are being introduced to the book of James, which we will be studying over the next few weeks. This book contains basic, everyday instruction for Christians. It has a lot of good advice about how to handle real life!

James, the author of this book, doesn't open by telling everyone who he is. He simply calls himself a servant of God and the Lord.

However, those who have studied history believe this was James, the brother of Jesus.

James became a follower of Christ after the resurrection, and later in life, was a leader in the early church. He addressed his book to the twelve tribes of Israel, most of whom were scattered across the known world. Again, although James doesn't state it outright, Bible scholars

Memory Verse

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

James 1:12 (NIV)

Key Thought

God will give us eternal life, and many blessings on earth, when we refuse to give up in the hard times!

Lesson Discussion

- Who do Bible scholars believe wrote the book of James?
- To whom was James writing his epistle, or letter?
- What was James reminding Christians to do in hard times?
- Think of your life. What are some of the hard times you go through, and what can you do to persevere?

believe that James intended the book for any who believed that Jesus is the Messiah.

Read James 1:12. Another translation of this verse reads, "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him" James 1:12 (NIV).

Persevere. Do you know what the word "persevere" means? To persevere means to continue in your course of action despite the difficulties you face and without regard to the outcome of your efforts.

That's a lot of fancy words that basically mean this: don't give up!

James is reminding readers that life isn't always sunshine and relaxation. There are going to be times when it's hard--hard to trust God, hard to stand up for what is right, and hard to resist temptation! But God will crown every person who perseveres through difficulties, or doesn't give up, with eternal life. It takes special strength from God to live for Him day after day, but if you stick with Him through all of the hard times, you are proving by your life that He is all-powerful!

Fast forward from James's time to the 1992 Olympics! There was a runner named Derek Redmond who was a finalist for the 400 meter sprint. He had worked hard to reach the Olympics and was strong and ready to run. Halfway through the race, he was in the lead! However, he pulled a muscle in his leg and fell down in pain. He was crushed that his chances of winning were ruined. Still, even if he couldn't win, he could finish. He stood up and began hobbling toward the finish line.

Seeing his son in pain, Derek's father ran down to the track and said, "Son, you don't have to do this."

"Yes, I do," Derek answered.

"Then we'll finish the race together," his father said. Looping his arm around his son, Derek's father helped him through the remainder of the race.

Despite his terrible injury and the pain in his leg, Derek finished the race and crossed the finish line to the thunderous cheering of the crowd.

He persevered all the way to the end.

This is the kind of perseverance about which James was talking. Even if it's painful to do so, God is pleased when we push through the hard times in order to win the race we are running for Him! ■

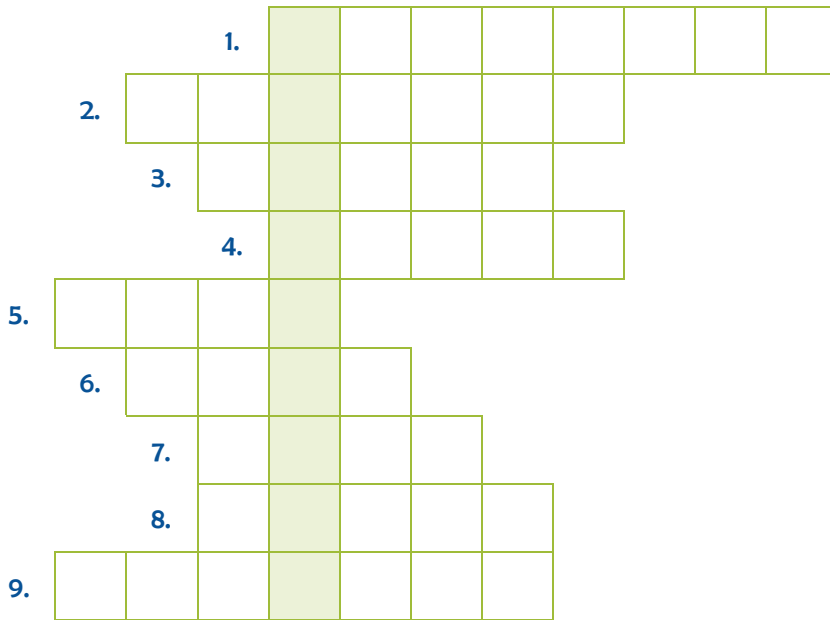
DON'T GIVE UP!

Fill in the blanks using James 1:12 (NIV) as a

reference. Next, fill in the squares with each missing word assigned to their number. What will you be challenged to do today?!



- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| * Promised | * Love |
| * Blessed | * Test |
| * Crown | * Trial |
| * Stood | * Receive |
| * Life | |



_____ (2) is the one who perseveres under _____ (8) because, having _____ (4) the _____ (7), that person will _____ (9) the _____ (3) of _____ (5) that the Lord has _____ (1) to those who _____ (6) him. James 1:12 NIV

PICK A SCENARIO

Instructions: Read each solution. Then choose the best example from the list of alternative endings at the bottom of the page to show how the child in the story could have shown perseverance.



- Children are playing soccer outside during recess. One little boy tries to kick the ball, but misses. **Deciding he is not as good as the other players, he goes back inside.**
- Ellie has a big test tomorrow, but she did not really study for it. Her friends were over until dinner time. **Then she read a book and argued with her little sister before going to bed. She never studied for the test.**
- A little girl wants to play with her older sister, but her older sister doesn't want to play with her. **The little girl decides to stomp off and tell her mom.**
- Pete sees that a boy who sits two rows away, John, is always alone. **One day, Pete tried to talk with John, but John didn't respond, so Pete gave up.**
- Jamie played outside with her friends all day. When her mom called her in, she remembered that she had more homework due the next day. **But after dinner, she was too tired to do anything.**

____ Right after dinner, Jamie sat down and finished her homework.

____ Every day for two months, Pete tried to talk to John. One day, John says hi back!

____ Ellie wanted to read after dinner, but instead, she went to her room to study for the test.

____ After that, he tries again and again. After the fifth try, he finally kicks the ball!

____ The little girl decides to ask her sister again in a polite way. Finally, her sister agrees to play with her.

THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ July 14, 2019

Let's Study James!

Be a Doer!

Putting God's Word into Practice



Scripture Reading:

James 1:19-27, 2:14-26

Have you ever heard someone at church say, “We need to be doers of the word, and not just hearers?” This saying comes from a verse James wrote in his letter to the Christians of the early church. What do you think it means?

In the verses listed above, James also lists a number of specific instructions. He said to be a good listener and not someone who is always ready to talk, to be slow to get angry, to take God’s word into your soul and put aside naughtiness, to visit those who have no father or husband, and to keep yourself clean from the sin of the world. That’s a lot of things to remember! However, James wasn’t just trying to tell the people exactly what they needed to do in order to be a good Christian. He

was encouraging them to live out the words God had given as instruction.

Memory Verse

But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

James 1:25

Key Thought

Hearing and knowing God’s word isn’t enough. We need to listen and then DO what God instructs us to do!

Lesson Discussion

- What does it mean to be a hearer of the word and not a doer?
- Name the two things it takes to please God.
- If a person says they have faith, but do not prove it by their actions, God says their faith is what?
- Why did the new pastor in the story preach the same sermon over and over?

The second chapter explains it a little more. It says that if a person says they have faith but no actions to prove it, their faith is dead! If you see a person who has no food or clothing and you say to them, “Be warm and fed,” will your words alone make it happen? Of course not! You will prove your words by giving the person clothes and food. If you say, “Yes, God, I believe in you,” will it mean you are saved? Again, you have to prove your faith in God by putting His instructions into action. There’s another side to that too—a person cannot be saved just by “doing what’s right.”

It takes faith and works to be please God!

There is a story about a young man who had been called by God to be a pastor. He began preaching on his first Sunday and the crowd was excited to hear what he had to say! The young man preached a powerful and spirit-filled sermon, and the people of the church were sure God had blessed the young pastor.

The next Sunday, the congregations eagerly gathered into the chapel and awaited the pastor’s second sermon. His first had been so wonderful, and they were ready to hear more! However, he stood behind the pulpit and preached the exact message he had the previous Sunday. Feeling confused, the congregation went home somewhat disappointed. Surely, he just forgot he had already preached that sermon! They were willing to listen again the next week. By the fourth week, however, they were frustrated that the pastor was still preaching the same message!

Some of the elders of the church gathered with the pastor and asked him why he was preaching the same sermon over and over!

He looked intently into their eyes and asked, “Have you put it into practice yet?”

How ashamed the congregation was to know they had not been doers of the word!

It simply isn’t enough to go to church, or to read your Bible, or to listen in Sunday school. It isn’t enough to know what the Bible tells us to do.

Listening and reading and knowing God’s word is just the beginning—from there, we can only please God if we apply it to our lives.

Don’t be like the congregation in the story! Take what you hear and read and ask God how to live out what you’ve learned. ■

HOW CAN I BE A DOER?

Draw lines to match the answers to the correct questions.

When I go to church, what can I do to make sure I'm learning about the word of God?

When I'm going about my day, what can I do to make sure I'm being a doer of God's word?

Listen to the preacher

Have a good attitude

Listen and pray during prayer

Participate in Sunday School

Take notes

Help someone in need

Obey my parents

Be kind to my siblings and friends

YOU'RE KNOWN BY YOUR ACTIONS!

This game is similar to "Mother May I" and requires a little bit of space. Have the children stand on one side of the room in a line. Give the children the names of each of the five characters listed below and the action that goes with them, and tell the children they can only advance according to each character's instructions. You call the name of a child and give them the character they are to imitate. Go through each of the children until every child is given a chance to imitate at least two different characters. Continue several rounds until you have a winner.

- College student: Hold your hands out, as if you are holding a laptop in one hand while typing with the other. Stand still-no steps forward or backward.
- Maid: Pretend to clean everything in sight, especially other kids. The only way to move forward is to clean a kid in front of you. You can continue moving forward by cleaning kids, until I say stop.
- Bookworm: Put your hands in front of your face, as though reading a book. You will take two steps forward.
- Football Player: You will jog in place, then take four steps forward, hugging the ball to your chest as though you are about to be tackled.
- Basketball Player: You will turn around, take two steps toward the starting line, turn around again and shoot.

This is just a fun game, but it proves to us that a person can be identified by how they act! The Bible instructs us to be a DOER of God's word. How will we be identified if we are acting out God's directions? Does everyone in the world read the Bible or know of God? Watching your life might be the only way they get to know Him!





Scripture Reading: James 3:1-12

(Verses printed on back of paper)

"I'm not sorry at all! I hate you!"

"Did you see her hair? It looks so weird!"

"Take that, you sorry loser! I win the game!"

Woah. Those words sound a little out of control. Maybe even a little wild! Hopefully, you didn't read those and remember a time when you spoke something similar, but if you did, God has forgiveness for you!

The scriptures from James that you read today speak about a small member of the body. It's one we use every day, and despite the fact that it's not very big, it has the ability to cause a lot of hurt. That member is the tongue--or more specifically, the words that roll off of our tongues. The book of James describes the tongue in a lot of ways. Let's look at some of them and think about what they mean:

Memory Verse

Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!
James 3:5

Key Thought

Your tongue is a powerful tool. It can be used to inflict hurt and cause destruction, or it can be the life-saving warmth and light for someone in need!

Lesson Discussion

- There was a lot of information in the lesson. Which part stood out most to you?
- Think of ways you can bridle your tongue. Is it always easy to control what comes out of your mouth?
- How is your tongue like a fire?
- Can the direction of your life be affected by the words you speak?

Horse's bit (verse 3). In order to direct a horse, you place a bit between his teeth. The reins, which are connected to the bit, enable you to turn the horse this way or that way. They obey you because of that small bit on their tongue! What do you suppose James meant to teach us by this illustration? He is meaning that our lives go in a good direction or a bad direction based on the words that come from our mouth. This verse says that a person who is able to bridle their tongue is able to bridle their whole body!

Having control over your words directly affects the control you have over your physical actions as well.

Helm of a ship (verse 4). A great and mighty ship is directed through the water by a small steering wheel called the helm. The captain of the ship decides where his vessel will go by simply turning the helm a little this way or a little that way. The lesson here is the same as the horse's bit. Small words make a big difference in the direction our lives take.

Fire (verses 5-6). One of the first things we think of when we hear the word fire is destruction. Wildfires can move across an open field at 14 mph! The fastest man in the world, Usain Bolt, set the record for human speed at just under 28 mph.

Just imagine the fastest man in the world jogging across a field and that's how fast a wildfire will spread.

Miles and miles of land have been destroyed by wildfire that one little spark started. That's how much power your little words hold--power to burn and destroy and leave emptiness behind. Even the tiniest hurtful, careless, or rude comment can create a lifetime of hurt for someone else. Don't let your words be a wildfire!

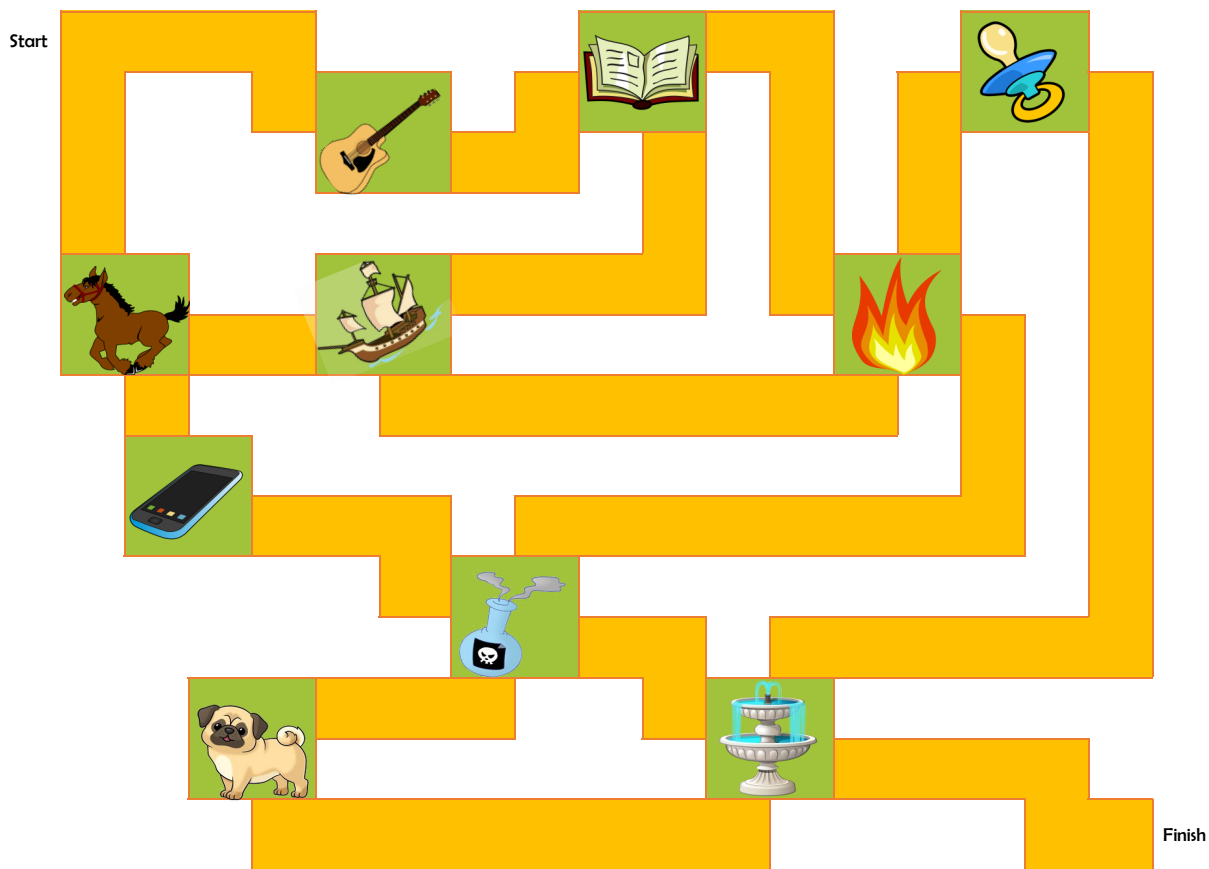
Instead, let your words be a warm, comforting blaze for your friends and family to draw close to. One of the best parts of camping is sitting close to the fire after the sun has set. It's heat can save a life, help in the preparation of food, and be a beacon in the darkness. Your words have the power to do all this as well.

A comforting word from you can warm a person's heart, a sweet note can be like food to their spirit, and your words about Jesus are a light in the dark world! Wow!

These few verses in James give us a lot to think about. Just remember, God is pleased with a tongue that is under control and used for His good! ■

MAZE THROUGH JAMES!

Instructions: James compares the tongue to several things. Choose the correct path from start to finish by only going through objects to which James compares the tongue in the Bible. There is only one correct route!



James 3:1-12

1. My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.
2. For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.
3. Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body.
4. Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.
5. Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!
6. And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.
7. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:
8. But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.
9. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.
10. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.
11. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?
12. Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.

Maze answer start, pug, ship, fire, poison, fountain, finish

MY TONGUE CAN SAY...

James talks about taming your tongue. When it comes right down to it, this lesson is really about self-control! It is easy to give into the urge to yell, say mean things, or use bad language when we're angry, but James wrote that a man who controls his tongue, controls his whole body. Look at the three scenarios and the "wild" responses below and use the space to jot down alternative responses that would be pleasing to God.

Scenario One

Mom asked me to do the dishes, but I hate doing the dishes. I walk to the sink, slam my plate into it, and growl, "This is my least favorite chore ever. Besides, it's not even my turn!"

Scenario Two

I am walking with my friends to the bus stop when we see a kid from our class. He doesn't look like he showers, and he barely speaks at school. My friends yell, "Hey Derek, why don't you shower for once?!" I laugh and join them, adding, "Yeah, then the rest of us could leave our nose plugs at home!"

Scenario Three

My family walks into the church. We are going to a funeral for a man I barely knew and I would rather be playing outside. My sister leans over and asks, "What was his name again?" I shrug and say, "I don't know. I don't care! I want to go play basketball!" Then I realize one of the family members is standing in front of me and heard the hurtful words.

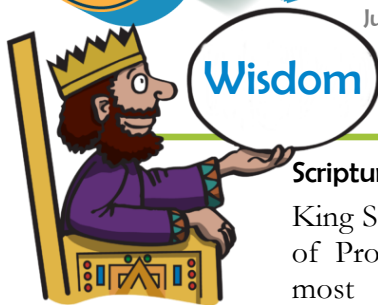
The Beautiful Way (primary) and *The Compass* (junior) Sunday school literature can be downloaded at sundayschoolliterature.com or churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way. Please email questions or input to gellenbeck.lindsey@gmail.com.

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THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ July 28, 2019



Wisdom

Let's Study James!

What is it?

Scripture Reading: James 3:13-18

King Solomon told us in the book of Proverbs that **wisdom** is the most important thing we can get. It sounds like a great idea but

kind of abstract, too—almost like trying to grab a handful of air. If we walk down store aisles, we will not find a brightly packaged box for sale with the word “wisdom” on it. So where do you get it? James tells us wisdom is “*from above*”—it is from God, and it is the *ability* to recognize *right from wrong*.

Sometimes we learn what something is by what it is *not*. For example, In describing the sun, I might say, “The sun is not cold, and it is not blue.” In the same way, James gives us examples of things that are *not* described as wisdom from God: bitter jealousy and selfish ambition. People who demonstrate actions like these think mostly

Memory Verse

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

James 3:17

Key Thought

God's wisdom may not always be the easiest way to live, but it brings the most peace and happiness to our lives.

Lesson Discussion

- What was the most important thing King Solomon told us we should try and get? Is wisdom more important than “things” you can buy in the store?
- Name two actions that not wise.
- How many examples does James give us of God's

wisdom? What are they? Are they hard to live? Why or why not?

- If we don't know what to do, should we behave rashly or go to the *source of wisdom* (God) first and ask how we should behave or what choice we should make?

about themselves and are quick to fight—they act out their feelings rather than choosing God's wisdom.

What is the “wisdom from above,” then? James defines it in the following ways:

Pure: If foul language and dirty jokes are being told or something bad is being shown, to be pure would to make the *wise* choice and go find something else to do.

Peaceable: Do you remember the story of Isaac and the wells by which he watered his flocks? His surrounding neighbors were so jealous of his blessings, they filled his wells with dirt. Later, Isaac's servants and the nearby shepherds fought over who owned the wells. In both cases Isaac valued peace more than his wells and simply, quietly “packed his belongings” and moved to a new location.

Gentle/Considerate: Watching for a chance to speak a kind word or offer help to someone who is lonely is wiser than being so consumed with your own thoughts and activities that you fail to notice or interact with them.

Easy to be entreated (submissive): Rather than stomping off to your room or having turbulent, angry attitudes when your parents “get you in trouble,” humbly acknowledging your wrong-doing and submitting to their authority is actually a sign of strength—and a wise thing to do!

Full of Mercy and Good Fruit: Someone treats you poorly, but you realize the unhappiness in their own heart may have been the “real” reason for their action, and you choose (maybe after having to pray!) to treat them nice anyway—this is being merciful and bearing “good fruit.”

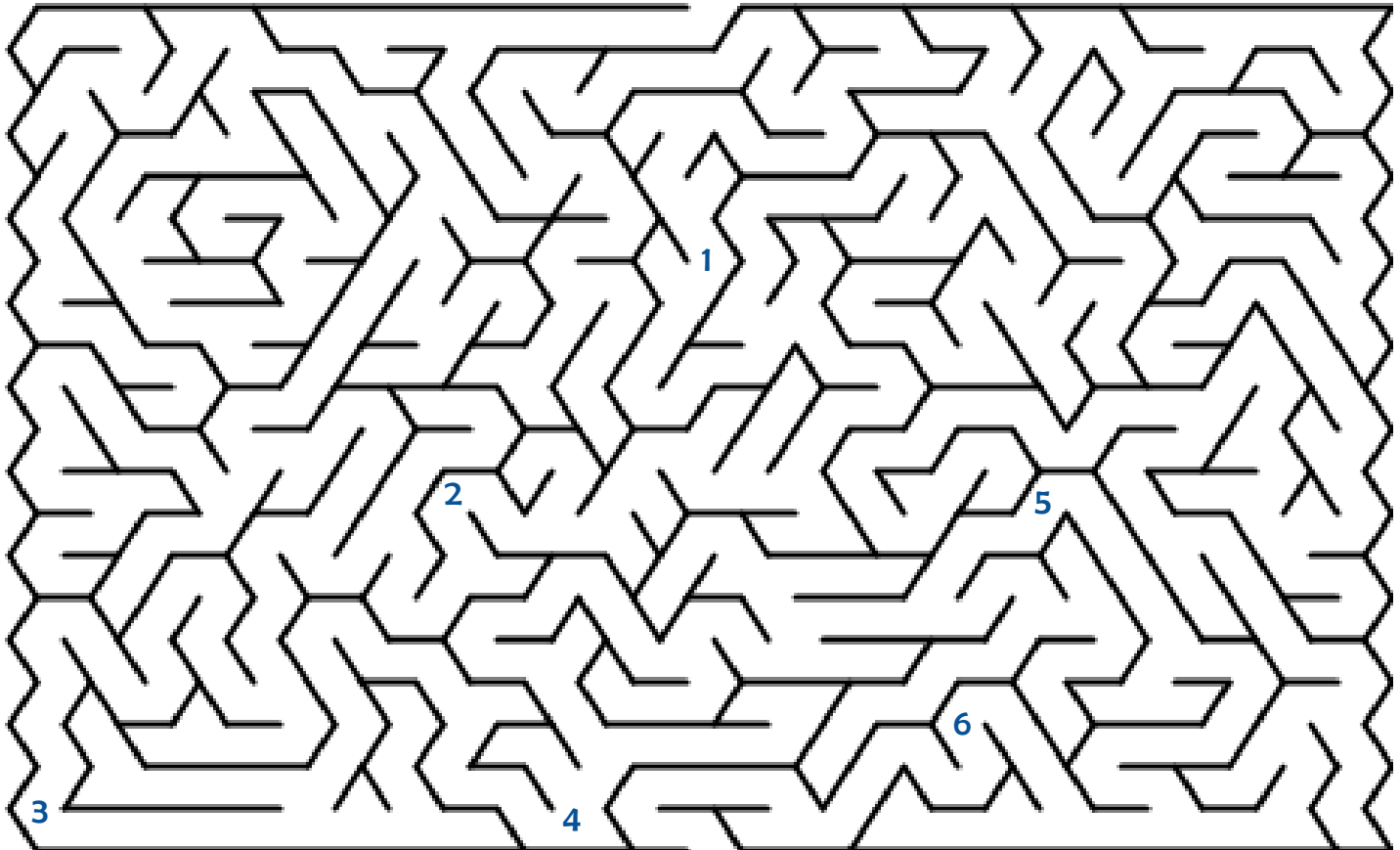
Without Hypocrisy (sincere): Pretending to be someone's friend to their face but then talking bad about them as soon as they walk away is insincere and hypocritical. On the other hand, if you say what you mean and mean what you say, people will trust your words and actions.

Some decisions do not have clear-cut right or wrong answers. Should I enjoy a recreational activity this evening and get up early in the morning to finish my homework? Or should I make absolutely sure my homework gets done and skip the fun activity? (*And that is an 'easy' example!*) While God gives us freedom to make choices in some things, James also encourages us that if we don't know what to do, God will give us the answers (*wisdom*) we seek. ■

SO MANY CHOICES!

How can I make wise choices?

Use the numbers, or aspects of wisdom, as a guide to find your way through the maze.



- 1. Pure
- 2. Peaceable
- 3. Gentle/Considerate

- 4. Easy to be entreated (submissive)
- 5. Full of mercy and good fruit
- 6. Without hypocrisy (sincere)

KNOWLEDGE VERSUS WISDOM

Teacher: Put on the glasses so you look “wise” while you demonstrate this lesson.

Materials: Pair of eyeglasses (not sunglasses), a squirt gun, and a sponge

Fill the squirt gun with water and squirt it on the sponge until the sponge is soaked with water. Tell the students the water represents the knowledge they get in school and church, and they represent the sponge. When they sit in church and school they soak in many facts (knowledge), but facts by themselves are not enough—they need wisdom! Wisdom is taking (knowledge) what they know to be right and then choosing to do it!

As you take the sponge and squeeze the water out, explain this represents how life pressures us to choose courses of action. Should I choose peace or fight; to be merciful or mean; demonstrate a bad attitude or submit to authority and show humility? When we choose to take the knowledge we have and apply it to God’s definition of “right,” we become wise.

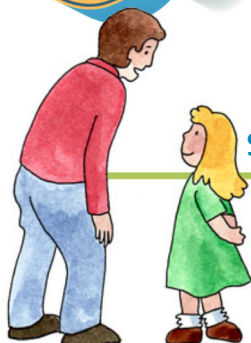


THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ August 4, 2019

Let's Study James!

Submit to Authority Safety in Obeying God and Parents



Scripture Reading: James 4:1-10

Today's scriptures cover a lot of ground! James talks about quite a few different topics in the first ten verses of the fourth chapter, but

let's focus on a few verses and phrases.

The second half of verse four says, "Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." Enmity means being opposed to or hostile toward something or someone.

This verse illustrates the beginning of our experience with God--we have to choose Him over the world.

The Bible makes it very clear that we cannot be part of the world and still serve God. He has to be more important to us than everything else. Thankfully, verse six encourages us by saying, "He giveth more grace."

What a blessing! He gives us grace to

Memory Verse

Submit yourselves
therefore to God.

James 4:7

Key Thought

It isn't always easy to submit yourself to your parents or even God, but following their instructions will keep you safe and happy!

Lesson Discussion

- What two words did we learn in the lesson today? Explain what they mean.
- What is the first step of submitting to God?
- Is it always easy to give up our own desires in order to follow God's?
- How will submitting ourselves to authority and to God affect our lives?

choose Him!

After we have chosen God and turned our back on worldly things, we have to learn to submit ourselves to Him. To submit means to yield to the superior will of another. Basically, God wants us to give up our own desires--sometimes we want things like popularity, cool clothes or toys, or to do whatever we want instead of obeying our parents and teachers. Are these desires godly? Sometimes the things we want aren't necessarily bad! However, God's first desire is for you to be spiritually healthy. All the other things that we want come second.

If we learn to submit ourselves to God's will, then all those other things should come second in our own hearts as well.

A well known illustration for following God's directions talks about a ship that sailed on a foggy ocean. The captain of the ship looked into the night and saw the faint lights of another vessel in the distance. He instructed his signalman to send a message to the other ship, saying, "Alter your course 10 degrees south." He promptly received a return message. It read, "Alter your course 10 degrees north." The captain felt anger stir inside him. His command had been ignored! His second message read, "Alter your course 10 degrees south. I am the captain!" The return message said, "Alter your course 10 degrees north. I am a seaman third class." Feeling overwhelming anger now, the captain sent a message he knew would be heeded: "Alter your course 10 degrees south. I am a battleship." The reply that came made him go cold:

"Alter your course 10 degrees north. I am the lighthouse! If you'll trust me, I will lead you through safely. Adjust your course, and you'll be on your way."

The captain was dangerously close to shipwreck, and he didn't even know it! It took someone who had more perspective and understanding than he did to warn him, and he had to be humble enough to listen. Who do you know in your life that has more understanding than you do? Your parents, teachers, Sunday school teachers, preachers, and, ultimately, God. It isn't always easy to submit yourself when you don't understand, but those who have authority over you are looking out for your spiritual safety and well-being. Trust them, and God, to guide you safely through life! ■

UNSCRAMBLE THE VERSE

I N L L Y O M E S T Y
 H T E S J A B L E H E L I F
 U P . H U M E L V S H A S I G
 4 : 1 0 O U U R S O F R D ,
 T H E L O A N D T H E
 H U M _____
 S I G _____,
 _____ L I F _____ 4:10

HUMILITY AND SUBMISSION

Humility and submission go hand in hand. We have to be humble in order to submit to God. So what will our hearts look like as we submit more and more of ourselves to God? Watch your teacher demonstrate what will happen in your life as you learn to submit to God!



Supplies:

- Water bottle full of colored water (pick a dark color like blue, red, or green so that it contrasts with the oil)
 - Clear juice glass or pint jar
- Four or five tablespoons of oil to put in the bottom of the juice glass/jar
 - Shallow bowl or dish to catch excess liquids

Directions:

1. Make sure the oil has settled to the bottom of the jar. Set the jar in the shallow dish where the class can see it from the side. Gather the children close to watch if necessary.
2. Slowly, pour the colored water from the bottle into the jar. The colored water should settle to the bottom of the jar while

you pour, pushing the oil closer to the top of the jar. Pour until the jar is *almost* overflowing. Pause to explain the object lesson (see application below).

3. Continue pouring the water very slowly into the jar, allowing the oil to spill out. When most of the oil has spilled out, pause again and let children look at the jar.
4. Again, pour the water into the jar. Eventually, all the oil will have spilled and the colored water itself will begin to spill into the shallow dish.

Hint: Using a water bottle for the colored water makes transporting easy, and it also allows you to pour the water cleanly into the glass jar, preserving the portion of the object lesson where “God spills over.”

(Application:) You are created with your own desires and wants, and they are represented by the oil in the bottom of the jar. God, represented by the colored water, wants to remove your own worldly desires and fill you up with Himself! As you practice submitting to Him, He will fill you up more and more. Eventually, you will be so full of God’s desires and spirit that, not only will all of you be removed, but He will start spilling over into the world around you!



Junior Sunday School ■ August 11, 2019

Let's Study James!

If God Wants Me To Acknowledging God in Our Plans

Scripture Reading: James 4:13-17

"Today, I plan on going to school. Afterward, my friend and I are going to her house to do our homework, and then we'll walk to the store and buy some ice cream!"

You've probably said something along these lines before when someone asks you what you're doing tomorrow. It's normal for us to make plans for our days, weeks, months, and even years! But did you know God wants to be involved in our plans?

Today's verses in James talk about what God wants from us when it comes to making plans and where our focus is as we fulfill them. In summary, the passage says, "There are people who say, 'Today I will go to this city and live there for a year, set up a

Memory Verse

For what is your life? It is
even a vapour, that
appeareth for a little time,
and then vanisheth away.

James 4:14

Key Thought

Whose plans are more
important, yours or God's?
When you make plans, it is
wise to acknowledge God
in them by saying, "If God
wants me to...."

Lesson Discussion

- To what does James compare a person's life? Does it last a long time or a short time in God's eyes?
- What is one of the main things people in the world focus on?
- Is it more important to make plans about what you can "get" in the world, or how you can help other people?
- Think about your plans for the next week. Does God have the ability to change them? How can you phrase your plans in a way that gives God the power in them?

small business, and make some money.' But what do we know about life tomorrow? Our lives are like a vapour, or a mist, that appears for a short amount of time and then disappears.

What we need to say is, 'If the Lord wills, we will do this or that.'

Don't boast and be proud about your plans, for God is the ultimate master! He has the power to allow our plans to happen or bring them to a halt."

Is James saying that it's wrong to make plans for our lives? Is it wrong to call your friend and plan to have a sleepover Friday? Is it wrong to plan a summer vacation or plan to get a job when you get a little older? No! God is pleased with us when we want to be active and productive.

The important part is that we acknowledge that He is more important than our plans. What He wants us to do is always more important than what we plan.

This is especially true for plans that include making money. People in the world are often very focused on how rich they want to be. There's a story of a man who talked to his companion for a long, long while. He barely paused to take a breath as he listed the different countries to which he would travel, the goods he planned to trade, and the profit he planned to make from it all. When he reached the end of that portion of his plans, he took a deep breath and kept talking about how he planned to retire after all his work and enjoy the riches he had accumulated. Finally, he looked at his friend and asked, "Tell me what you have seen in your travels and what you plan to do next." The companion answered, "Have you ever heard what a traveler said who fell from his camel in the desert? Only two things can fill the eye of a covetous (or greedy) man: contentment or the earth that is cast on him when he is laid in his grave."

Where is your focus in life?

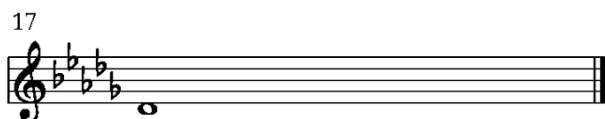
Are you too busy making plans and telling your friends that you will do this and go there that you completely forget God is the one who should be making your plans? Have you thought about how much money you will make when you get older and what you'll buy with it, or have you thought how you could help those in need with what God gives you?

Don't be fooled into thinking your plans are more important than God's. Your life is as short as a blink of an eye, and God's plans for you will always be better than your plans for yourself! ■

SING ABOUT GOD!

Unscramble the world tiles to complete the first phrase of this song. Can you think of the rest of the words once you know the first line? Write them into the music! (Hint: Number 41 in the Evening Light Hymnal)

NE.	FO	GOD B	ATH	TO	E TH	LL
E G	Y	HE H	LOR	R A	DO	



WHO GETS THE GLORY?

Let's take this thought a step further! If God's plans are more important than our own, who is it that gives us the power to follow through with what He's set out for us to do? God, of course!

For example, if you have a speech to give in class and you acknowledge that it's God's will for you to do your homework and succeed in school, can you take all the credit for a good grade on your speech? No! If we know that God gives us tasks to do and is the master planner, then we also need to give Him the glory when we succeed.

Read through the following scenarios, or act them out with your classmates, and decide whether the character is giving glory to God or taking it for themselves. Put an "X" through the ones where the character is taking all the glory.

Scenario One

Sally: Angie! You sang so beautifully today! And your song had a very good message.

Angie: Aww, thanks, Sally! I really didn't think I did that good. I worked really hard on it, but it just didn't sound as good as I wanted it too. But thank you!

Scenario Two

Jane: What are your plans for the future, Hannah? What do you want to study in college?

Hannah: Well, I want to be a nurse, but I want to keep praying about it so that I know what God wants me to do.

Scenario Three

Joe's Mom: Joe, you did so well on your math test! I am very proud of how hard you worked to get this grade.

Joe: Thanks, Mom. I did study really hard for it, but I also prayed and asked God to help me remember everything I learned. And I think He did!

Scenario Four

Henry: Dude! You play soccer so well! Good job scoring three goals at recess today!

Andy: Oh, yeah, I was totally on fire out there. Did you see that one kick that went right through the goalie's hands?!

The Beautiful Way (primary) and *The Compass* (junior) Sunday school literature can be downloaded at sundayschoolliterature.com or churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way. Please email questions or input to gellenbeck.lindsey@gmail.com. Contributor: Sister Julie Elwell.

Volume 69, Quarter 3, Week 6. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. 2019.



Scripture Reading: James 5:1-6

Listen up, rich man! Weep and howl for the miseries that will come your way!

What an introduction, right? That's how James opened the fifth chapter of his book. He went on to tell the rich men that their money was corrupt, moths had eaten their beautiful garments, and their gold and silver had been cankered, or diseased. Even worse, he wrote that the rust that ate at their piles of gold and silver would even eat their flesh. Yuck!

Still, this description of what is happening to the rich man and his wealth gets your attention, doesn't it? Why do you think James wrote about being rich in such a negative way? Is it wrong to have a lot of money? Is it wrong to want a lot of money? What does the Bible say about wanting to be rich?

Memory Verse

For where your treasure is,
there will your heart be
also. Matthew 6:21

Key Thought

The needs inside you
cannot be filled with
money or the pursuit of
getting rich. Only God can
satisfy the deepest longing
of your heart!

Lesson Discussion

- Is a rich person usually satisfied and happy? Why or why not?
- Is James saying it's wrong to work hard and earn money? At what point does earning money turn into serving money?
- What is going to happen to all the riches in the world on the judgement day?
- When we earn money, where is the first place we should put some of it? (This wasn't in the lesson. Can you remember from what your parents have said or what you've heard in church?)

Ecclesiastes 5:10 says, "He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase."

In other words, whoever loves money will never have enough of it, and whoever loves wealth will never be satisfied with how much they have.

It's hard to imagine that someone who has a million dollars would still want more, but that is almost always the case! What James and the verse in Ecclesiastes are saying is that money does not fulfill the needs we have in our souls. That fulfillment only comes from one place--God!

An old story about a farmer and his land illustrates just how destructive greed really is. In this story, the farmer owned a plot of land. He was successful and all of his needs, and those of his family, were met by the money he made. Still, he wanted more. One day, he received an incredible offer! For \$1,000, he could buy all the land he could walk around in one day. The only thing was, he had to make it back to his starting point by sundown, or none of the land would be his.

The next morning, he set off as the sun rose, walking at a very fast pace. By noon, he was extremely tired, but he kept going! By four or five in the afternoon, he realized his greed had taken him far from his starting point, so as the sun began to set, he took off at a run. If he did not make it back by sundown, all the land would be lost and he would never own the huge farm he'd dreamed about! As the sun began to sink below the horizon, he came within sight of the finish line. His heart pounding and lungs gasping for breath, he called upon all the remained of his strength and staggered across the finish line just before the sun disappeared completely.






He immediately collapsed. He had ran his body to death in his effort to gain more land. Afterwards, instead of the acres and acres of beautiful land he'd envisioned, all the land he needed was a little plot about six feet by two feet. Just big enough for his casket.



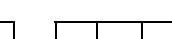


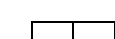


A person who is consumed with the desire to be rich will never have enough time or energy to serve God.

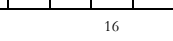
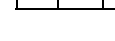
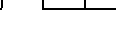
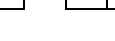

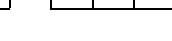
Matthew 6:24 tells us that we can't serve two masters--either we will love one and hate the other, or we will cling to one and despise the other. We cannot serve God and money. ■



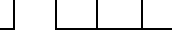


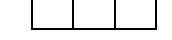
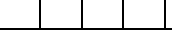
READ AND SOLVE!


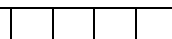
Fill the key phrase from each of the verses listed at the bottom of the page into the puzzle, and then complete the answer to the puzzle using the letters from each numbered box!


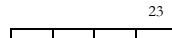
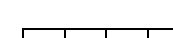
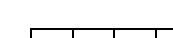



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
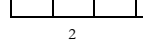
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
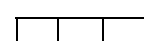
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
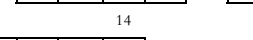

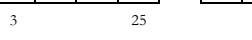
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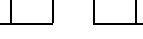




4.     ,    .

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5.         .

   :

6.    ,   ,

  ,     :

HELP! I'M TRAPPED!

Needed: A glass jar (one that's big enough for your hand to slide into, but that your closed fist will get stuck inside), M&Ms or other small candy, a label on the jar that reads "Greed"



Directions: Ask for a volunteer to slide his/her hand into the jar and grab some M&Ms in his fist (instruct him to close his fist and hang on tight to his candy)! Encourage him to try as hard as he can to remove his hand without letting go.

Next, instruct him to let go of his fistful of candy and take one or two pieces out with his fingers, sharing with the class as he does. The last piece of candy he removes is for him.

The name of the jar is greed. When we selfishly want the best for ourselves, we get trapped by greed and want more. But when we get more, it makes us unhappy. In order to be set free from the jar and from greed, we must first let go of the M&M's or nuts. When we do this, our hand slides out! When we let go of our selfishness by giving to others, we are freed from greed. As we give with joy, we can then receive happily. Generosity is a wonderful thing. How does it make you feel when you give something to someone? How do you feel when you are selfish and keep things all for yourself?

1. **Act 8:20** But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.
2. **Mark 10:25** It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.
3. **Psalm 37:16-17** A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked. For the arms of the wicked shall be broken; but the LORD upholdeth the righteous.
4. **Matthew 19:21** Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.
5. **1 Titus 6:10** For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.
6. **Revelation 3:17** Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

Diagram illustrating the decomposition of 24 into 6 groups of 4:

- Row 1: 6 groups of 2 (labeled 1-6) and 3 groups of 2 (labeled 7-9).
- Row 2: 2 groups of 2 (labeled 10-11) and 4 groups of 2 (labeled 12-15), followed by a colon.
- Row 3: 3 groups of 2 (labeled 16-18), 2 groups of 2 (labeled 19-20), and 5 groups of 2 (labeled 21-25).

The Beautiful Way (primary) and *The Compass* (junior) Sunday school literature can be downloaded at sundayschoolliterature.com or churchofgodenveninglight.com/beautiful-way. Please email questions or input to gellenbeck.lindsey@gmail.com. Contributor: Sister Julie Elwell.

Volume 69, Quarter 3, Week 7. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. 2019.

THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ August 25, 2019

Let's Study James!

Patience

Wai.....t for it!

Scripture Reading: James 5:7–11

This is boring! When are we going to be done? Hurry up! Why isn't God answering my prayer? The answer to this question is summarized in one word—patience.

Have you ever planted a tiny seed in the ground? The joy you experience from planting seeds in well-turned soil is only a hint of the pleasure you will experience once a tiny green shoot finally pokes its head out to find light. The farmer spoken of in James 5:6 considers the seed he has planted “precious,” and he has long patience for it. The harvest of his field will provide food for his table and money to pay his bills.

In the very next verse, still speaking of patience, James instructs us not to grumble, complain, or quickly vent our bad attitudes against those we feel have wronged us. It is sometimes hard—very hard—to bite our tongue. Our sense of fairness demands we

Memory Verse

Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy. James 5:11

Key Thought

Patience is not simply waiting—it is waiting with a good attitude.

Lesson Discussion

- What does patience mean?
- How does waiting for a seed to sprout and bear fruit require patience?
- What were the names of the two men of our lesson

who exemplified patience? Describe the ways in which they demonstrated patience.

- Why is it hard to be patient? In what ways can we learn to be more patient?

“pay back” or punish someone for the wrongs committed against us. Yet, we know it can be done with God's help because we are also reminded of men in the Old Testament who left an example for us to follow.

The prophet Isaiah lived to be an old man during the reign of four kings. He preached for almost fifty years, warning Israel of their sins and their need to turn to God. His message not only fell on deaf ears, but he was also persecuted. Perhaps there were days Isaiah wondered if it was even worth the effort; yet, each day, he opened his eyes, threw his feet over the side of his bed, and kept going.

No matter how the people responded, God had given him a job, and that job required patient diligence.

Another example of this patience is Job. Job was a very rich man who, in one day, lost his home, livestock, and children. (Talk about a bad day!) His friends accused him of things he did not do. After time had gone by, his wife, the one person who should have encouraged him, said, “Are you still trying to do what's right? You should curse God and then die.” Wow—talk about harsh words. The truth was, there were days Job did not feel great. In fact, there were days he wished he had never been born. Yet, day-after-difficult-day, Job trusted God knew what He was doing and would take care of him.

Job's patience paid off, and one glorious day, God turned things around and gave Job twice as much as he had before.

Patience is not simply waiting—it is waiting with a good attitude.

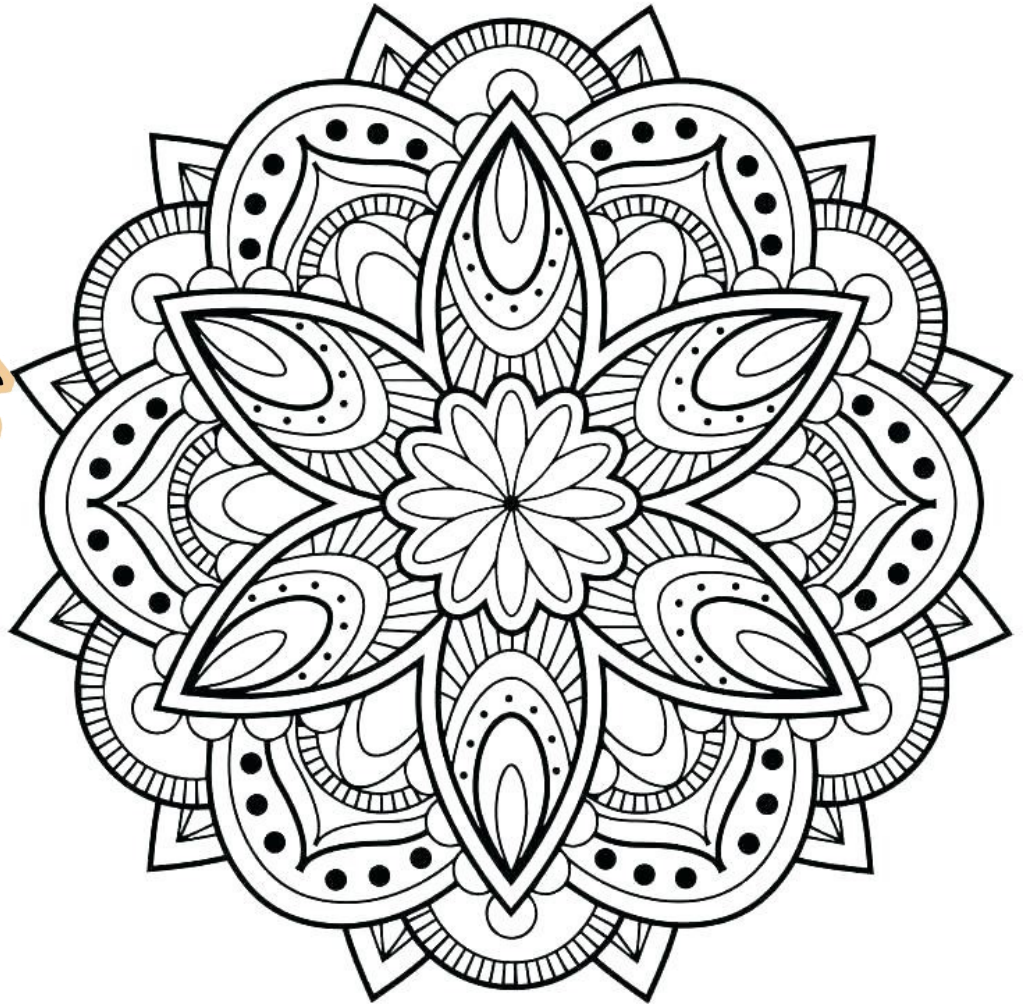
It is easy to read about the patience of other people, but our own is sometimes a different story!

In simple things, like waiting in a long line, remember, other people will appreciate your quiet, cheerful patience. Have patience with yourself. You are not perfect, but you are loved by God, and He is patient with your faults. Have patience with other people; they aren't perfect either, but God loves them too. Sometimes, their learning experiences come at your expense. Finally, have patience for that Last Great Day—the day in which the unimaginable beauty of heaven will be the reward for us if we have chosen to patiently trust God in every aspect of our life. ■



ARE YOU PATIENT ENOUGH?

Take the time to
color this
complicated design
to test your own
patience!



SPOONS 'N' EGGS

Race!!! Carry an egg on a spoon and see who gets to the finish line first without breaking the egg. If you don't take your time to focus and walk carefully, you won't win the race! Hand out treats for those who cross the finish line.



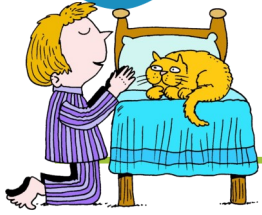
PLAY THE WAITING GAME...

Get a basic kitchen timer and challenge the kids to see who can wait quietly for three minutes. If they all wait quietly for three minutes, increase the time to five minutes. *(No reward should be given.)*

Waiting a few minutes can sometimes seem like waiting hours! Everything feels backwards and nothing is easy! It's easy to get bored while waiting for something we want. It's also hard to go slowly and/or keep our mouth closed when we feel like doing the opposite. There are times our patience will end with a reward. *(Ice cream after a hard job is completed without complaining.)* Other times, "Patience is its own reward." In other words, patience is a virtue we should cultivate in our lives, not expecting a reward. *(Not complaining about the heat or cold while doing a job outside and NOT receiving ice cream or hot chocolate, but simply KNOWING you did the right thing by keeping a patient, uncomplaining attitude will be the reward.)*

THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ September 1, 2019



Let's Study James!

Prayer

When and How to Pray

Scripture Reading: James 5:13–18

(The words pray or prayer are mentioned seven times. Can you find them?)

James is packed full of easily understood, how-to-live-for-God instructions. Prayer is one of the last, important subjects he talks about!

When to Pray?

In Trouble: Do you have bad days where things seem upside-down and all wrong? Maybe you took a tough test, had a misunderstanding with a friend, or faced trouble at home. James tells us, “Is any among you afflicted? let him pray.” **Simply stated, when faced with trouble, prayer should be our first course of action.** God sometimes takes away our troubles, and sometimes He doesn’t, but He always gives peace. I

have many memories in my younger years

Memory Verse

Confess your faults one to another, and pray for one another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. *(The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.* NIV) James 5:16b

Key Thought

Make sincere and persistent prayer a habit in both bad times and good.

Lesson Discussion

- Can you think of a time when you were sick or in trouble and prayer made a difference?
- Does God always answer our prayers? Why or why not?
- How is singing a form of prayer? What is one of your favorite songs in our church song book and why?
- Why is it important to mix our prayers with faith? Have you ever tried to fix something yourself even after you prayed? Is that trust?
- How can you prove to God you are earnest about what you ask for? How many times should we pray for something?

(and still today) of getting on my knees and closing my eyes for prayer, either in family worship or at church, and feeling a calmness wash over my heart.

In Happiness: Have you experienced sunshiny, everything-is-going-my-way days? You got an “A” on your Math or English paper, you had an overnight party with your friends that included laughter, fun, and food, or your parents praised you for a job well done? James tells us, “Is any merry? Let him sing psalms.” **Simply stated, when your life is going great, sing songs of praise to the Lord!** Singing is a form of prayer—it is communicating the joy of our hearts to God.

In Sickness: Have you ever had a fever and upset stomach—or maybe a much more serious sickness or problem? Again, James gives instruction: “Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.” **In times of physical sickness when you are miserable and don’t feel strong, ask your parents or pastor to pray for you.** What does the “anointing with oil” part mean? Oil was used in Bible times *(and even still today)* for healing purposes. *Oil is symbolic of healing, but our actual healing comes from God.*

How to Pray?

With Faith: Imagine this picture: A house is on fire and a young boy is forced to escape to the roof. His father stands in the grass below with outstretched arms and tells the boy, “Jump! I’ll catch you!” All the boy can see is smoke, flames, and blackness. He is afraid and cries, “But Daddy, I can’t see you!” The father replies, “But I can see you and that is all that matters.” Faith means to trust our Heavenly Father with the things *we don’t understand, don’t know how to answer, or don’t know how to fix and believe He hears our prayers and will answer them—in His time.*

Earnestly and Persistently: *James gives us the example of Elijah. He prayed earnestly it would not rain, and it didn’t. Later, he prayed seven times for the rain to start. Sloppy, casual, half-sentence prayers are not earnest prayers. Pray like you mean it. Throw all the junk out of your mind, get quiet, and focus hard on your conversation with God. Repeat again and again and again, if necessary!*

Prayer is not a magic wand we wave toward heaven and—poof!—all our troubles vanish; but it IS one of the most powerful tools available for our use here on earth! ■

WORD SEARCH!

Action, Answers, Conversation, Earnestly, Faith, Happiness, Persistent, Praise, Quiet, Seven, Sickness, Strong, Trouble

Y Q W N E G D V O S H A A G Z S N W O S T X S U L Q O L F H
F G D W H H P C G S S W N N U U E U D R I O V E U Y C N T V
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N O I T A S R E V N O C R S H L W P E R S I S T E N T R U Y
H A P P I N E S S M V L S L E Z W F W P L G M B O S R F P R
J P R C Y W O M E M J M K J G N L E O T P J E L Y K S D U S

CONFESS YOUR FAULTS

Needed: Any combination of five or six duffle bags, grocery bags, luggage, or other kinds of bags and 10 or 15 \$1 bills—or something the students will see as valuable—10 or 15 pieces of candy.



Ask or select a volunteer to come to the front. Have the various bags sitting there but don't mention them at first. Show the selected student the money/candy in your hand. Tell them you are going to throw the money/candy to them and enthusiastically confirm they can have whatever they can catch. (*This agreement will most likely be met with enthusiasm and a smile.*)

Get ready to throw the money, but then stop. Motion to them you would first like them to pick up and hold the bags. Load them up with the bags—one in each hand, some on the arms, maybe one around the neck, and maybe even one held by teeth. (*Let the students enjoy this process and give them time to comment!*) Again, reiterate they can have all the money you throw at them. One at a time, throw each piece of money/candy to the bag-laden student. How much did they catch?

Take away all the bags from the student and again tell them you are going to throw the money/candy and they can have what you throw at them. What difference did laying the bags down make? Did they catch more?

James tells us if we confess our faults, we will be healed. Faults—or sins committed (*lying, cheating, stealing, anger, bad attitudes*)—are like the bags. They keep us from enjoying God's blessings in our lives. When we "get rid of them"—confess them—we will be better off! Has guilt ever physically made you sick? How did you feel when you finally confessed? It is hard but freeing at the same time! God wants us to "get rid" of the sin in our lives by confessing first to Him and then to others if needed.

THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ September 8, 2019



The Lord's Prayer Series

The Lord's Prayer—Part 1

Keep it Real

Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:5—8

Prayer seems pretty simple—close your eyes and talk to God, right? It is easier than sharpening your pencil and using brain power to solve math problems. Or

is it? The subject of prayer was introduced in the last lesson of the James series. Jump with us now to the book of Matthew and let's tune into Jesus's words as He stands before multitudes of people and teaches them about prayer.

Jesus's voice carried over the mountain as He first instructed the people how NOT to pray: "*Do not be like the hypocrites who pray on street corners just so they can be seen.*" A hypocrite pretends to be somebody or

something they are not. Hypocrites are

Memory Verse

But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. Matthew 6:6

Key Thought

Prayer is a *real* conversation between us and God. Finding time and a quiet place to have that conversation is important.

Lesson Discussion

- What is a hypocrite? How were the Jews to whom Jesus referred hypocrites?
- Brainstorm good places to pray—share helpful ideas for prayer if you live in a busy household.
- How many minutes should you pray?
- Do we have to pretend when we talk God? Is that a relief or not? (Whether you are angry or happy, He already knows it anyway, so you might as well talk to Him about it!)

actors—they come out on stage (in the old days) with a mask covering their face, thus hiding their true identity.

The attention-hungry Jews to whom Jesus referred were actors. They pretended to care about praying to God, but what they really loved was attention.

They used prayer as a tool to impress other people, but God was not impressed! Jesus was not forbidding public prayer. In fact, we need people to pray in our public worship services. *Learn to appreciate those in your congregation who have the courage to pray out loud!* He just didn't want prayer to become a show.

How should we pray, then? Jesus continued: "When you pray, go into your closet and shut the door."

Did He mean to stuff your body into the space where clothes, shoes, and probably a bunch of other stuff are kept? Maybe. But what He really meant was to find a place to privately meet Him and have a conversation. While our own 'Secret Garden' or hidden room sounds like the perfect solution, most of us don't have that. Finding a quiet place to pray, especially when you have siblings, can be challenging. Be creative!

The point is this: Your mind fills up with all sorts of stuff—school work, hobbies, memories, or plans for tomorrow's fun. A quiet place is easiest, but *wherever* you pray, flip your mind switch to OFF. Empty it out. Focus your thoughts on God and on what you want to pray. *You might find solving your math problems are easier than doing this!* Relax when you pray. Be yourself.

You might want your friends to think you are calm, cool, collected, and 'have it all together,' but when you talk to God, you are talking to someone who knows exactly who you are.

You don't need to pretend!

Lastly, Jesus instructed the people not to "use vain repetitions" in prayer. Repeating the same phrases over and over does not get God's attention. The Jews thought everyone who 'multiplied a prayer' was heard. In other words, if 50 prayers were good, 100 were better! Think of it this way: repeatedly asking your mom to buy you an ice cream cone is not usually the best tactic! She probably heard you the first time. Jesus comforted us by saying He knows our needs before we even ask. While we don't want fast food, drive-through prayers, neither do the prayers have to be repetitive and long. Pray for as short or as long as it takes to pray "for real." ■

PRAYER CROSSWORD



Use the words from the word list to complete the puzzle.

Across

1. The opposite of distraction--we should always ____ when we pray.
3. We learned about the Lord's ____ in today's lesson.
6. Jesus didn't want His people praying with vain ____.
10. Our prayers should be a real ____ with God.
11. Prayer is an answer to these.

11

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|
| ◇ Closet | ◇ Hypocrite | ◇ Prayer |
| ◇ Conversation | ◇ Jesus | ◇ Pretend |
| ◇ Empty | ◇ Matthew | ◇ Problems |
| ◇ Focus | ◇ Off | ◇ Repetition |

Down

2. We need to pray in a quiet space called a ____.
3. This is something you do not have to do with God.
4. The Lord's Prayer is found in this book of the Bible.
5. This was what Jesus called the people who prayed only for show.
7. The way your mind should be when you pray.
8. The direction we should flip our "mind switch" when we pray.
9. This is who taught the Lord's Prayer.

REAL OR FAKE?

Needed: Fake flowers, real flowers, two vases, and some water

Place both the fake and real flowers in two separate water-filled vases. Explain to the students you have two vases of beautiful flowers and then ask them to if they can tell the difference between the two flowers. Have the students touch both the fake flowers and real flowers and describe the differences. Have them smell both the fake flowers and the real flowers. What are the differences? The real flowers are softer and smell nice; the fake flowers are stiffer and have no fragrance. Does the fact the fake flowers are in a vase and water make them real?

Flowers can't choose whether they are real or fake, but we can! As it ties into our lesson, prayer is a meaningful conversation with God—not just a quick shout toward heaven and a "Hey, God, how are you doing?" God can tell whether our prayers are artificial or real. The fake ones are more mechanical and stiffer and don't send out a pleasing aroma. Just because we say good words and look like we are concentrating during prayer, it does not make our prayer real! Real prayers are soft—they are humble and honest, and God smells the beautiful fragrance of them.

In the same way you can tell the difference between a real and fake flower, God can tell the difference between a hypocritical and a sincere prayer.

KEEP PRAYER REAL!



The Beautiful Way (primary) and *The Compass* (junior) Sunday school literature can be downloaded at sundayschoolliterature.com or churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way. Please email questions or input to gellenbeck.lindsey@gmail.com. Contributor: Sister Julie Elwell.
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THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ September 15, 2019

The Lord's Prayer Series

The Lord's Prayer—Part 2

Respect for a Holy King and His Will



Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:9-15

Praying. Holding your body still, not squirming, closing your eyes, and talking to somebody you can't see, feel, or touch can seem boring or hard. Falling asleep, "zoning out," looking around, whispering to friends, writing notes, or making paper airplanes can be a real temptation.

What about playing an adventure-filled game conquering evil forces, crossing guarded castle moats, and advancing into the throne room of a castle wherein lives the crowned king of the kingdom? That might sound a little more exciting!

Think about this: life is not a computer or board game, but it is a very exciting and adventurous journey filled with hidden traps, attacks and battles against evil forces.

Memory Verse

After this manner pray ye:
Our Father which art in
heaven, Hallowed be thy
name. Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth,
as it is in heaven.
Matthew 6:9-10

Key Thought

God is our Father and Holy King to whom we should pray confidently but also respectfully and submissively.

Lesson Discussion

- What things are you tempted to do (or not do) when you pray? Either at church or at home?
- What is our ultimate goal in life? Who do we have to fight to get there? Name a weapon that will help us "win" the fight.
- Name four things we need to remember when we pray.
- In what postures can we pray? How does bowing show reverence? (Think about how you would approach a king!)

The objective of life is to defeat the ever-scheming enemy of our souls whose objective is to destroy us and prevent us from gaining a heavenly reward. The devil gleefully gloats when he 'wounds' you by causing you to disobey, lie, cheat, steal, or sin in some other way. By praying—running to the throne room of Heaven—you gather powerful weapons by which to fight this arch-enemy. Prayer is actually not boring, and we need to know how to do it!

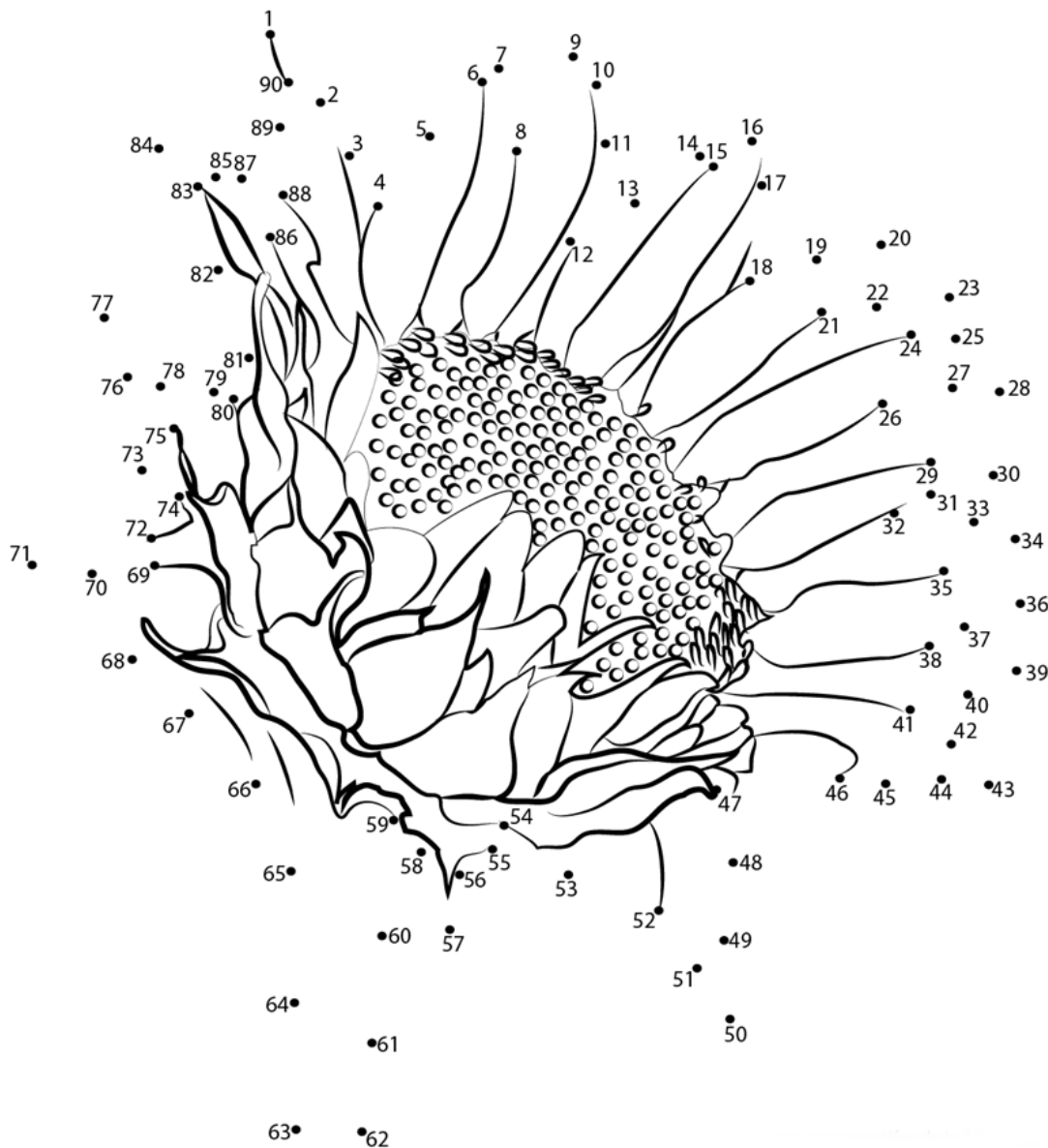
Let's learn. Jesus said, "After this manner pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."

God is our Father. He is more than a somewhere-up-in-the-sky Creator. He is not absent or too busy. He does not go on vacation. He does not sleep. He is not indifferent. He is not a Father for only preachers and parents. He is family. He cares about what we think and what happens to us. He shares in our happiness and wipes the tears from our eyes. He is our protector and sets boundaries of safety to protect us from a different father—the father of lies.

God is a Holy King. He lives in Heaven and deserves respect. Isaiah describes heaven as God's throne and earth as His footstool. God does not literally prop His feet on the earth, but one thing is certain, He is King of earth and we are His subjects. While He gives us freedom to choose how to live, make no mistake—He owns us. We don't own Him. Bubble gum-popping, half-hearted, insincere words are not ways to respectfully approach our King!

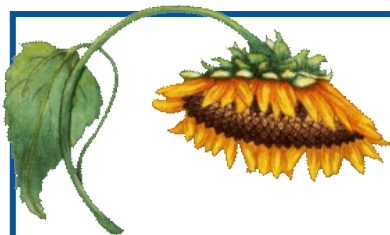
God's name is hallowed; it is clean and holy. His kingly robes are not soiled by the muddy pig pens of sin. By acknowledging His holiness, we are also saying, "God, please create in me a clean heart." Our arch-enemy (main enemy) throws poison darts at us, trying to cause us to think and behave in rude, crude, and unholy ways—but, God's holiness in our lives will send the devil slinking back into his black cave.

God's will—not mine. Many times, we pray for "things." A new gadget, a good grade, great health...the list is endless. Our Father wants to give us good gifts; He said so Himself! but He also knows when to say yes, no, or wait. He knows what will help us win the 'War of Life.' Ask Him for absolutely anything—but always end with the attitude, "God, not what I want, but what you want." ■



DOT-TO-DOT

Connect the dots and color the picture as a reminder of where your power comes from!

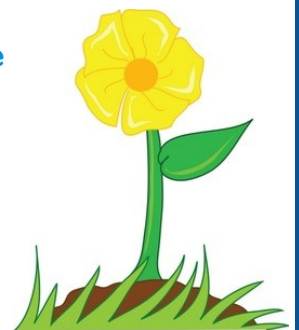


STAY CONNECTED TO THE POWER SOURCE!

Teachers: You will need to plan ahead a couple days for this lesson!

Needed: Flowers in soil. Flowers out of grass or soil.

As we stay connected to the Lord through prayer, our spiritual lives thrive and our hearts feel full. Neglecting prayer, however, can cause us to wither. Compare the flowers in the soil which receive water and sun and are planted securely within the soil to the flowers which have been disconnected from their life-giving source. When a flower is first cut, you cannot tell much difference between it and the attached flowers. As time goes by, however, the detached flower becomes wilted and weak, and it eventually dies. Prayer connects us to God and gives us life!



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THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ September 22, 2019



The Lord's Prayer Series

The Lord's Prayer—Part 3

Our Daily Bread

Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:9-15

For the past two weeks, we have been studying about the **Lord's Prayer (10)**. Jesus instructed His followers to pray with **confidence (1)**, to ask for what they needed or wanted, to be reverent and respectful, and to remember whose will is most important (God's).

In the example of prayer Jesus gave in the sixth chapter of Matthew, He included food!

He said in verse 11, "Give us this day our daily bread."

God is interested in feeding the bodies of His people. David wrote in Psalms, "I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the **righteous (3) forsaken (2)** or his children

Memory Verse

Give us this day our daily bread. Matthew 6:11

Key Thought

Give thanks for your physical food because God provides it, but more importantly, ask Him to fill you up spiritually so you can get stronger and stronger in your heart!

Lesson Discussion

- Who provides the food you eat on a daily basis? Is it important that you thank God for being your provider in that way?
- Why can it be uncomfortable or embarrassing to pray for your food in public? How embarrassed do you think you are in comparison to the shame Jesus suffered when He died on the cross?
- What is the other kind of "bread" Jesus wants feed us? Can we ever "eat too much" in a spiritual sense?
- Name a few methods God uses to feed our spirits.

begging for bread." It's definitely comforting to know we He will take care of us if we follow Christ. God has given us this reassurance, so is it not important to pray before we eat the food He's provided?

The Bible records Jesus praying over the meal He fed the five thousand and the Passover supper He ate with His disciples.

It can often be uncomfortable or even embarrassing when we are in public and bow our heads to pray before a meal. However, it is a practice that pleases God and not one we should set aside! God is our provider, and if we ask Him to fill our bellies, we should also **faithfully (4)** give thanks that He answers that prayer. If you are not in the habit of praying before a meal, start today! And if you already pray before you eat, keep the habit going.

Do you think Jesus might have meant two things when He mentioned **daily bread (5)** in His prayer? Yes! Jesus was also talking about our daily **spiritual (8)** bread. More than once, Jesus taught His followers that He is the **"bread of life," (6)** and when satan tempted Him in the desert, Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

While God does care about filling our physical (12) bellies with food, He cares far more about filling our spiritual bellies.

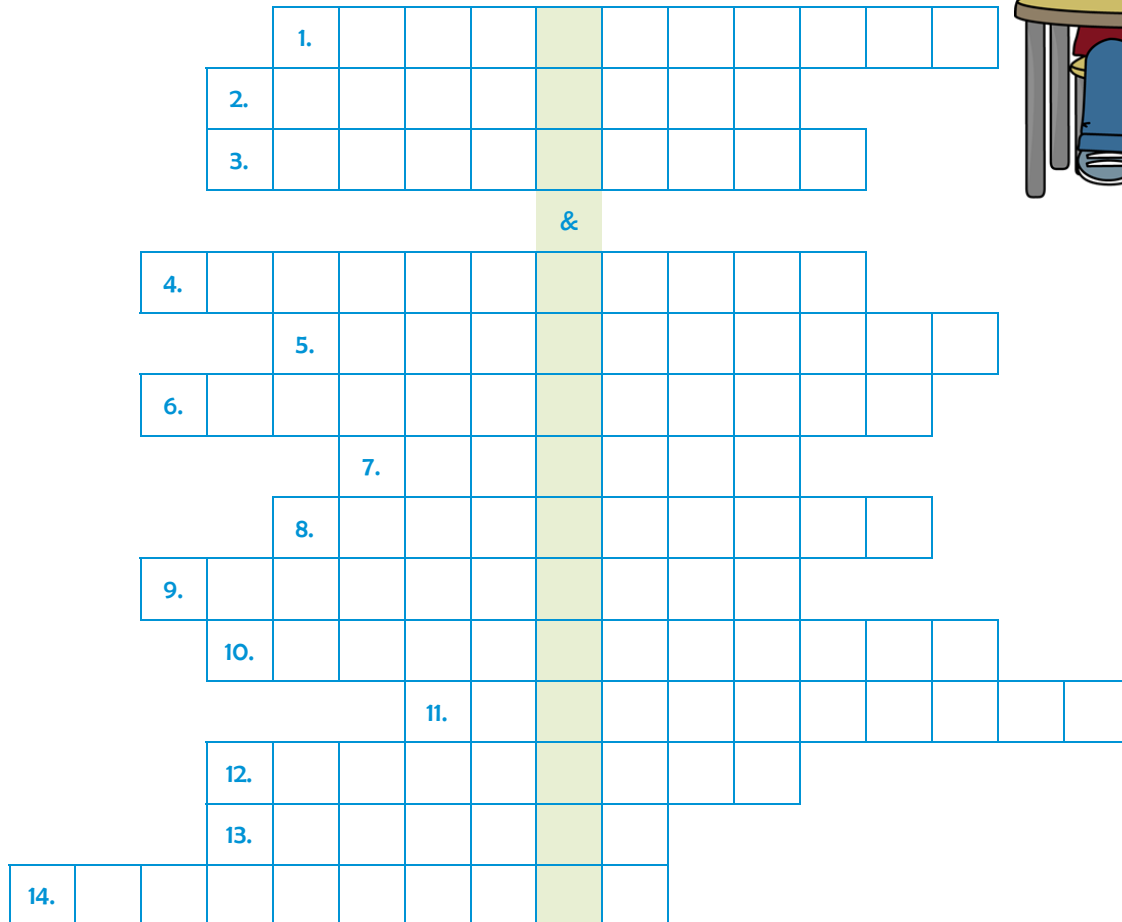
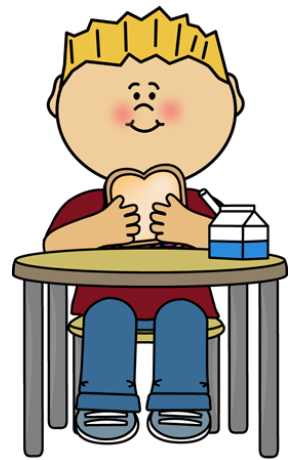
He wants us to rise up in the morning and ask Him to fill us with His goodness. We need God's **blessings (14)**--grace, peace, strength, love, etc.--to be successful throughout our day. Have you ever woken up and rolled out of bed, then quickly found out that you just didn't have it in you to be kind, **loving (13)**, or patient with the people around you? It happens, doesn't it? By asking God for our "daily bread," we are asking Him to fill us with everything we need to be strong **Christians (11)** for the day.

There is more than one way God can fill us with our daily bread. The most important is personal **devotions (9)**. Read the Bible and pray every day. God also uses **church (7)** to fill us up. Don't skip church just because you don't feel like going, are too tired, or have other things to do--it is where we eat some of our best spiritual meals!

When you pray, on top of everything you've already learned, thank Jesus for the bread that fills your stomach but also be faithful to ask Him to fill your spiritual belly. You can never spiritually "overeat!" ■

SEARCH THE LESSON!

You might have noticed some numbers in parenthesis after key words as you read through the lesson. Go back and find the word or words (there are up to three in some cases!) in the lesson and fit them into the puzzle below to find out how God wants you



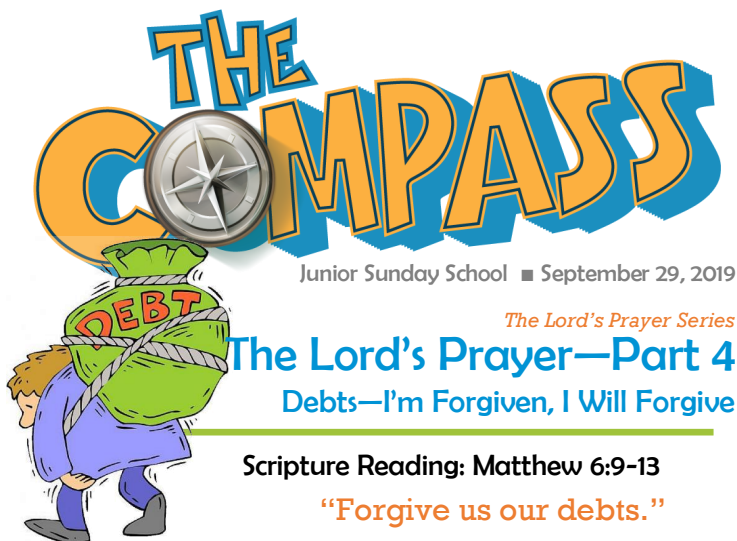
GOD'S MENU

Teachers: Bring a few take-out menus to class and pass them around for the children to see. Fill in the "menu" below with what God wants to fill us and each one's "price." (Brainstorm ideas such as "Bread of Life" and "Living Water," and "The Blood of Jesus" or "Priceless.")



<i>Appetizers</i>	<i>From the Grill</i>
<i>Main Courses</i>	<i>Drinks</i>
<i>Soups and Salads</i>	<i>Desserts</i>

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What is a debt? It is something, usually money, that is owed to another person. When a person buys a house, car, or even a mattress, he/she often gets a loan, or borrows money, to make their purchase. Then, they have debt and have to spend years--sometimes thirty years!--paying back what they owe. You aren't old enough to have bought any of those things yet, but did you know that *you* owe a debt already?

Jesus died on the cross to save our souls. Without Him, we would all be on the road to eternal torment.

He paid a high price to save us from hell, and He did it because of how much He loves us!

Memory Verse

And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.

Matthew 6:12

Key Thought

Jesus paid a high price to
save us and forgives us
freely when we hurt Him.

It is our job to forgive
others freely as Jesus
forgives us, and by doing
that, we will be able to
pay back a little of the
debt we owe!

Lesson Discussion

- Define the word debt. What are some things people buy that cause them to be in debt?
- How are we in debt to Jesus? What price did He pay for our salvation?

- Is it possible to please God if we don't forgive those who hurt us?
- Can we ever completely repay the debt we owe to Jesus? What can we do to repay a small part of it?

and we need to pay Him back for everything He paid to save us! Every person born is in debt to the Savior.

In the last part of His prayer, Jesus instructed that we should say in our prayers, "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." Jesus knew when He was teaching this that He would pay the ultimate price to save His creation. He taught us to ask Him for forgiveness for everything we've done wrong. That way, everything He paid to save us wouldn't go to waste. More than anything, Jesus wants to forgive us of our sins!

The second part of that phrase tells us to do something a *little harder* than asking Jesus to forgive us.

We also need to forgive those who owe something to us.

Sometimes, other people will act in ways that can hurt us or cause us trouble. It can be so hard to have a forgiving heart when that happens. We want to feel justified in our anger or annoyance because we are in the right! Has that ever happened to you? Maybe your sibling took a toy you were using to play without asking, or perhaps your teacher embarrassed you in front of the entire class. *He sure owes me an apology for taking my stuff without asking*, you might think to yourself. *Mrs. Jones was so wrong to embarrass me that way! She owes me some extra credit for how she's treated me!* The devil wants us to believe that it's okay for us to stew in our anger and hurt. However, Jesus instructed us that we are required to forgive those who owe us something--that means forgiving your brother for stealing your toy or your teacher for embarrassing you.

Think about how much Jesus paid to erase all of the sins and hurts you cause Him! We mess up sometimes and do things that are not pleasing to God--His heart is hurt and sad when we sin against Him. But if we come back and ask forgiveness, He willingly erases our debt.

If God is that generous in forgiving the enormous debt we owe to Him, shouldn't we be just as generous and willing to forgive the little debts that other people owe us?

We will never totally repay the debt we owe God, but by living a life that pleases Him and being willing to forgive others, we can pay it back a little at a time and fill God's heart with joy! ■



Can you remember the entire Lord's Prayer? Use the following words to fill in the blank and complete the prayer!

Our _____ which art in heaven, _____ be thy name. Thy _____ come. Thy will be done in _____, as it is in _____. Give us this _____ our daily _____. And _____ us our _____, as we forgive our _____. And lead us not into _____, but _____ us from _____. For thine is the kingdom, and the _____, and the _____, for ever. _____.

- Amen
- Bread
- Day
- Debt
- Debtors
- Deliver

- Earth
- Evil
- Father
- Forgive
- Glory
- Hallowed

- Heaven
- Kingdom
- Power
- Temptation

THE UNFORGIVING DEBTOR

Pick students from the class to play the following roles and act out the parable of the Unforgiving Debtor that Jesus told in the 18th chapter of Matthew: **Narrator, King, Servant, Fellow-servant**

Narrator: Peter asked Jesus how often he needed to forgive a person who sinned against him. "Seven times?" Peter asked. Jesus answered, "Not seven times, but seventy times seven!" Jesus then told the story of a servant who owed the king a lot of money.

King: I will take account of all the money that is owed me. You, servant, owe me ten thousand talents and you have not paid! In order to pay your debt, I will sell you and your family into slavery.

Servant: [Falls before the king] Oh, powerful king! Please have patience with me! I promise I will pay all the money I owe you if you will only give me a little more time.

Narrator: The king's heart was moved with compassion for the servant.

King: Very well. I will forgive you your entire debt, and you may go free!

Servant: Oh, thank you, great king. Thank you!

Narrator: The servant went on his way, and as he

walked along, met with a fellow-servant who owed him one hundred pence.

Servant: [Grabs

fellow-servant by the throat] Hey, you owe me one hundred pence! Pay me what you owe right now!

Fellow-servant: Oh, good sir, have patience with me, I beg you. I promise I will pay you what I owe. I just need a few more days!

Narrator: The servant's heart remained hard, and he cast the fellow-servant into prison until he could pay his debt. When the people around saw what the servant had done, they were sorry and told the king. The king immediately called the servant back.

King: You are a wicked servant. I forgave you a great debt because you asked me to do so. Shouldn't you have the same compassion on your fellow servant who only owed you a little bit? You should have had pity on him and extended forgiveness because I forgave you!

Narrator: The king's heart was so angry that he delivered the servant to the tormentors until his debt could be repaid. Jesus finished His story and said, "This is what will happen if you do not forgive other people the wrongs they commit against you."

