

Middle School Sunday School Lessons by



Year 3: Session 6 – Jesus and the Disciples

Class 16: Luke 11:1-13 – Jesus teaches about receiving the Holy Spirit

CONCEPTS that will be covered in the lesson

- Brief introduction to the disciples and what it meant to be a disciple in 1st century Israel
- Highlight the gift that God will give that Jesus is teaching his disciples to ask for in prayer.
- Analyze and then practice prayer using components of the Lord's Prayer

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Movie clip (from rfour.org)
- TV and equipment needed to play movie clip
- Handout for each person in the class (located at the end of this lesson)
- Writing utensil

THE LESSON

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING QUESTION

- For the opening question for today's class, one of the teachers will ask the question and then to give you some time to think of an answer; the teacher asking the question will answer first.
- Once the teacher answers the question, we'll go around the circle.
- When it's your turn, start with your name and then answer the question to the best of your ability.
- Here's this week's question: *What's something that you've asked for and have not/did not receive? And, if you're willing, also share why you did you not receive it...*

INTRO

- So we're starting a new session today about Jesus and his disciples
- Jesus was not the only teacher in his time. There were many teachers in his time and place.
- And, most of those teachers had disciples – in the Gospel of John, we learn that even John the Baptist had disciples.
- The idea of being a disciple in Jesus' time was that you would learn from your teacher (or "rabbi") by following the teacher, listening to the teacher, asking the teacher questions and doing what the teacher did.
- Like an apprenticeship.
- And, if you were a really good disciple, then you could go on to become your own teacher/rabbi
- Remember the story of Elijah being taken up in a chariot of fire? Elisha, his student, took Elijah's place after Elijah left. That's sort of how it worked in Jesus' time, too.

- Thinking of Jesus as a teacher, one of the things to think about is “What did Jesus teach his disciples?” And that’s what we’ll be talking about in this session.

TRANSITION TO MOVIE CLIP

- One of the most important things that Jesus taught his disciples was about prayer.
- We’re going to look at one of those passages now.
- But before we do, we’re going to have a blast from our past childhood days and watch a good ol’ Sesame Street Cookie Monster clip!

WATCH VIDEO CLIP

ASK

- What does Cookie Monster ask for? (all sorts of things...eventually he asks if he can have a cookie)
- What is the initial answer to his question about having a cookie? (No)
- What is Cookie Monster’s response? (Disappointment – but more importantly...he asks ANOTHER question ... WHHHHHHYYYYYYY!?)
- Because Cookie Monster asks this question of why, what does he learn? (That he asked for too little – he should’ve asked for ALL of the cookies)

TRANSITION TO SCRIPTURE

- In today’s scripture story, Jesus talks to his disciples about prayer.
- What you might notice is that prayer seems to involve a lot of asking
- In that asking, there are certain things in particular that Jesus tells his disciples to ask for.
- Let’s see what those things are.

READ Luke 11:1-13 (*recommend class reads it out loud; one person per verse*)

1 He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." **2** He said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. **3** Give us each day our daily bread. **4** And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial." **5** And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, "Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; **6** for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him." **7** And he answers from within, "Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything." **8** I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. **9** "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. **10** For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. **11** Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? **12** Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? **13** If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

ASK (*answers are in parenthesis*)

- What is Jesus doing at the start of the story? (Praying)
- And what question does that prompt from the disciples? (how to pray)
- Do you recognize the first thing that Jesus teaches them? (yes -- what we now call the “Lord’s prayer.”)

- What do you think that the story that Jesus tells about the neighbor asking over and over again teach the disciples about prayer? (To not be worried about “annoying” God with what we talk to God about. That we can keep bringing stuff up)
- Verse 13 -- What does Jesus tell the disciples that God will give them if they keep asking for it? (The Holy Spirit)

TELL

- We’re mostly going to talk about the Lord’s Prayer today, but I want to pause, first, and reiterate that what Jesus is telling his disciples to mostly ask for in prayer is for God’s Holy Spirit. In other words, Jesus is telling them to invite God’s presence to be in every aspect of their lives.
- The Lord’s Prayer, then, can be considered sort of an outline for how Jesus is teaching the disciples to invite God’s presence into the different parts of their lives.
- So, as we talk about the Lord’s Prayer today, think of it from two different perspectives (and there’s no reason to believe that these two perspectives are in disagreement/mutually exclusive).
 1. The Lord’s Prayer is a mighty fine prayer to pray as it is. No changes or adjustments are needed.
 2. The Lord’s Prayer is a model that incorporates a number of components of prayer that we can think of as an outline to help us learn how to pray on our own.
- We’re going to look at those components now.

HAND OUT the Hand-out Sheet

EXPLAIN the COMPONENTS

- *Our Father (Intro/who are you addressing?)* –
 - Prayer starts just like any other conversation: We address the person – we say their name or title.
 - I usually say “Hi God” or “Hello God” in my own prayers.
 - When praying for a group, I usually go more formal and say, “Dear God”
- *Hallowed be your name (praise – telling God that God’s doing a good job)*
 - When praying, it’s helpful for us to say things that we think God is doing well / is good at / that we appreciate about God.
 - Why would we do this?
 - Because it helps us remember / practice looking at how God is at work.
 - It also helps us to give God credit when we otherwise might not.
 - Finally, prayer can often become a list of “Give me this, give me that.” This is the part where we remember what we’ve already received.
- *v10: Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven (inviting God into you, into your life).*
 - The Kingdom of God is wherever God is allowed to be king. God will not force God’s kingdom upon us, so we have to invite God’s kingdom into our lives.
 - One way we can invite God in to our lives is by sharing a problem we’re facing / are worried about and then telling God, “I would like your help / wisdom with dealing with this problem. Help me to know your will.
- *v11: Give us this day our daily bread (petitioning/asking)*
 - We can take this request to be literal (give us cookies!)
 - We can also understand this request to be about anything that we think we want or need.
- *v12: Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors (Subset of petitioning.)*

- This line reminds us to ask God for forgiveness/ remove obstacles that are between God and you and between you and others
- Forgiveness cannot be overrated. It's a freeing exercise. But difficult. That's why we need to experience it/receive it from God before we can forgive others.
- v13: *Do not bring us to a time of trial (Surrender.)*
 - This line assumes that we are letting God lead (or bring) us to a destination.
 - And if that is the case, then sometimes, God may lead us somewhere that will be difficult for us. For instance, in the Garden of Gethsemane before Jesus is arrested, he is praying. And he prays, "Take this cup from me." But God doesn't take the cup away, and so, Jesus is arrested and then crucified. But because Jesus follows God's way, then resurrection is experienced. But that's a tough road – which is why Jesus is basically saying, "Don't beg for a time of trial."

TELL

- Now that we've talked about the components of the Lord's Prayer, let's do the matching activity that's listed on the Handout that we were just looking at/talking about.

READ the Instructions on the HANDOUT Sheet

DO the Handout Sheet activity

ASK

- So for line a, what components did you add?
- [Ask same question for lines b,c,d,e,and f.]

TELL (if there's time...)

- Using what we've talked about and using the components on this handout as an outline, what we're going to do next is individually write out the Lord's prayer using our own language (not even necessarily line for line, but trying to incorporate the five components we've talked about).
- Then, after about 5 to 10 minutes of writing, we'll discuss our experience and maybe even share some of our writing with each other.

DO WRITING ACTIVITY of Lord's Prayer

ASK/TELL

- Were there certain parts that were harder to write/think about than other parts?
- What parts did you find to be easier? Harder?
- Is anyone willing to read their prayer?

DO Sharing

- Is anyone willing to read their prayer as the closing prayer?

CLOSING PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer HANDOUT

INSTRUCTIONS: Each line of the Lord's Prayer is represented below (by letter). Match each line with one (or more) of the components listed below by writing the numbers next to the letters. (NOTE: This handout uses the Lord's Prayer that is found in Matthew 6, which is the version most churches, including ours, use in worship)

- a) "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
- b) Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
- c) Give us this day our daily bread.
- d) And forgive us our debts (sins), as we forgive our debtors (those who sin against us).
- e) And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from evil. "
- f) *[For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]**

Components of prayer used in the Lord's Prayer

Put the number of the component that you think best describes each line above or next to the lines above. Feel free to put more than one number next to a verse.

1. Invitation (invite God into you and your life)
2. Praise (tell God what you think God is doing well)
3. Introduction (address who you are speaking to)
4. Surrender (admitting you can't do it yourself; admitting there's a higher power)
5. Petitioning (asking for help)

*FYI: This line is not in the scripture passage that we read.