

The Prayer Class

Purpose: *To encourage greater participation and joy in prayer*

The Prayer Class meets in God's Throne Room 24/7

In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence Ephesians 3:12.

Teacher: Abe Funk

Date: May 2, 2024

Lesson: *Pray Like a Child*

Welcome to The Prayer Class:

Thank you, Jesus, for your invitation to come to you as your children, and that is what we are, children of God. Help us in our praying to pray like children in simple faith and trust. Amen!

Bible Reading: Luke 18:15-17

People were also bringing babies to Jesus to have him touch them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

Key Verse: *...the kingdom of God belongs to such as these 16.*

Background and Lesson:

We have a very large used store that looks and feels like a supermarket. It's a charity that does good work with its profits all over the world, so we enjoy it for that reason but also for all the treasures we find, especially in the book section where I look for resources. Recently I spotted this one, *A Child's Book of Prayers*. Wow, I thought, that would make a great lesson. Here's one prayer from the book; *Sometimes I feel happy because we had a good time. Then it's good to say thank you to God. At other times I feel lonely, angry, or sorry. God wants us to tell him about those feelings, too, Amen.* As adults we have a little more trouble expressing our feelings to God, but children are not so inhibited, and that's refreshing, and that is what I want to convey in this lesson.

In my ministry I have had many opportunities to pray with children to invite Jesus to come into their lives. What a great privilege to do that. Many adult Christians point to a time in their childhood when they invited Jesus to be their Savior. I was 12 years old and have spent most of my life following and serving Jesus. I am very grateful now for the life God has helped me live. I am very blessed!

Jesus had much to say about children and faith. *I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven* Matthew 18:3-4. Children show us the way to Jesus, how to receive him and how to pray. Their faith is simple and genuine. They are not as complicated as we adults often become. We have serious issues to deal with. Bolu in my book prayed, *Dear Jesus, please help me not to feel grouchy because it makes me feel bad. Amen.* Grace prayed, *Dear God, you made*

the thunder. It's like when I'm angry; You made things just like our feelings. So, you know how I feel. Help me not to be angry. Amen. Trusting Jesus is easy and real for children. Jesus also said, *...whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me* Matthew 18:5.

When Zoom was still a new way to communicate, I was in a meeting with a group of leaders when we were hacked by someone abusing a child. How horrible that sexual abuse industry is harming so many innocent children. We must pray against that horrible evil activity. Jesus gave this warning about hurting children. *But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea* Matthew 18:6.

Children pray naturally about everything; pets, things they find in nature, and their feelings. Some adult Christians think God is too busy with big issues like running the universe and dealing with wars, for them to tell him about the little things bothering them. The trouble with little things, they can become big things if left unattended. The Songwriter put it this way; *He's big enough to rule this mighty universe, yet small enough to live within my heart.*

Jesus sums up his thoughts and feelings about children. *At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure"* Matthew 11:25-26.

Prayer is both profound and simple as a child's prayer. In my Easter series I frequently quoted theologians. Now I am quoting children. Both give us valuable lessons on prayer. Prayer is big and deep enough for a lifetime of learning, yet simple enough for child to grasp and practise. What is tragic though, if we have been believers for many years but have not advanced beyond a child's prayer. I had a cartoon at one time with the title, *A Modern Saint Wrestles with the Powers of Darkness.* *"Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray thee Lord..."* Peter's prayer for us is to *...grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen* 2 Peter 3:18.

Quote: *A child will lead them* Isaiah 11:6.

Think About This:

What have you learned about children praying that may refresh your pray experience?

A Prayer for You:

God, be in my head and in my understanding; God be in my eyes and in my looking; God be in my mouth and in my speaking; God be in my heart and in my thinking. Amen. –Maria Ware

My Notes and what To Pray for:

Add your prayer requests here: yourself, family, church family, missionaries, & leaders in government

Note: All Scriptures are from the NIV Bible unless otherwise indicated

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful Colossians 4:2

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