

Fathers' Studies: Family Responsibilities

"...that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

LESSON 49 OF 52

THE FATHER WHO PRAYS

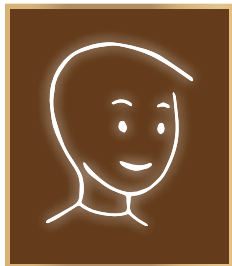
LESSON AIM: To show fathers that prayer is important.

KEY VERSE:

1. **PHILIPPIANS 4:6** Even the best father cannot give his family everything they need. Don't _____ but _____ to God, asking Him for what you need.
2. **EZRA 8:21** Ezra prayed that God would keep him and his family and all the families under his care safe as they _____.
3. **GENESIS 26:23-25** When Isaac moved to a new home, the first thing he built was an _____ where he could call on _____.
4. **JOB 1:5** Job would get up early in the morning to seek God's forgiveness for his children. He brought to God _____ for each child.
5. **EPHESIANS 6:18** When should you pray? _____
What should you pray for? _____

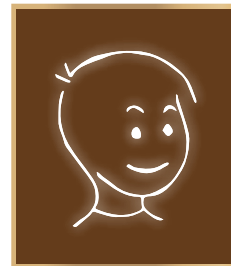
PERSONAL NOTES:

For You To Do



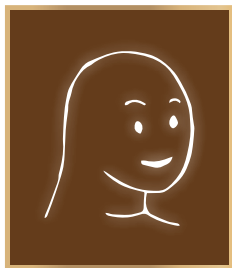
By Yourself

Put a picture of each member of your family in your Bible. Take time each morning to pray for your family members by name.



With Your Children

Pray for them, pray with them as a group, and pray with each one separately. Do this regularly.



With Your Wife

Prayer is one of the best ways for making two people feel close. Spend some time in prayer with her every day, just the two of you.

THE FATHER WHO PRAYS

LESSON 49 OF 52

It has been said that the family who prays together stays together. As leader of the family, the father must be the leader in prayer. Children may learn to pray at Mother's knee. But a father on his knees provides a powerful spiritual force for his family.

Some of Jesus' disciples may have been fathers. When they saw how much power Jesus received from prayer, they asked Him to teach them to pray. Jesus gave them what we now call The Lord's Prayer. It is found in Matthew 6:9-13.

PRAISE GOD AND THANK HIM. "Our Father in heaven, Your name is holy...." When you praise God, you will keep fresh in your mind what God is really like. If you forget what God is like, you will forget how He wants you to live. Then you will lose your spiritual power.

ASK FOR WHAT YOU NEED. "Give us the bread we need today...." When you ask God to meet your needs and really believe that He will, then you need not worry. Jesus said that when you worry, it shows that you do not really trust God (Matthew 6:25-34).

CONFESS YOUR SINS AND ASK FOR FORGIVENESS. "Forgive us our sins...." When you do not do something good that you know you should, that is sin, James 4:17 tells us. This happens to everyone. Only Jesus lived a perfect life, doing everything that He knew He should. Because you sin often, you must receive forgiveness often.

ASK FOR SPIRITUAL PROTECTION. "Do not let us be tempted, but keep us from sin." Temptation comes from Satan. But he can tempt you only if God allows him to. God has promised to protect you and make a way to keep you from sinning when you are tempted. (1 Corinthians 10:13).

RESPECT GOD AS KING. "You have power and shining greatness forever...." God has control over everything in earth and in heaven. When you let God take charge of what is really His, then you have peace in your heart.

DO NOT WORRY. LEARN TO PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING. GIVE THANKS TO GOD AS YOU ASK HIM FOR WHAT YOU NEED. (PHILIPPIANS 4:6)

Prayer brings power.

When you pray, use ACTS:

- Ask for what you need
- Confess your sins
- Thank God for what He has done
- Submit to God's will

WINDOW TO LIFE

As Jack travelled across a frozen lake, he saw wolves attacking four deer who could not run in the deep snow. One by one the deer were pulled down. Their throats were torn open, and they bled to death.

The picture stayed with Jack all day. When he came home, in his mind he saw his children as deer. He knew that the wolves of sin and evil wanted to get into his home and destroy them. That evening Jack decided to spend more time talking with his children. He would also spend more time in prayer for them to protect them from the wolves.

