

# Prayer & Praise



# Class Section 1: Our Relationship with the Lord

We should talk to Jesus as we would to our best friend. In a good friendship, one person doesn't do all the talking! So we need to be sure to not only talk to Him, but most importantly, listen to Him.

If you love Jesus, then He will certainly "draw close unto you" when you call out to Him.

*Psalm 145:18—The Lord is near to all who call upon Him.*

*James 4:8 – Draw close to God and He will draw close to you.*

The Lord loves each of us very much and promises to be with us.

*Hebrews 13:5b—For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."*

*Isaiah 54:10—"For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but My kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace be removed," says the Lord, who has mercy on you.*



## Class Section 2: The Prayer Habit

### \* The good habit of prayer

*Luke 18:1—Men always ought to pray and not lose heart.*

*1 Chronicles 16:11—Seek the Lord and His strength; seek His face evermore!*

*1 Thessalonians 5:17—Pray without ceasing.*



It's a good start if you pray before you eat and before you travel and before you go to bed and upon waking up.

*Proverbs 3:6—In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.*

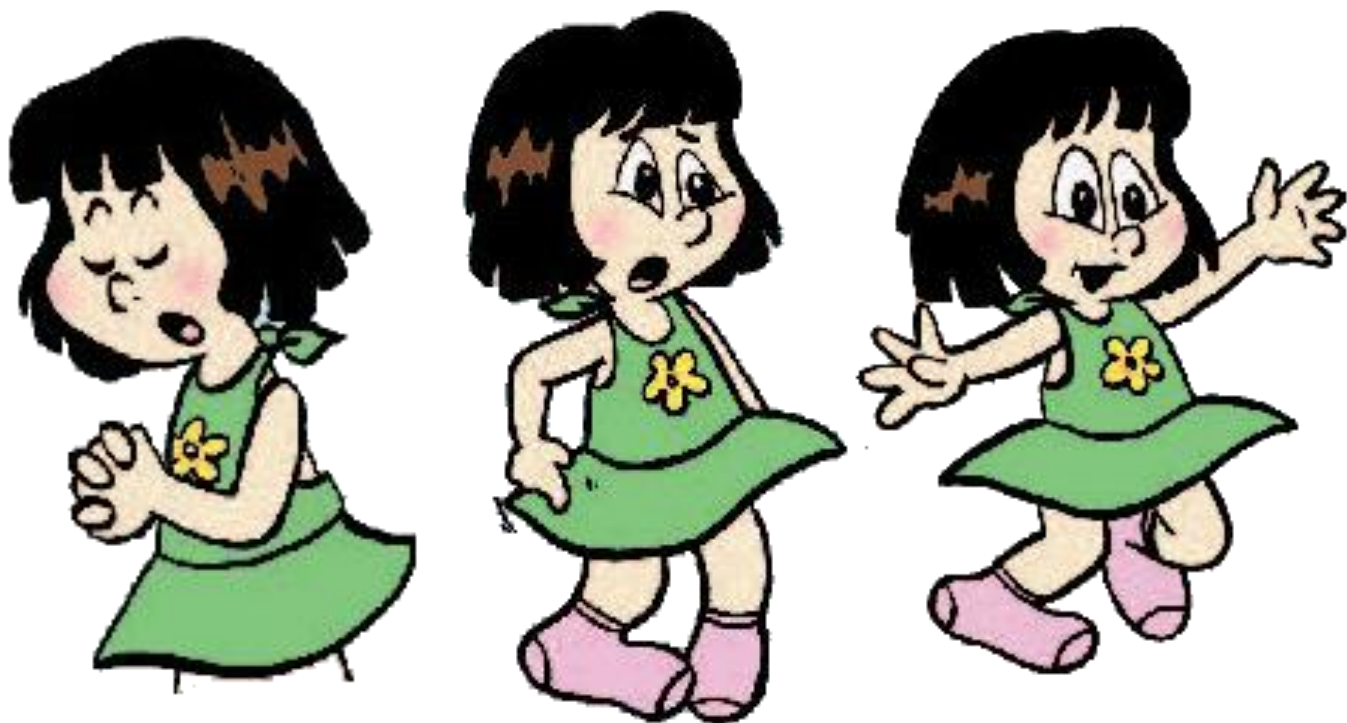
One of the most important phrases we could use is, "Let's stop and pray."

To form a good habit takes a lot of conscious effort over a period of time. It also usually involves a lot of forgetting and some remembering. Then, finally we start remembering more than we forget!



## \* Waiting for the Lord to work

We can't always see how the Lord is going to answer prayer, and we can't always see why He may delay answering. Whatever happens, we need to remember that the Lord will never fail. He will bring what He knows is best to pass. Sometimes when we pray He answers with a "yes"; sometimes with a "no"; and sometimes with a "wait"!



Even if we can't always see with our eyes what the Lord is doing, He's promised to answer prayer.

*Matthew 7:7—Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.*

*Mark 11:24—Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.*

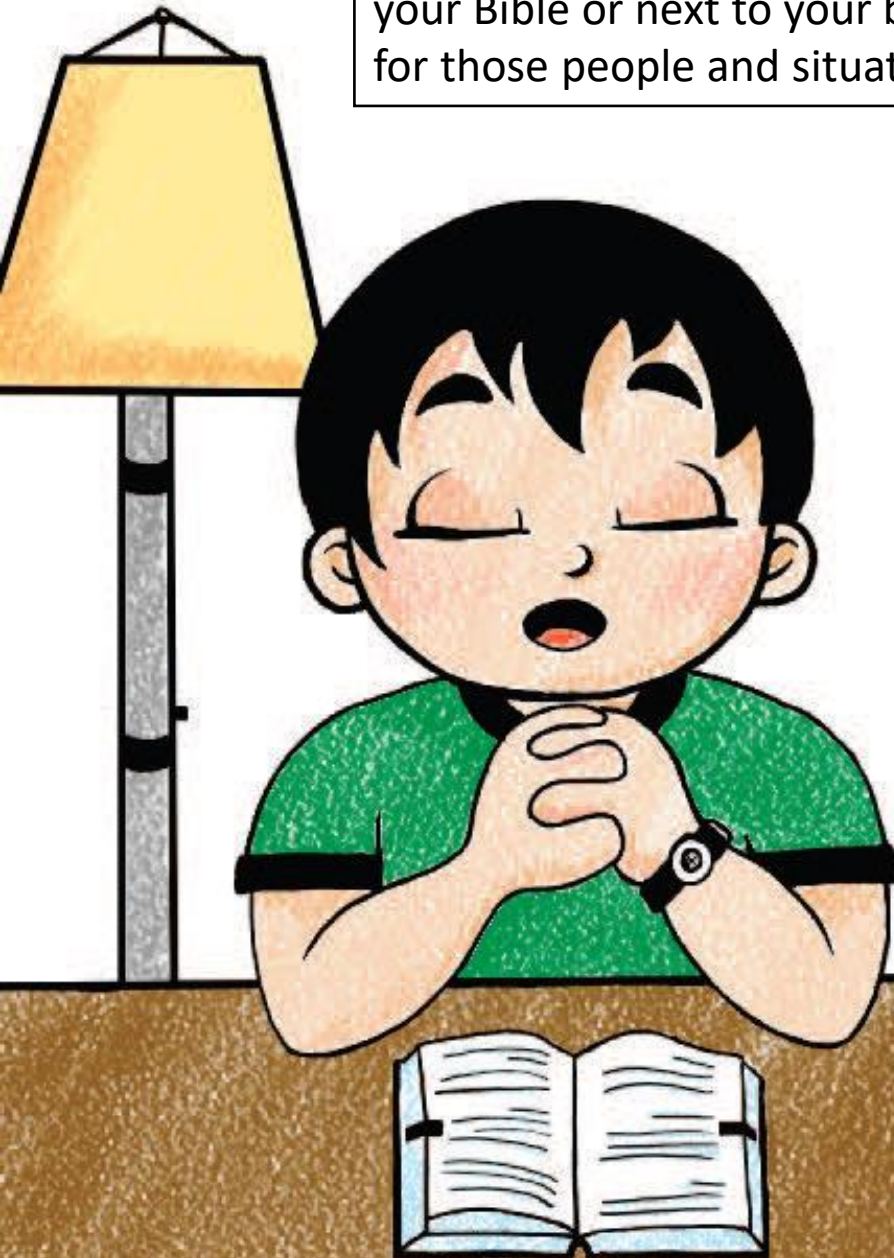
## \* The importance of praying for others

*1 Samuel 12:23a—I would never stop praying for you. If I stopped praying for you, I would be sinning against the Lord.*

*Romans 15:30—Now I beg you, brethren, ... that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me.*

*James 5:16 – Pray for each other that you may be healed.*

**For you to do:** Write up a prayer list and keep it in your Bible or next to your bed to remind you to pray for those people and situations.



## Class Section 3: Praise

### \* The importance of thanking and praising the Lord

*1 Thessalonians 5:18—In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

*Psalms 34:1—I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.*

*Psalms 118:21—I will praise You, for You have answered me.*

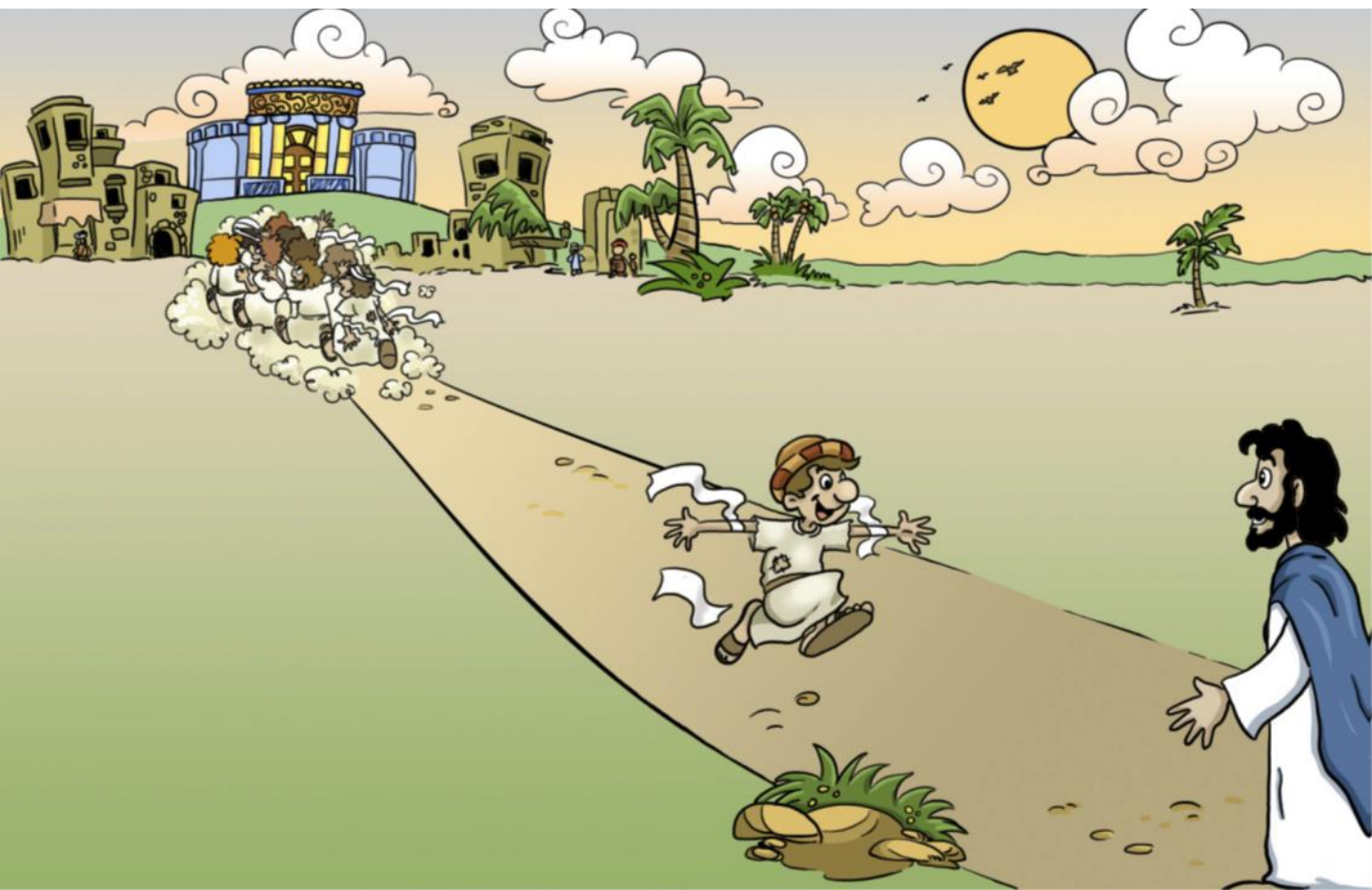


The Lord certainly doesn't mind our taking all that He has for us, but in return He looks for our thanks and appreciation. He wants us to acknowledge that we are pleased with all the gifts that He has given us and how He takes care of us so well! He delights in taking care of us, but part of His pleasure is receiving our gratitude.

## The story of the leper who returned to praise God

*Luke 17:12-19—As Jesus entered a village there, ten men with leprosy stood at a distance, crying out, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” He looked at them and said, “Go show yourselves to the priests.” (According to the custom of the Jews, after a leper had been healed, he was to present himself to the priest to verify his healing.) And as they went, they were cleansed of their leprosy.*

*One of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? “Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?” And He said to him, “Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.”*





## \* Taking time to say "thank you" to Jesus

Often we keep asking for our needs, but then we almost get too busy gathering up all our blessings that we don't take time to thank Him for them!

A good relationship also needs lots of appreciation and thankfulness and not taking the other for granted. We need to thank the Lord for what He gives us and does for us.

### Here are some ideas of what to do:

- Sing a song of praise to the Lord.
- Close your eyes and thank Him for specific blessings.
- Read a poem of thanks.
- Write a written "praise."



## The banquet

There was once a king in Spain called Alfonso XII. Now it came to the ears of this king that the pages at his court forgot to ask God's blessing on their daily meals, and he determined to rebuke them.

The king invited them to a banquet that they all attended. The table was spread with every kind of good thing, and the boys ate with evident



relish; but none of them remembered to ask God's blessing on the food.

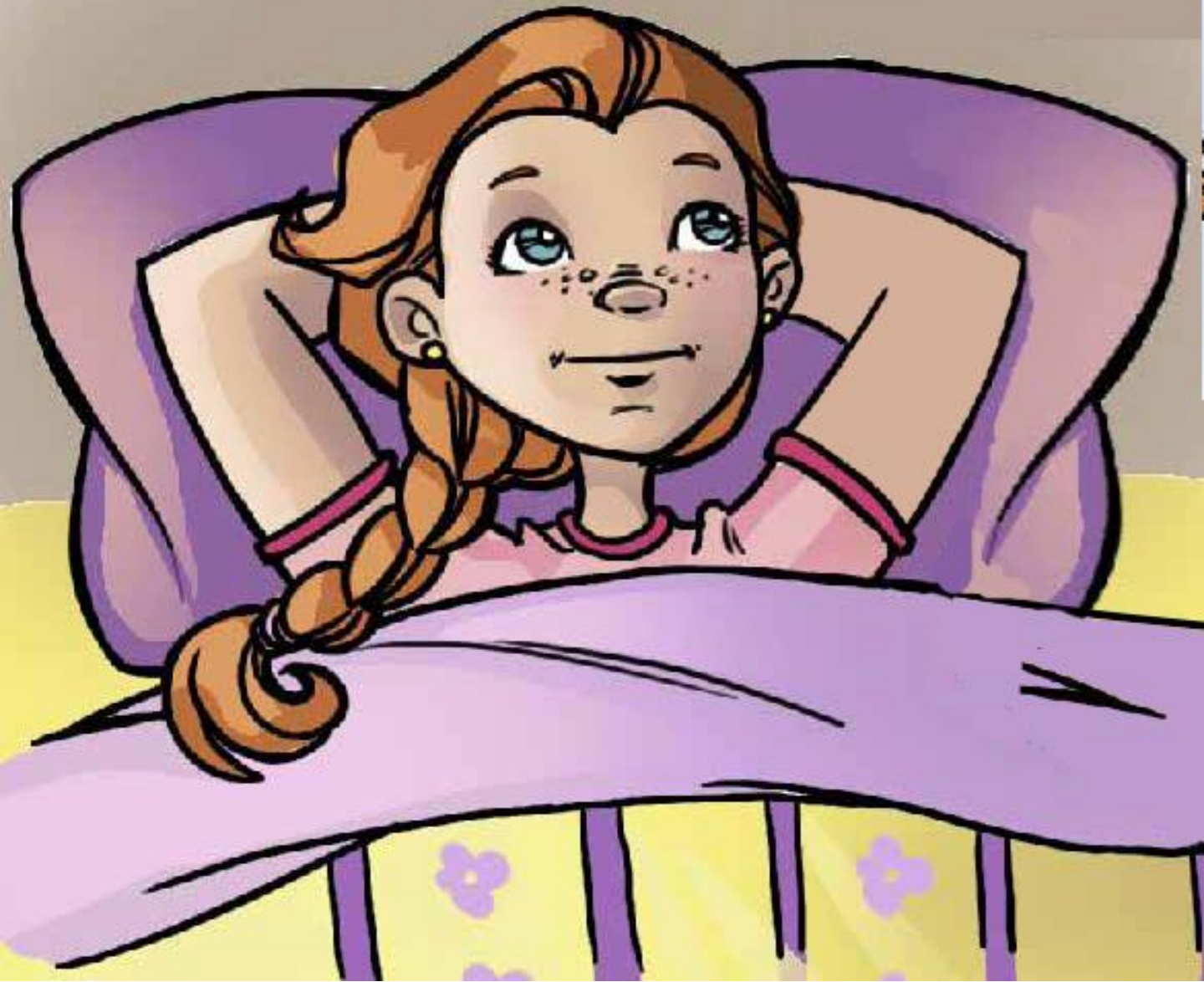
During the feast a beggar entered, dirty and ill-clad. He seated himself at the royal table and ate and drank to his heart's content. At first the pages were amazed, and they expected that the king would order him away. But King Alfonso said never a word.

When the beggar had finished, he rose and left without a word of



thanks. Then the boys could keep silence no longer. "What a despicably mean fellow!" they cried.

But the king silenced them, and in clear, calm tones he said, "Boys, bolder and more audacious than this beggar have you all been. Every day you sit down to a table supplied by the bounty of your Heavenly Father, yet you ask not His blessing nor express to Him your gratitude."



## **I am Here to Help**

*From Jesus with Love*

I care about how you feel. I care about what you think. I care about the difficulties that you face. I care about your needs. I care about your struggles. There is not one detail of your life that does not concern Me, and I am here to help.



Every time you look up to Me, I am there. I hear your prayers, and My heart is moved with compassion. I never get tired of listening to you. I am never distant. I am never too tired or too busy for you. I never turn away. I never sleep. I never hang a “Do Not Disturb” sign on My door. I always hear and answer your prayers. Sometimes I don’t answer in the way you ask Me to or think I should, and sometimes you don’t see the answer immediately, but I always hear and I always answer.