

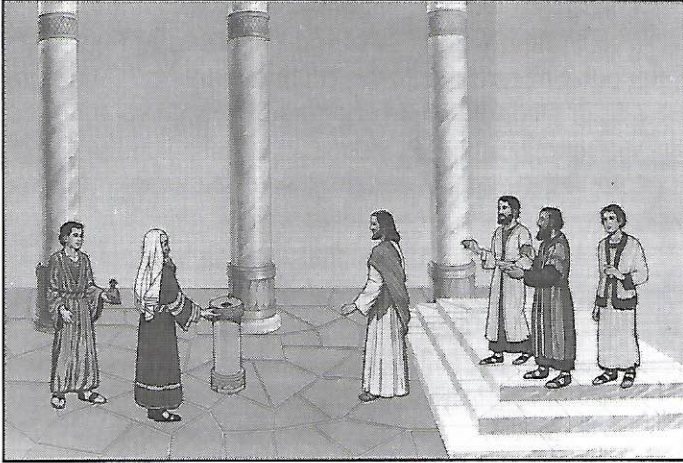
# Jesus Teaches Us How to Pray

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven." Matthew 6:10

**SCRIPTURES:** Matthew 6:1-16; Luke 11:1-13

**AIM:** To teach about the aspects and elements of prayer.

**THE BIBLE IN LIVING SOUND:** Volume 5, Tape 48, Story 288



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John and Melissa were having a big argument. They were trying to decide who God loved the most.

"I know God likes me the best," said Melissa. "I had a whole dollar bill I'd been saving and I put it in the offering."

"Yes, you did," said John. "And you made sure everyone saw you put it in the offering. Our teacher said you're not supposed to brag about what you give."

"Well, you're always bragging about how much longer you can pray than I can when we go to bed at night," said Melissa to her brother. "And all you do is say the same thing over and over."

"Children, children!" said Mother, having heard the children arguing. "I think we need to talk. I wonder what God thinks about this argument."

"When Jesus lived on earth He had a lot to say about prayer and about how we should pray," Mother explained. "But He wasn't very happy with the hypocrites, who did a lot of praying."

"Hypocrites are people who pretend they are good when they really aren't," John interrupted.

"That's right," said Mother. "When we pray, we shouldn't be hypocrites. We are talking to God and should mean what we say."

"And we shouldn't show off to others making them think we are better because we pray," added Melissa.

"Right," said Mother. "Sometimes the Pharisees, who were very religious, would stand on the street corners so everyone could see them pray. God knew their hearts and that they were just trying to show off. But their reasons for praying were wrong."

"Is it wrong to pray for the same thing over and over like John does?" Melissa asked.

"Not if John means what he says," Mother said.

"The disciples of Jesus wanted to learn how to pray, they asked Jesus, 'Will you please teach us how to pray?'"

"Jesus taught them how to pray. It can help us too," said Mother. "This is what He said:

'Our Father in heaven, we honor Your holy name' ("That means God is like a loving father and we should love and respect Him," Mother explained). 'We ask that Your Kingdom come and may Your will be done here on earth, just as it is in heaven.' ("When we say 'Your will be done,' we are wanting what God wants for our lives, not just what we want," said Mother.)

"Then Jesus continued: 'Give us this day our food. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us.'"

"I know what that means," said John. "God won't forgive us if we don't forgive others."

"One of the last things Jesus said in His prayer was, 'Don't bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'"

"The evil one is Satan!" said Melissa.

"Yes, Satan is the evil one who wants us to do wrong," said Mother. "But God is always there to help us do right and He is stronger than Satan."

When Mother finished talking about the Lord's Prayer, she asked, "Did our little talk help you understand how we should pray?"

"Yes," said John. "When I pray I shouldn't be thinking about Melissa; I should be thinking about God."

"And I shouldn't be thinking about John, I should be thinking about God," said Melissa.

"I think you both learned something about prayer," said Mother.