

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

GROWING THROUGH PRAYER

Sunday School Lesson For
October 22, 1950

Memory Selection: "I tell you, ask, and it will be given you; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you."—Luke 11: 9.

Lesson Text: Matthew 5: 9-13;
Luke 11: 9-13; Philippians 1: 3-11.

Continuing our studies based on the general theme, "Growing In Christian Living," our lesson for this week implies that the Christian can "grow" through prayer. Clement of Alexandria has given us an excellent definition of prayer, when he declared, "Prayer is conversation with God."

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave his hearers many directions for living as citizens of the Kingdom and among them, he tells them how to pray. While practically all Christians have memorized the words of what we call "the Lord's Prayer," we do not believe it was Jesus' idea that this prayer was to be used word-for-word, but as a "pattern" for our conversation with God.

This prayer reveals what Jesus taught about the fatherhood of God when he began it, saying, "Our Father." He then goes on to summarize what God's children should ask of their Heavenly Father.

First, we are to pray for the coming of God's kingdom and, in praying thus, we are to place ourselves in God's hands so that he may use us to help bring in his kingdom of justice, truth and loving-kindness on earth. Then, we are to pray for the necessities of life. "Give us this day our daily bread." Knowing that God provides the basic needs of man, Jesus told his disciples that they should pray for daily food to enable them to enjoy such health, strength and spiritual growth that they might be able to perform the tasks which God had given them to do. Christians are to think of themselves as God's servants and pray day by day for such bread as is needed for health and strength in his service.

Certainly, all of us need to pray for forgiveness. "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God," Paul declares and we all need the forgiveness of God for these sins. However, we might point out that there is a condition which must be met before God promises to forgive our sins—we must be willing to forgive those who sin against us. Thus we find that God's forgiveness can come only to those who themselves show a forgiving spirit.

"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." In praying thus, we are asking for God's moral guidance and deliverance from the temptations that beset us. All of us know what a source of strength prayer can be in a time of testing. We cannot escape situations and circumstances that try our souls, but with God's help, we can be strong enough to overcome them.

"For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, forever, Amen." It is reassuring to the children of God to realize that God's kingdom and power and glory are everlasting and that, trusting in him, he is able to give us the victory over sin and death.

Jesus teaches that God hears and answers the prayers of his servants. This should encourage us to pray more often. If we have committed ourselves to him and put him first in our lives, we can pray for whatever we need in his service, confident that he will hear our prayers.

In the prayer of Paul, taken from Phil. 1: 3-11, there was a note of grateful thanks. He thanked God for the memory of Christian friends at Philippi who had ministered so generously to him. He poured out to God the great longing in his heart that Christ's love might have a fuller entrance into their hearts and that they might have such a capacity for moral discrimination that they would be able to make wise decisions.

Certainly, the practice of prayer will help Christians to grow toward spiritual maturity and will bring them into such personal relationship with their Heavenly Father that they shall be able to more fully discern his will for their lives and obey it.

BE A BETTER
CITIZEN!

GO TO SOME
CHURCH
NEXT SUNDAY

Here GREW THE ROOTS OF FREEDOM



THE CHURCH FOR ALL . . . ALL FOR THE CHURCH

The Church is the greatest factor on earth for the building of character and good citizenship. It is a storehouse of spiritual values. Without a strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization can survive. There are four sound reasons why every person should attend services regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake. (2) For his children's sake. (3) For the sake of his community and nation. (4) For the sake of the Church itself, which needs his moral and material support. Plan to go to church regularly and read your Bible daily.

Day	Book	Chapter	Verses
Sunday	Hebrews	11	13-16
Monday	Hebrews	12	1-6
Tuesday	Isaiah	61	1-3
Wednesday	Romans	8	12-21
Thursday	Luke	4	16-21
Friday	John	10	1-10
Saturday	Luke	12	13-21

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The right to worship where and as we choose is only one phase of the liberty we Americans prize, and for this and all of our other freedoms we owe a debt to Christianity.

Religious convictions, woven into our Constitution, gave strength to our pioneers. Reliance upon God, and fidelity to the Church, made our forefathers brave, patient and determined. In such faith was America born.

Through the Church and by authority of the Bible, Christianity says that all human beings have worth—that each one has a place—that man's first responsibility is to his Creator.

The Church is the symbol of this belief—the steadfast instrument through which it is worked out. Therefore the Church deserves our support. It stands for decency and order. It and the Church school are the safest places for our children.

Choose your Church—give it part of your time and means—participate in some of its activities—and you will find life taking on a new and richer meaning.

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Perquimans Church Services

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
C. W. Duling, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Evening Worship, 8 o'clock.
Mid-week Services, Wednesday at 8 P. M.

BETHLEHEM CHURCH OF CHRIST
Joe Brickhouse, Pastor
Church services at 3:00 P. M.
Christian Union, 7:30 P. M.

BURGESS BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. J. R. Byerly, Pastor
Church services first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.
Sunday School at 10:00 A. M.
Church service 7:45 P. M. second and fourth Sundays.

PERQUIMANS CHARGE CHURCHES
E. B. Edwards, Pastor
First Sunday:
New Hope Church, 11:00 A. M.
Oak Grove Church, 7:30 P. M.

Second Sunday
Winfall Church, 11:00 A. M.
Cedar Grove Church, 10 A. M.
Woodland Church, 7:30 P. M.

Third Sunday
Oak Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.
New Hope Church, 7:30 P. M.

Fourth Sunday
Cedar Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.
Woodland Church, 10 A. M.
Winfall Church, 7:30 P. M.

Fifth Sunday
Woodland Church, 11:00 A. M.
Prayer Meeting each Wednesday at Winfall Church at 7:30 P. M.

ANDERSON'S METHODIST CHURCH
E. R. Meekins, Pastor
Church School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 A. M., second and fourth Sundays.

WHITEVILLE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Carl Bjork, Pastor
Sunday School, 11 A. M. every Sunday except third Sunday.
Church services every third Sunday at 3 P. M.

UP RIVER FRIENDS CHURCH
Elizabeth White, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Church Services, 11 A. M.
Christian Endeavor, 6:30 P. M.

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. E. G. Willis, Pastor
Sunday School, 10 A. M.
Preaching first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.
Preaching second and fourth Sunday evening at 7:30.

PINEY WOODS FRIENDS CHURCH
Carl J. Yow, Pastor
Sunday School, 10 A. M.
Morning worship—11:00 A. M.
Youth Fellowship, 6:30 P. M.

WOODVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
G. M. Singletary, Pastor
Sunday School, 10:30 A. M. on first and third Sundays and 2:00 P. M. on second and fourth Sundays.
Church services, 3:00 P. M. on second and fourth Sundays.

HERTFORD METHODIST CHURCH
Ben O. Merritt, Pastor
Church School, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Youth Fellowship, 6:45 P. M.
Evening Worship, 7:30 P. M.
Mid-week Fellowship, Wednesday at 7:30 P. M.

BAGLEY SWAMP PILGRIM
Coy S. Saunders, Pastor
Sunday School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Young People's Meeting, 8:30 P. M.
Evening Worship, 7:30 o'clock.
Mid-week Services, Thursday at 7:30 P. M.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
Holy Communion, 9:00 A. M.
Every Sunday except first Sunday at 9:00 A. M.
Church School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Prayer and Sermon, 11:00 o'clock.
Holy Communion first Sunday at 11 A. M.

BEREA CHURCH OF CHRIST
Walker Perry, Pastor
2nd and 4th Sunday at 10:30 A. M.
Morning worship on first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.
Evening worship first and third Sundays at 7:30 P. M.

CHAPPELL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
A. H. Outlaw, Pastor
Sunday School, 2 P. M. every first Sunday.
Church Service 3 P. M. every first Sunday.
Sunday School at 11 A. M. every second, third and fourth Sunday.

Go To Church Your Church Any Church But Go