

# FAMILY DEVOTIONS

The week of AUGUST 4/5

Being a Student of Prayer

#1 *One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."*

*He said to them, "When you pray, say:*

*"Father,*

*hallowed be your name,*

*your kingdom come.*

*Give us each day our daily bread.*

*Forgive us our sins,*

*for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.*

*And lead us not into temptation."*

*Then he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.'*

*"Then the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs.*

*"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.*

*"Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" Luke 11:1-13*

Do you like to get gifts? Of course, we all do. What is the best gift you have ever gotten? God gives us many gifts. What is the best gift God has ever given us? That's right, our Savior Jesus. We celebrate His birth at Christmas. He is the best gift we have ever received, because He died for our sins and rose again on Easter. But that is not the only gift God gives us. Can you think of some of the many gifts God gives us every day? (examples include: food, clothing, house, parents, siblings, friends, health, etc...) In fact, God gives more gifts than we could ever imagine. Let's always remember to say thanks in our prayers to God for His good gifts to us.

*Pray: Thank You, God, for sending Your Son Jesus to be my Savior. Thank You also for my clothing, house, food, family, friends, and so many other gifts, too many to count. Amen.*

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Being a Student of Prayer

## #2

*“Because he loves me,” says the LORD, “I will rescue him;  
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.*

*He will call upon me, and I will answer him;  
I will be with him in trouble,  
I will deliver him and honor him.”*

*Psalm 91:14-15*

How many telephones does your family have? Have you ever used one? Have you memorized your telephone number? Go ahead and say it out loud right now. Do you know how a telephone works? Actually a telephone takes our voices and sends them to another telephone. That is a lot like prayer. When we pray, what we say goes to God and He hears us. Now think about what kind of things you might use a telephone for. If you want help, you call 9-1-1. If you want to get together with a friend, you dial their number. Maybe you just want to talk to somebody. God likes to hear from us also. Whether we are hurting and in trouble or just want to say hello, God loves to have us call Him by praying. When we pray, He hears us. The best thing about God is that He is always there. His line is never busy. You also never get a bill that you have to pay. Remember to use prayer to talk to God often. He's waiting to hear from you.

*Pray: God, thank You for taking my call when I pray to You. Help me to come to You often in prayer knowing that You always are there for me. Amen.*