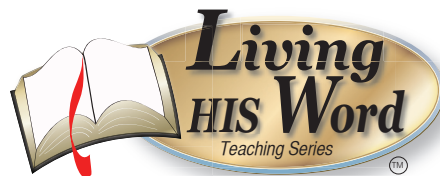


BIBLE STUDIES FOR ADULTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

❧

BEGINNING CONVERSATION WITH GOD

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Beginning Conversation With God is a 9 lesson study on prayer

by Mary Jane Ponten

Outline

LESSON SERIES INTRODUCTION

In this series you will learn some new words and be reminded of some words you already know.

This series deals with ideas about talking with and to God and/or His Son Jesus.

When you talk to one of Them, you are talking to both of Them. The ideas you will learn about are:

Introduction

Communication

Adoration

Praise

Thanksgiving

Confession

Intercession

Petition

In Jesus' Name

MEPHIBOSHETH MINISTRY

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LESSON 1

WHAT IS PRAYER?



1. What is prayer?

Here is a list of ideas. Some of them are appropriate (good) when we talk to God and others are inappropriate (not good). Remember God and Jesus are listening. They may not always be pleased with the way we talk to them, but they always listen and answer.

Put each letter (A – N) in the place you think it belongs.

- | | |
|--|---|
| A. Spend time just enjoying being with Jesus. | I. Tell Him what I would really like. |
| B. Scolding Jesus | J. Be angry with Him because I did not get what I wanted. |
| C. Tell Jesus what I want | K. Share my joys. |
| D. Tell Jesus, "I'm sorry." | L. Tell Him how excited I am about something. |
| E. Complain about what Jesus is doing or not doing | M. Ask Him to help me get over being mad, disappointed, or discouraged. |
| F. Share my disappointments with Him. | N. Say thank you for something He has done. |
| G. Tell Him that I love Him. | |
| H. Tell Him what to do. | |

Appropriate

(good)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Inappropriate

(not good)

6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

2. Jesus is God's Son, yet what did He do in Mark 1:35? _____
3. Jesus was God's Son and He talked to God a lot. He set the example. Do you think we should (or need to) talk to God? _____
Why or why not? _____

4. What makes you think God will listen to you? Read First John 5:14-15 before you answer.

5. Would you like to know more about how to talk to God? _____
Why or why not? _____

6. Why should we talk to God? Read Philippians 4:6-7 before you answer.



LESSON 2

COMMUNICATION



When we pray, we are talking to God. Another word that means talking is “communicating.” Therefore, when we pray we are communicating with God.

Let’s talk about what we do when we talk or visit with a friend. Check the things you might do with your friend.

Jesus is your friend. Check the things you would talk about with your Friend Jesus.

- Chat
- Tell secret hopes
- Laugh
- Cry
- Learn About each other
- Ask questions
- Find answers
- Share feelings
- Share love

- Chat
- Tell secret hopes
- Laugh
- Cry
- Learn about each other
- Ask questions
- Find answers
- Share feelings
- Share love

What would you like to share with Jesus right now?

The point of this lesson is to really understand that Jesus is our friend and we can share anything and everything with Him.

LESSON 3
ADORATION

It's more than just love, You're the greatest!!!

*God made the world
And everything you see.
He made you
And He made me.
He did a good job
Don't you agree?*

1. We can't walk up to God and give Him a big hug. How can we express our love to Him?
Do you think He would like to hear us say, "I love you. God _____."
2. Why or why not? _____
3. How can you tell Him you love Him right now? _____

4. What is one of the wonderful things He has done to show how much He loves us?
Read John 3:16 _____

5. Are you glad God sent His Son, Jesus, as a gift of love to you? _____
6. What is Jesus' gift to you? Read First John 5:11-12. _____

7. When Jesus gave His life for us, were we good people? _____
8. Read Romans 5:8 What were we? _____
9. What are some ways we can show that we love God and Jesus?
 - A. Can we show our love by spending time with other people who love Him?
Where? _____
How? _____
 - B. Can we sing about our love to Him? _____
What songs would you choose?
_____, _____, _____
10. Do you want to show how much you love and adore God in these and other ways?

Then do it. Start now if you have not already begun.

LESSON 4

PRAISE

Many times we hear people say, "Praise the Lord!" If you ask why they said that, they will probably answer, "God did this or that for me," or, "He answered my prayer about this or that." What they really mean to say is "Thank You Lord."

WE PRAISE GOD FOR WHO HE IS: WE THANK HIM FOR WHAT HE DOES.

Here is a list of statements. If you feel it is something you would praise God for, place a "P" on the line in front of it. If you think it is something you would thank Him for, place a "T" on the line in front of that statement.

Here is an example:

___ God is Love.

___ God loves me.

"God is Love." tells who He is. We praise Him for who He is, so you would put a "P" on that line. "God loves me" tells what He has done or is doing. We thank Him for what He does, so you would put a "T" on that line. Ready?

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. ___ Jesus is Wisdom | 6. ___ Jesus fills my heart with joy |
| 2. ___ Jesus gives me wisdom when I read His Word, the Bible | 7. ___ Jesus loves the sinner and died for our sins |
| 3. ___ Jesus gives me peace in my heart | 8. ___ Jesus is Love |
| 4. ___ Jesus is the Prince of Peace | 9. ___ Jesus is good |
| 5. ___ Jesus is Joy | 10. ___ Jesus gives good gifts |

Read these verses and write down what each says that Jesus is.

Revelation 4:8 _____

Psalm 18:3 _____

Psalm 157:11 _____

Psalm 24:8 _____

Psalm 50:1 _____

Deuteronomy 33:27 _____

What do we praise God for? _____

Who He is or what He does? _____

What do you want to praise God for right now? _____

LESSON 5

THANKSGIVING

1. Remember the last lesson. What do we thank God for?

2. What would you like to thank God for right now?

3. Read First Thessalonians 5:8. What does the Bible say we should thank God for?

The words “in” and “for” are not quite the same, are they? When Paul wrote this letter to the Thessalonians he was in prison. (Acts 16:23) Now read Acts 24:2 to see why Paul was in prison.

Why was he in Prison? _____

4. Is there anything so bad in your life that you cannot thank God for it?

What is it? _____

5. Is it worse than being in prison for believing in Jesus? _____

6. In First Thessalonians 5:18 is anything left out? _____

7. What are some things in your life that are hard, but that you need to thank God “in” any way? _____

Through Paul, God has given us, not a suggestion, but a rule to live by. Read it again in First Thessalonians 5:18.

8. What does God expect us to do? _____

9. Do you think we should do what God tells us to do? _____

10. What do you plan to do about this? _____

LESSON 6

CONFESSION

Another word for a way of saying “I’m sorry” is confession. The real meaning of the word “confession” is – to say the same thing God says about an action, word, or thought.

Have you ever had to say “I’m sorry” to anyone at some time for anything? _____

2. Do you think God wants to know that you realize when you have done something wrong? _____ Why or why not? _____

3. Do you think you can enjoy talking with God while you are deliberately doing wrong? _____
4. What do you need to do in order to be able to enjoy being in God’s presence again? Read Psalm 68:18. _____

If someone has done a bad thing to you, he says, “I’m sorry.” That is not enough, is it? He needs to ask your forgiveness. He may say, “Please forgive me, my friend.”

5. After you have said, “I’m sorry” to God, what is your next step? _____

Our enemies cannot hurt us. We don’t expect them to be kind and good to us. It is when a friend does something bad or wrong that we are hurt. It is only God’s children who need to ask His forgiveness. (The only thing a non-believer can ask is for the gift of eternal life, then he becomes a child of God.)

6. In First John 1:9, what two things are we to ask for?
_____ and _____
7. Does God ever take back His promise? _____
8. So, if we confess – say we are sorry for our sin – can we be sure He has forgiven us? _____
Why or why not? _____

This does not mean we will never sin again. It does give us a pattern for what to do when we do sin. **BE CAREFUL** – this does not give us license to sin again whenever we feel like it. We must learn to live as God wants us to live.

LESSON 7

INTERCESSION

Often Christians will ask each other to pray for or about something. Praying for someone else's wants or needs is called "intercession." We are asking God for something on behalf of someone else.

1. Jesus prayed for others. In John 17:23 what is one of the most important things Jesus asked for on behalf of all believers? _____
2. Paul was one of the first Christians. He spent a lot of time in prison for his faith in Jesus. Some of his most fervent prayers for young believers were recorded while he was there. Look at some things he asked God to give them.
3. Colossians 1:10 _____
4. Ephesians 3:14 _____
5. Ephesians 3:21 _____
6. Colossians 1:9 _____
7. Did Paul ask other believers to pray for him? _____
8. What did he ask them to pray for?
First Thessalonians 5:25 _____
Ephesians 6:19 _____
Romans 15:30-31 _____
9. How often did Paul pray for others? _____
10. In First Corinthians 1:4, how did Paul feel about other Christians?

11. In Ephesians 3:14-19, what does Paul want all believers to understand about God?

12. Jesus and Paul set good examples for us. Can you pray for others? _____
Why or why not? _____

LESSON 8

PETITION



Now it's your turn to pray for yourself. It's OK.

1. Jesus prayed for himself. In Luke 22:42 what did Jesus pray for? (The cup referred to is Jesus' death.) _____

2. What did Jesus want more than His own wishes? _____
3. What does it mean to ask for God's will? _____

To want God's will means that we understand that He knows what is best for you and me and everyone. God does not want us to make foolish or unwise requests. Of course if we do, God is wise and will simply say "No," as any good parent would.

4. Here are some ideas from the Bible we know we can ask God for.
 - A. Will God help you love someone you don't like? Read First John 4:7-8 _____
 - B. Does God want to give you what you really need? Read Philippians 4:19 _____
 - C. If you did not get it, do you really NEED it? _____
5. Read Proverbs 3:5-6.
 - A. Does God want to help you understand things? _____
 - B. What is required if you want God to direct your life? _____
 - C. What does it mean to acknowledge God? Could it mean to put God first?

6. List some ways you can do this.

7. Read Philippians 3:10. What should be the goal of every Christian? _____

8. What does knowing God better have to do with praying for yourself?

9. Would having daily contact with God help to know Him better? _____

10. What are some other ways of getting to know God better?



Keep record of your prayers for yourself

Date	Need/Desire	Answer	Date Answered
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Isn't it fun to see how God works!



LESSON 9

IN JESUS' NAME

Most people who are in God's family end their prayers by saying, "In Jesus Name, Amen." Does that mean, "God I'm done now," or "see you later Jesus." Or maybe it just means "the end." Where does it come from and what does it really mean?

First let's talk about the phrase "In Jesus' Name." Read John 14:13, 14:14, 16:23 and 24.

1. Who tells us to ask in Jesus' Name? _____
2. Why? _____
3. When you love someone a lot it is natural to want to do what they ask or tell you to do. Jesus says, "Ask in My Name" so that's what we want to do. Jesus is perfect, we are not. Jesus is God's Son and He died for our sins.

God hates sin and cannot stand the sight of it. He cannot look at our sins in acceptance. What is the answer?

When we belong to Jesus' family, He has already taken our sins, past, present, and future. God sees us in Jesus. He covers us like a blanket. When God listens to us – "in Jesus' Name" – He sees us through Jesus. Can you obey Jesus by praying in His Name? _____

4. Why or why not? _____
5. Do you want to be seen in Jesus? _____
Why or why not? _____

Now let's talk about that "amen" at the end of our prayers. Amen means, "Let it be so." It can also mean, "Let it happen." It can also mean "If this is what you want Lord, let it come to pass." Amen is a way of surrendering our will to His.

6. Is it important to surrender our desires to God's will? _____
Why or why not? _____

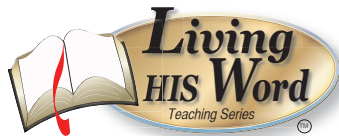
7. Is "In Jesus' Name, Amen" an important part of our prayers? _____
8. Do you want to talk to God sincerely? _____

I hope you have enjoyed this series of studies on prayer. God bless you.

About the Author



Mary Jane Ponten is a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. She has developed Sunday School curriculum for over 20 years. At 81 years young, her life with cerebral palsy has been used mightily. Her tenacity and unguarded personality has won the hearts of many the world over. *(Note: Mary Jane is now retired and will be 91 years old August 2021).*



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