

Life toward God

KIDS

daily devotions

Promise: God Hears Your Prayers

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Scripture

"And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him." Matthew 6:7-8

Devotion

"What's the magic word?" my classmate snapped back when I asked her to pass a marker. The magic word wasn't "accio marker" or some other incantation. It was "please." My classmate was saying that, if I wanted her help, I needed to say please. Some people think the same is true when we ask for God's help - that we have to say "pretty please." Or, in the example Jesus gives in our passage, some people think we have to use a LOT of fancy words and put on a big show so God will hear us. But Jesus is reassuring us that we don't need magic words or to say the "right" thing for God to hear us. Why? Because God already knows us so well that He knows what we need before we even ask! In other words, He has already been listening. It's actually more amazing than that. Later in the Bible, we learn that when we pray, Jesus' promised helper, God the Holy Spirit, intercedes for us - He takes our prayers to God the Father "with groanings too deep for words." (Rom. 8:26) So even when we don't know how to pray or what to pray, we can take our fears, sadness, happiness, and longings to God, knowing that God himself carries our prayers to God in a way that we may not even understand but God perfectly does. Wow.

So how do we know God hears our prayers? Because God is praying with us and for us! And how do we know God answers our prayers??? Because God already knows what we need. And, as we learned last week, He is working for our good in everything. (Rom. 8:28) So even when God's answer doesn't appear to match up with what we prayed for, we can know that God has answered our prayer by giving us is what we REALLY need and what is even better than what we asked.



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Questions

3-5-yr-olds

Have you ever prayed without saying words aloud? Did you know that God still hears you even if you don't make a noise?

Can you think of a situation where you could pray in your heart, even if you don't speak aloud?

1st-3rd graders

We pray at church and with our parents. Have you ever prayed by yourself? If so, did your worry about starting the right way or saying the right words? What is one need you would like to pray about to God? How does knowing God already knows this need and is working for you good help you to pray about it even more?

4th-6th graders

Have you ever felt something that you just couldn't put into words? Did that keep you from talking about it with your parents or a friend? Did that keep you from praying about it?

Are you more willing to take those nameless fears, longings, excitements, and sadness to God in prayer now that you know God knows exactly what your are feeling, what you are praying for, and what you need in response?

Prayer

Father God, thank you that you love us no matter what our circumstances. Thank you for always working things out for our good and your glory. Please help me to trust your promises when I'm sad about not getting the things I want, or missing the things I used to do. In Jesus name, Amen.

