

# How children pray



We repeat the three previous lessons:

- We pray where it is quiet.
- We ask in faith.
- We ask persistently.

Prayer is our connection to the throne of God. The children can speak to God at any time and tell him about the things that make them happy or depressed. They can also go to their priest and ask him to remember them in prayer. The children think about what they pray in the morning, at night, at table, in the divine services and in difficult situations.

The children learn that their prayer is answered by God when they pray to him in trust and belief.

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hilst playing, Rita fell so badly that she broke her collar-bone. Oh, that hurt so much! Luckily she did not have to stay in hospital, but the doctors regularly checked the healing process. All went well.

After a few months Rita again felt severe pain in her shoulder. She was concerned to find that a small lump had formed there. "I have had to stay out of school so often lately, I just can't get sick again!" she cried. Her father comforted her and pointed out that it was only Friday evening and that there were still two full days to Monday. They would ask the Lord to make her well before school started again.

Rita, her parents and her sister prayed repeatedly that Rita would be able to go to school that Monday. Despite the many prayers, Rita's pain became almost unbearable by Sunday. Her parents took her to the emergency room where she was given a pain-killing injection, but this brought no relief. Things went from bad to worse. On Monday morning the thought of her going to school did not even enter their minds. She had to go to the doctor instead and have some

tests done. After the X-rays had been analyzed and evaluated, the doctors' decision was that it would be best to remove the lump. Only then could it be ascertained whether it was a harmless or a malignant growth!

One can imagine how Rita felt! Her parents also had a terrible shock. They were now not only worried about the operation, but even more so about the fearful question: What will the outcome be? God's children do not have to wait long for comfort and help however.

In trust, the parents went to the ministers and became somewhat calmer. Now, more than ever, everyone prayed for Rita.

The operation went smoothly. Then anxious days followed until the results finally came through: The tumour was not malignant!

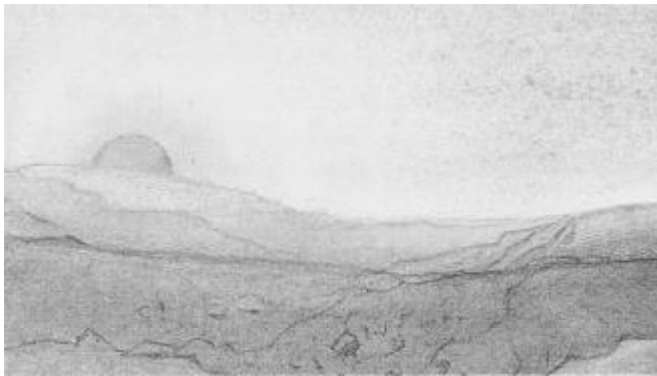
Not only Rita and her parents, but all the brothers and sisters who had known about the operation, rejoiced.

Many prayers of thanks were sent to the throne of God.

"Even if God does not help within a certain time, he still helps when necessary." This sentence Rita's priest had often used in the divine service. She could now heartily confirm that.

The Lord's help came at exactly the right time.

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**1** To underline this, we tell the children Rita's story.

**2** We look at the four pictures in the children's book and discuss them with the children. The children place themselves in the four different situations and think what they would be praying for in those moments. The children experience that they are always under the Lord's protection when they have opened their hearts to him.

As children of God we can have a direct connection to him. We have a "heavenly telephone" line which connects us directly with the Lord. On this line there is never an engaged signal. As soon as we call him, the connection with our heavenly Father is established. He loves to listen to us. He always has time for us. We can tell him all our burdens, joys and worries. This connection is prayer.

Let us not forget this and let us always use the "heavenly line".

For special requests or concerns you may go to your Sunday-school teacher or priest. Explain the situation to him. He will pray for you and think of you.

What would you do when God has heard your prayer and helped you?

Do not forget to thank him!

## When I pray ...



When I pray I speak with love to my heav'n-ly Fa - ther:



"Dear-est Lord, my thanks I bring, great, yes great, thy good- ness!"

1. When I pray, I speak with love to my heav'nly Father:  
"Dearest Lord, my thanks I bring, great, yes great, Thy goodness!"
2. When I pray, I ask in love of my heav'nly Father:  
"Grant me, Lord, a faithful heart, joy in life and gladness!"
3. When I pray, I ask in love of my heav'nly Father:  
"Grant protection, angel care; help me in life's dangers!"
4. When I pray, I ask in love of my heav'nly Father:  
"Lord, my brother (sister) is not well, help him (her) to recover!"
5. When I pray, I ask in love of my heav'nly Father:  
"Send to us thy loving Son – peace we'll know for ever!"