

Jesus Christ teaches us to pray



We repeat the Our Father and the parable of the praying widow, emphasizing that both come from the Lord Jesus. We discuss what Jesus Christ has taught us about praying.

28

The children learn that Jesus Christ has taught us how to pray.
Prayer is important for us.
The children learn that they can tell the Lord everything.

In this evening, Anne is already in her room and preparing to go to bed. Her mother comes in, closes the shutters and asks: "Anne, did you have a nice day today?" "And how!" enthuses the little girl. "I was so happy because it was warm and sunny all day and I could play outside with my friends. We played many lovely games! At one stage I was very lucky that I had no accident. I was riding around on my bicycle when suddenly a small boy ran right in front of me. Thank goodness, I could brake in time, otherwise I would have knocked him down."

"You see, one can never take it for granted that we can go to bed healthy and well in the evening. Let us thank the dear Lord for this day and pray to him. Why don't you pray." "Yes, but..." says Anne hesitantly "I don't really know what I should say or how I should say it. You know so much better than I."

Mother sits down on the bed next to Anne: "Anne dear, praying is not difficult at all. You can speak to the Lord in exactly the same way as you do to your father or to me. When you start your prayer, you thank the Lord. What could you

thank him for?" Anne thinks for a moment: "That the Lord protected me today, that I am healthy, that I have enough to eat..."

1

Mother continues: "Precisely. After thanking him, you can tell the Lord all your requests and wishes. But think carefully for what you ask, because..."

"I know, I know something already!" exclaims Anne. "I will ask the dear Lord that I may go to him in heaven."

"Yes, that is the most important request."

2

"But we do not only want to think of ourselves while praying; we should think of other people too. For whom could you pray for instance?"

"For you and Daddy," replies the girl. Anne thinks again for a moment: "And for my priest and for the people who are sick."

3

"Something else is also very important: Always ask at the conclusion of your prayer that our heavenly Father will shorten the time and fetch us home to him soon," says Mother.

Enthusiastically Anne exclaims: "Praying is not so difficult

after all! First I can thank the Lord, then ask him for many things and afterwards I can still pray for other people.”
“You are perfectly right,” says Father who has entered unnoticed some time ago. Mother asks him: “Can you think of something else?” Anne looks at her father expectantly. He says: “Yes, in the Sermon on the Mount the Lord Jesus said quite a few things about prayer.”
“We recently discussed that in Sunday-school. My book has many pictures about it.” Anne fetches the book and shows her parents the pictures.

4

“The prayer which the Lord Jesus taught and which we also pray, is a very important one. In the same sermon he also mentioned some other things about praying,” continues Father. “What else did he say?” enquires Anna. “He said that we must always pray wholeheartedly and firmly believe that God will hear us and help us. And another thing! He said we



should not rattle off our prayers. We should pray earnestly. The Lord Jesus also spoke of praying in a quiet, undisturbed place.” Anne looks around her room. “It is quiet here.”
Mother says: “It is now high time to get to sleep. We have spoken so much about prayer, but no one has prayed yet.”
“I will try,” says Anne. All three kneel down, close their eyes and Anne begins:

“Dear Father in heaven! I thank you that you have protected me today and that no accident happened whilst we were playing. Let us all have a good night’s sleep and tomorrow another beautiful day. Please help me in school and that I may get on well with my friends and not fight with them. Be with Mommy and Daddy at all times. Bless the chief apostle, the apostles and all the ministers and protect them on their travels. Please help all your children, especially the sick ones. Come soon and take us all home. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

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1 The children find reasons for thanking the Lord.

2 What do you ask for in your prayers?

3 The children help Anne find further requests to put to the Lord.

4 We repeat the Our Father with the children.

5 We look at the picture with the children. What did the Lord Jesus teach the disciples about praying in the Sermon on the Mount? (Father told Anne about this.)

The children can write it down on the empty pages in their book.

Examples: I pray in a quiet place./I pray wholeheartedly.

Jesus Christ is our teacher

All my pleading...