

# How we ask in prayer



*We revise the previous lesson and stress its focal point: we must persistently, with great faith and trust, bring our petitions to our heavenly Father. The Lord knows what is best for us, and his will should therefore take precedence above all else.*

The children are encouraged  
to bring their petitions to God in believing and trusting prayer.

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Simon and his mother are sitting in the lounge. Simon is looking at his Sunday-school book. His mother opens it to the page depicting Bartimaeus. Simon tells her what he has heard in Sunday-school about Bartimaeus.

1

When he has concluded his story, Mother praises him and says: "Simon, you've told me very realistically how Bartimaeus asked the Lord Jesus to heal him. At that time many people asked the Lord for specific things and he fulfilled their requests."

Simon remarks: "If the Lord Jesus had passed me, I would also have asked for something."

"What would you have asked for?" his mother enquires.

Simon hesitates, then he says: "I'll whisper it in your ear."

2

Mother says: "The Lord Jesus does not live on earth any more. But we can turn to the Lord in prayer and we are very thankful for this. We can bring all kinds of requests before the Lord. But we must bear in mind that it is not always in our best interests to have every wish fulfilled. God is wise. He knows what is good for us. Whatever we ask of our heavenly Father should be done in a believing and trusting

manner. But nobody may prescribe to God, much less order him to do something. He decides how and when he will help us. His will prevails above all else. I remember the time, many years ago, when your father and I brought a very special petition before the Lord. We were married and dearly wanted to have a child, but did not get one. With fervent faith and trust we asked God to help and bless us. For a long time it seemed as if he would not answer our prayer. We knew that his will would prevail. In his greatness and wisdom, he sees further than we do and therefore he knows what is good and right for us. We continued praying faithfully and trustingly all the same. Finally our greatest wish was fulfilled. We were blessed with a child! You were born. Oh Simon, how happy we were—we thanked our heavenly Father from the depth of our heart for answering our prayers!"

Simon has been listening very intently. He could have gone on listening to his mother for hours, but it has become late already. Mother gets up to start preparing dinner.

3/4/5/6



*Blind Bartimaeus believably asked the Lord Jesus for help.*

*We bring our requests to our heavenly Father in belief and trust.  
He hears our petitions.*

- 1 The children relate Bartimaeus' miraculous healing using the two pictures in their workbook as visual aid.**
- 2 The children tell what they would ask for.**
- 3 We look at the picture again and compare:**
  - **Bartimaeus did not let the people around him stop him from calling on the Lord Jesus. / We do not let others stop us either from praying to God.**
  - **Bartimaeus persistently cried for help. / We should also persistently and patiently ask for help.**
  - **Bartimaeus called for help first. Only when the Lord Jesus asked him what he wanted, did he voice his great desire to be able to see. / We do not want to prescribe to our heavenly Father how he should help us. His will prevails above all else. He knows how we can best be helped.**
  - **Bartimaeus trusted in Jesus' power completely. He believed that the Lord Jesus could heal him. / We should ask in the fervent belief and trust that all things are possible for the Lord.**
- 4 We discuss fulfilled and unfulfilled requests. It is often incomprehensible to us why a specific request is not fulfilled. But God sees further. We trust him. The children, or the teacher, relate some of their own experiences in this regard.**
- 5 Which special petitions connect all God's children around the globe? (Dear heavenly Father, let us be worthy and prepared! / Shorten the time and send your Son soon ...) We must bring these requests before the Lord persistently so that they may soon be fulfilled.**
- 6 The children write or draw their greatest wish in their workbook.**