

I Can Grow in God through Prayer

Week 2 (23rd Apr 2023):

The Big Point: I Can Grow in God through Prayer

God's Word: Talking to God in Prayer (Jeremiah 33:3)

Memory Verse: Call out to me. I will answer you. I will tell you great things you do not know. And unless I do, you wouldn't be able to find out about them." Jeremiah 33:3 (NIRV)

Application: I will pray, talk to and with God.

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Series Aim: For kids to grow in their hunger for friendship with God through reading the Bible, prayer, worship and going to church.

Lesson Video:  TTB Online Kids' Programme - Session 17 (15:37 onwards to 36:49)

TEACHER'S WORD STUDY!

♥ CENTER YOUR HEART!

Why we do what we do

In this series, we hope to unpack the secrets of growing in God through spiritual habits such as reading the Bible, prayer, worship and going to church! These are the habits we need to build and cultivate throughout our lives so that we can have a faith anchored on Jesus, the rock of our lives.

Series Aim: For kids to grow in their hunger for friendship with God through reading the Bible, prayer, worship and going to church.

Note: For this series, we will not be using any creative video, but will instead be using The Treasure Box (TTB)'s Growing in God series video with the Foong Family's Uncle Elvin and Aunty Esther. The structure of the series will also be more focused on truth rather than a story, thus it might be a bit different from the usual structure of our God's Word lesson! Also, due to the nature of this series, we will have different memory verses for each week.

♥ Prayer Points

Keep the Kids and the Kingdom in our hearts!

Pray for the kids to: (you are free to add your own!)

- Learn that the Bible is God's Word
- Learn that friendship with God is just like any other friendship - they need to make time to spend time with God as how they spend time with friends
- Learn that they can know God more through reading the Bible
- Learn that they can talk to God through prayer
- Learn that they can hear from God
- Learn that they can grow in God through prayer
- feel a sense of safety and belonging to HopeKids as to help them to love learning from God's Word and experience God

♥ Glossary

Explain using the same terms and language!

Scripture: Refers to the Bible or God's Word. The Bible is holy and sacred in nature.

Holy: set-apart or different, set aside to be used by God

Sacred: something that is dedicated and devoted to God

Bible: The Bible is God's Word that tells us what is true about God and ourselves.

Meditate: To remove all distractions and think only about a certain thing over and over again

Hebrew/Jews: A special group of people chosen by God to be God's people. They are also known as Israelites. Hebrews/Jews/Israelites or God's people all refer to the same people group. However, God's people can also refer to Christians in today's language

Prayer: To have a conversation with God - to talk to, talk with as well as listen to God

Connect: To join together in friendship

Communicate: To relate to each other with exchange of both speaking and listening

♥ Memory Verse Write Up

Call out to me. I will answer you. I will tell you great things you do not know. And unless I do, you wouldn't be able to find out about them."

- Jeremiah 33:3 (NIRV)

This verse tells us the heart that God has towards His people - He longs to speak to us and He will answer us whenever we call out to Him. This is because of His love and grace for us. Without God's willingness to reveal Himself and the understanding of His word and purposes in our lives, we will never be able to find out more about God, His character, His plans or His will. We can know Him and His plans, His Word simply because God chose to reveal! God loves us and wants us to know Him and we can grow in Him by connecting with Him in prayer!

GROW DEEP ROOTS!

Understand the Big Point's focus

Growing in God means growing in our friendship with God and/or Jesus, and we do this by getting to know Him more and more. When we believe for ourselves what Jesus did on the cross to save us, we start our journey as Christians. Christians do not just believe in Jesus, but also have a friendship or relationship with Jesus who is the saviour and King of our lives. We grow in God and get to know God more through reading the Bible and praying! These are the habits we need to build and cultivate throughout our lives so that we can have a faith and a life anchored on Jesus, the rock of our lives.

In this second week, we will learn more about the importance of prayer and how it can help us to stay connected to God. Prayer is the most practical way we can connect to God as prayer is simply talking to and with God.

Learning Point #1: We Can Know God Better Through Prayer (Jeremiah 33:3)

Isn't it amazing that we can have a conversation with God Himself? We don't just talk to Him, He wants to talk to us too! God wants to connect with us and we can do that through prayer. Prayer is when you are talking to God, sharing ideas with him and telling him about what is on your mind, what is in your heart and what you care for. Prayer is also when you can apologise to him when you did wrong and ask him for help when there are things that are too hard for you. You can also ask God for help to understand the bible. It is okay to ask God to help you because He is a good, good God who cares for your well-being and longs to give you good gifts! And we can take heart that God hears us in all the times that we talk to Him.

On top of that, God wants to talk to us too, just like in any other friendship or relationship. When you talk to your friend, you don't expect to be the only one talking. You want your friend to answer and respond to what you are saying too. In the same way, you don't want to be the only one talking. It has to be a two-way conversation, where both persons are listening and talking. Thus, you also need to learn to listen to what God is speaking to us. It is tricky because we expect to hear God like how we hear our family

and friends. It takes practice to learn how to hear God in your spirit or your heart, but you can learn to do it because we are all created by God and you were made to hear his voice.

Call out to me. I will answer you. I will tell you great things you do not know. And unless I do, you wouldn't be able to find out about them." Jeremiah 33:3 (NIRV)

Jeremiah 33:3 tells us the heart that God has towards His people - He longs to speak to us and He will answer us whenever we call out to Him. This is because of His love and grace for us. Without God's willingness to reveal Himself and the understanding of His word and purposes in our lives, we will never be able to find out more. We can know Him and His plans, His Word simply because God chose to reveal!

God can and God does speak to us. God makes Himself known to us so that we too, may know Him. He speaks to us in different ways (Hebrews 1:1), and these are some of the various ways He speaks that was recorded in the Bible:

- **Through the Word of God, the Bible** (2 Timothy 3:14-16, Psalm 119:105, Hebrews 4:12, Romans 15:4) The Bible is full of stories and promises that God can speak to us if we take time to read and know them.
- **Through the Holy Spirit** (1 Corinthians 2:10-16, Ephesians 1:17, John 6:63)
- **Through people** (E.g. Prophets and apostles in the Bible, Colossians 3:16)
- **Through prayer** (Philippians 4:6-7, James 1:5, Matthew 6:6)
- **Through experiences** (Deuteronomy 4:9, Psalm 77:11)

(Note: The above list is not exhaustive)

In John 15:14-15, the Bible also tells us that Jesus calls His disciples His friends. And if we are followers or disciples of Jesus, then we are His friends too, and friends know each other better when they spend time talking to one another and listening to one another too!

Learning Point #2: We Can Pray Anytime, Anywhere about Anything (Philippians 4:6-7)

We can pray any time, anywhere, and about anything. Our God is a God who never sleeps or takes naps (Psalm 121:4). Because of that, we can take heart that God hears us in all the times that we talk to Him. We don't have to be in church or to wait for a certain time in order to talk to God. We can pray to him at any time of the day, anywhere about anything and everything! When we believe in Jesus, we have direct access into the presence of God through the death of the Lord Jesus on the Cross and His coming back to life!

On top of that, we don't need to pretend when we talk to God. We can be real with Him, even during times when we did wrong because we can come to Him in repentance, being and saying sorry for our wrong and asking Him to help us to turn away from wrong and do

better. We can also ask Him for help when things are too difficult for us. He is a trustworthy and reliable Friend who is always happy to have us connect with Him through prayer.

Learning Point #3: We Can Simply P.R.A.Y - Praise, Repent, Ask, Yield!

One way we can pray to God is through the acronym P.R.A.Y:

- P - Praise: Praise God for who He is and His goodness in our lives (1 Chronicles 29:11)
- R - Repent: Repent to God, confess and be sorry for our wrongdoings or sins, asking for forgiveness and help to turn away from it (1 John 1:9)
- A - Ask: Ask God for things that are according to His plans and will, remembering that He is our good heavenly Father and we are His children (1 John 5:14)
- Y - Yield: Yielding to God is to surrender to His plans, trusting that God has the best plans for us to grow and become the people God made us to be or do what He wants us to do (Luke 22:42)

The P.R.A.Y. acronym is one way that we can pray and connect to God, but it is not the only way! We can also talk to God in our own way, especially when we are still growing in our understanding of God and His character.

Link to Big Point: I Can Grow in God Through Prayer

Today's lesson helps us to learn and know that God is not a distant God, but a God that longs to be near to us and stay connected to us. The best way we can stay connected to God is through prayer - talking to/with God and listening to what He is speaking to us! Just like how we need to take time to talk to a friend to get close to him/her and learn his/her likes/dislikes and character, we can get to know God more and grow in God when we take time out to spend with Him, talking and listening to Him through prayer.

Link to Gospel

God is a God who loves us and He has created all living things to share in His love. This is especially true for us, humans, whom God has created to live in connection with Him. God and people used to live in perfect friendship, perfect love and connection but that changed when people first fell into sin by disobeying God's direct command. Since then, sin has separated God and people. But God is a God of love and thus, He makes himself known and near to us through sending us His son, Jesus. Through His life on earth, Jesus helped us to know God more and eventually died on the cross to take away and save us from sin, bringing us back to be with God again. If we were to just believe in what Jesus did, we are saved (Romans 10:9, 13) and we can be near God again. We can then stay connected to God and continue to grow in Him through prayer.



CHECK YOUR HEART'S TEMPERATURE!

Teacher's

Reflection

- Do you truly believe that God hears our prayers? If we truly believe the work of what Jesus did on the cross in our hearts, then we are made right with God and we are near God again. Thus, for sure, God hears our prayers, even those that are expressed in whims and whines, God hears it as God hears the cry of His children. Reflect and think if you trust in God's heart and God's love for you that He hears our prayers. Pray and ask God to help you to discover His heart and His love anew. God hears us, whatever and however our prayers look or sound like.
- Another point to think about is when we spend time praying with God, are we the only ones talking? God doesn't just want us to talk to Him but He is speaking too. The heart of God is that He is always initiating to connect and speak with us. God is always speaking, but we have to have the right heart and posture in order to listen. It also takes practice to learn how to hear God in your spirit and in your heart. Take some time to reflect and think if you know God's character and His heart for you. Take some time to pray and ask God to help you to be attuned to His presence and His Holy Spirit. What is He whispering into your heart today?