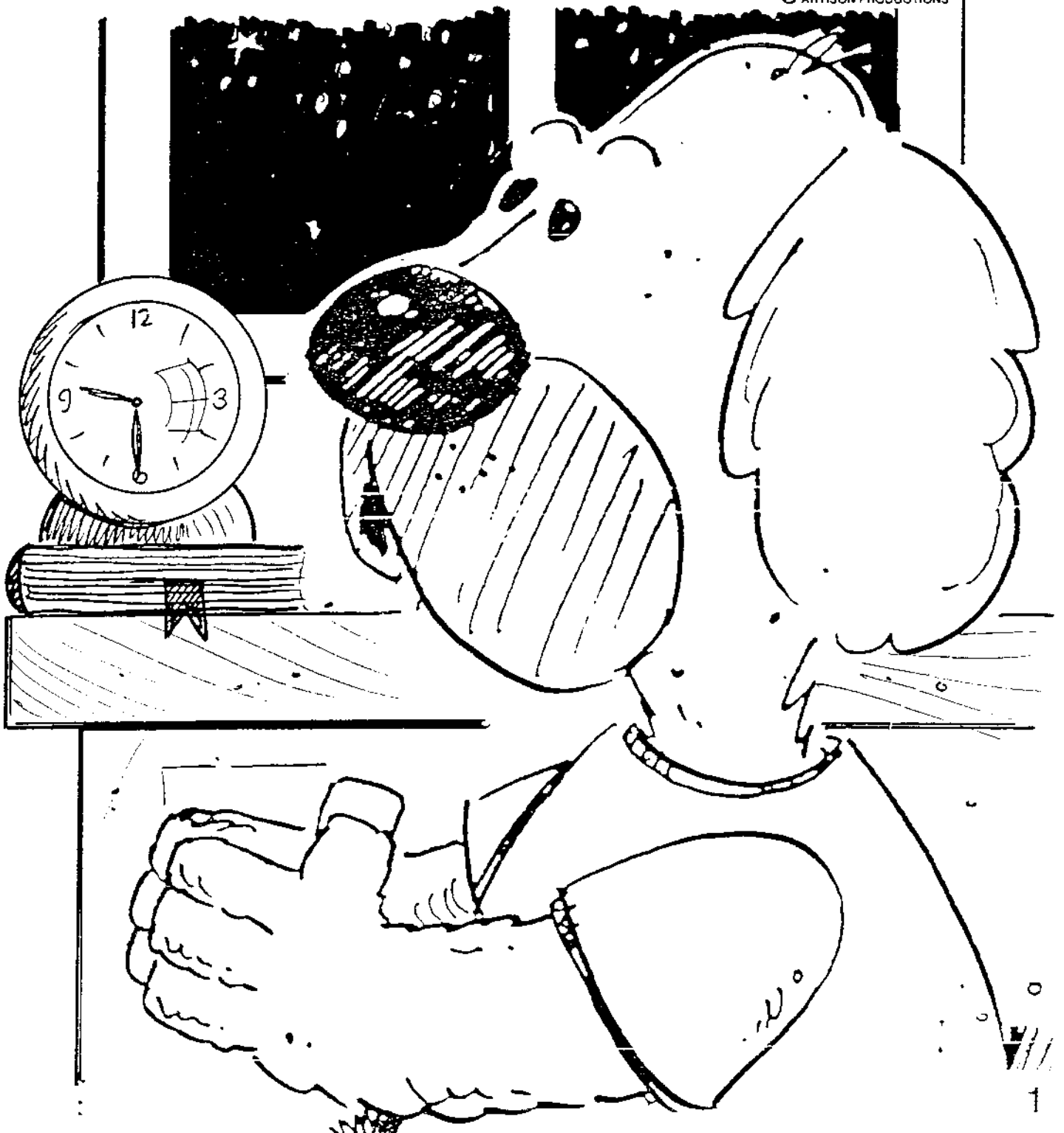


THE QUEST[©]

WHAT'S PRAYER?

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SECTION FOUR PAGES 1 - 12

"WHAT IS PRAYER"

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AIM

To encourage the children to **COMMUNICATE** with their Creator through prayer and, in doing so, break down the formal barriers that may prevent children from considering prayer.

INTRODUCTION

Ask the class :

- What is Prayer ?

Record their answers on the board, then ask :

- Well, **HOW** should we pray ?

- Do you think God hears our prayers

Before we discover the answers to these questions, let's pause for a moment and **PRAY** !

PRAYER

Father God,
Thanks for this day, thanks for sending your Son Jesus to earth to show us what you are like.
He told us that you always hear us when we pray.
We really look forward to talking with you in prayer each day.

Thank you, in Jesus' Name, Amen.

ASK THE QUESTION

In whose name did I finish my prayer just then ?

Yes, "in Jesus' Name"

Do you know why I did that ?

Because **JESUS** said to !

That's right.

Read John 14 : 13 - 14 and John 16 : 23 - 24.
Jesus told his disciples that when they prayed, to use His Name.

Also, you may hear people say "**AMEN**" after they pray.
What does it mean ?

Do you have to finish with it ?

Well, AMEN means LET IT BE SO.

It's like saying... "God, you've heard my prayer,
please do what you think is best.."
Except it's easier to say "AMEN " than all that !

And, by the way, you don't HAVE to always end a prayer
by saying 'Amen'.
A simple "THANK YOU " is all right.

TELL IT IN YOUR
OWN WORDS

So - does prayer work ?
- does God hear prayer ?

All through the Bible men, women, children, kings,
fishermen, priests, soldiers,..... PRAYED to God.

Why ? - Well, there were many reasons.
Some prayed for victory in battle, some for food,
some for a baby, some were prayers of thanks and praise
Others were prayers for.....

HELP.

This true story was a prayer for help !

Read " Daniel - Prayer Hero "

At conclusion, ask :

- Do you think praying to God was important to Daniel ?
- Why was it so important to him
- even risking his life for ?



DANIEL *Prayer Hero!*

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King Darius, ruler of the great empire of the Medes and Persians, had made Daniel one of his 3 chief ministers of the realm.

Daniel was by now a very old man, but he served the King honestly and loyally. And he still prayed to God as he had always done, 3 times a day, kneeling at his open window, facing towards far-off Jerusalem.

The other leaders were jealous of Daniel, and plotted against him. But what could they accuse him of? Daniel never put a foot wrong, it would have to be something to do with his religion.

So they persuaded the King to make a new law -- unchangeable

'For 30 days no one can pray or ask for anything from any God. Whoever breaks this law will be thrown to the lions'. King Darius signed the order without really thinking about its result -- Daniel had been trapped -- what would he do now? Would he stop praying, or even pretend to stop?

But Daniel did not stop at all - he would rather die - he knelt by his open window and prayed aloud to God, 3 times a day, as he had always done.

Daniel's enemies were delighted, their plot had succeeded.

King Darius was angry and upset, he realized that he had been tricked into making an unchangeable law against Daniel - but there was nothing he could do about it. So that very night Daniel was thrown into a deep pit full of hungry lions.

The King couldn't eat his meal! He sent everyone away, and did not sleep at all. As soon as morning came, he hurried to the lion-pit.

"Daniel!" he called out. "Was your God able to save you from the lions?" but he did not expect any reply. To his amazement, Daniel's voice answered.

"Yes, your majesty, God sent His angel to close the lions' mouths, so they would not hurt me. He knew that I was innocent, I have done you no wrong."

"Release him at once," King Darius cried, "And throw those men who accused him to the lions!" So they did, and this time the lions were satisfied.

So Daniel came out unhurt, because of his trust in God!

Now, King Darius made a new law.

'Let everyone in my kingdom tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, who saved him from the lions. He is the living God, for ever and ever.'



Do the "DAN RAP"

Alternatively, put it to music.
It's a good one to open each session with.

**ACTIVITY
OPTIONAL**

Ask the class to imagine that **THEY** were thrown to the lions with Daniel.

What was it like ?

What did you do when Daniel started praying ?

How did you feel when God answered ?

DAN'S

Daniel was a dude

He prayed 3 times a day

He loved to talk to God

He Wouldn't stop "no way"

Some bad guys said to Dan

"You better be afraid

"We'll throw you to the lions

"If on your knees you pray!"

But Daniel wouldn't stop

He knew the guys were spying

He kept right on praying

And they threw him to the lions.

But God's always listening

Every second of the day

He heard good ol' Dan

And He hears us when we pray

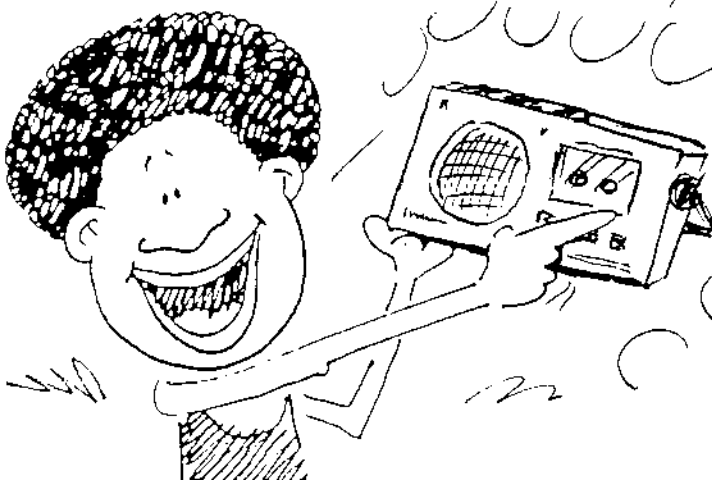
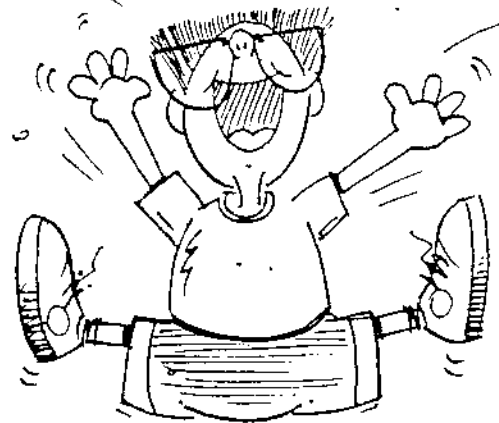
So if you're in a fix

And you don't know what to do

Just talk to God like Dan did

He'll always see you through!

RAP



Don't think that God **ONLY** answers guys like Daniel.

He hears everyone who prays.

EVERYONE - and that includes **Y O U**.

Write this boldly on the Board:

PRAYER IS SIMPLY

TALKING

and

LISTENING

to **G O D**

Where ? Anywhere - God is everywhere.

What time ? Any time - God never sleeps.

How ? Anyhow - He always knows what we mean.

ACTIVITY
PAGE 5

Let's read what Jesus said again about prayer...

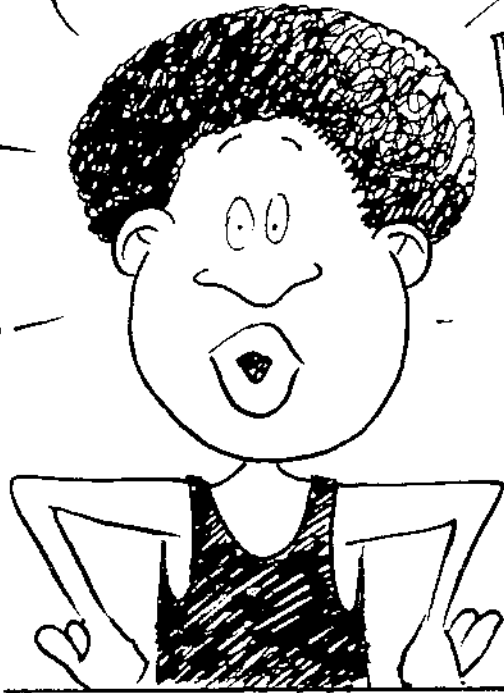
Find Matthew 7 : 7 - 11

So, what happens when we -
ASK ?

And when we -
SEARCH (or Seek) ?

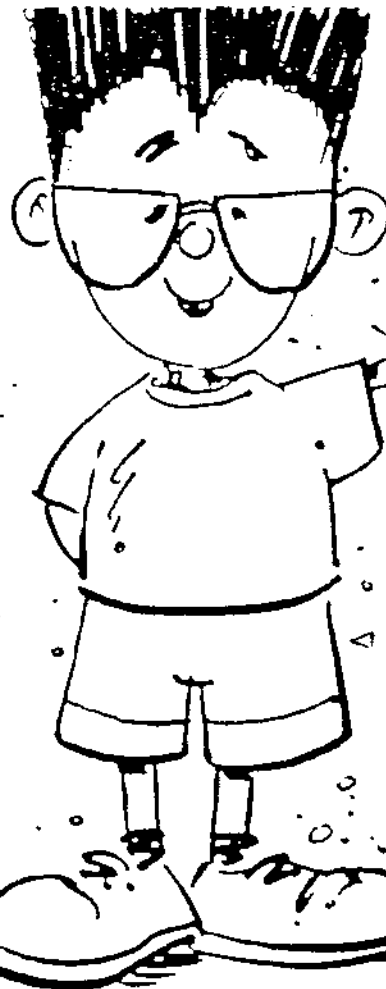
And when we -
KNOCK ?

Write your answers in the gaps that Habakkuk has left.



PHEW! THAT DANIEL DUDE WAS AN AMAZING GUY! I'D BE SCARED STIFF EVEN IN A BASEMENT FULL OF TOMCATS! AND GOD REALLY HEARD HIM WHEN HE PRAYED.

WOW I WISH I COULD PRAY LIKE THAT, MAYBE IT ONLY WORKS FOR GUYS LIKE DANIEL?...



NO WAY RANGI!

PRAYER IS FOR EVERYONE!

**PRAYER
IS SIMPLY
TALKING AND
LISTENING
TO GOD . . .**

ANYWHERE, ANY PLACE, ANYTIME.

Jesus said....

ASK, SEEK, KNOCK,

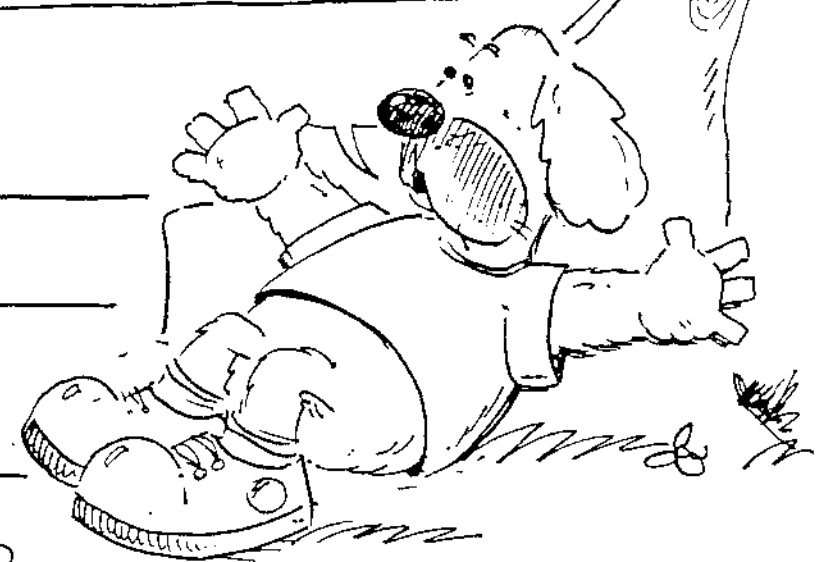
What did he mean?
Read Matthew
chapter 7, verses 7-11
to find out.

what a wonderful day

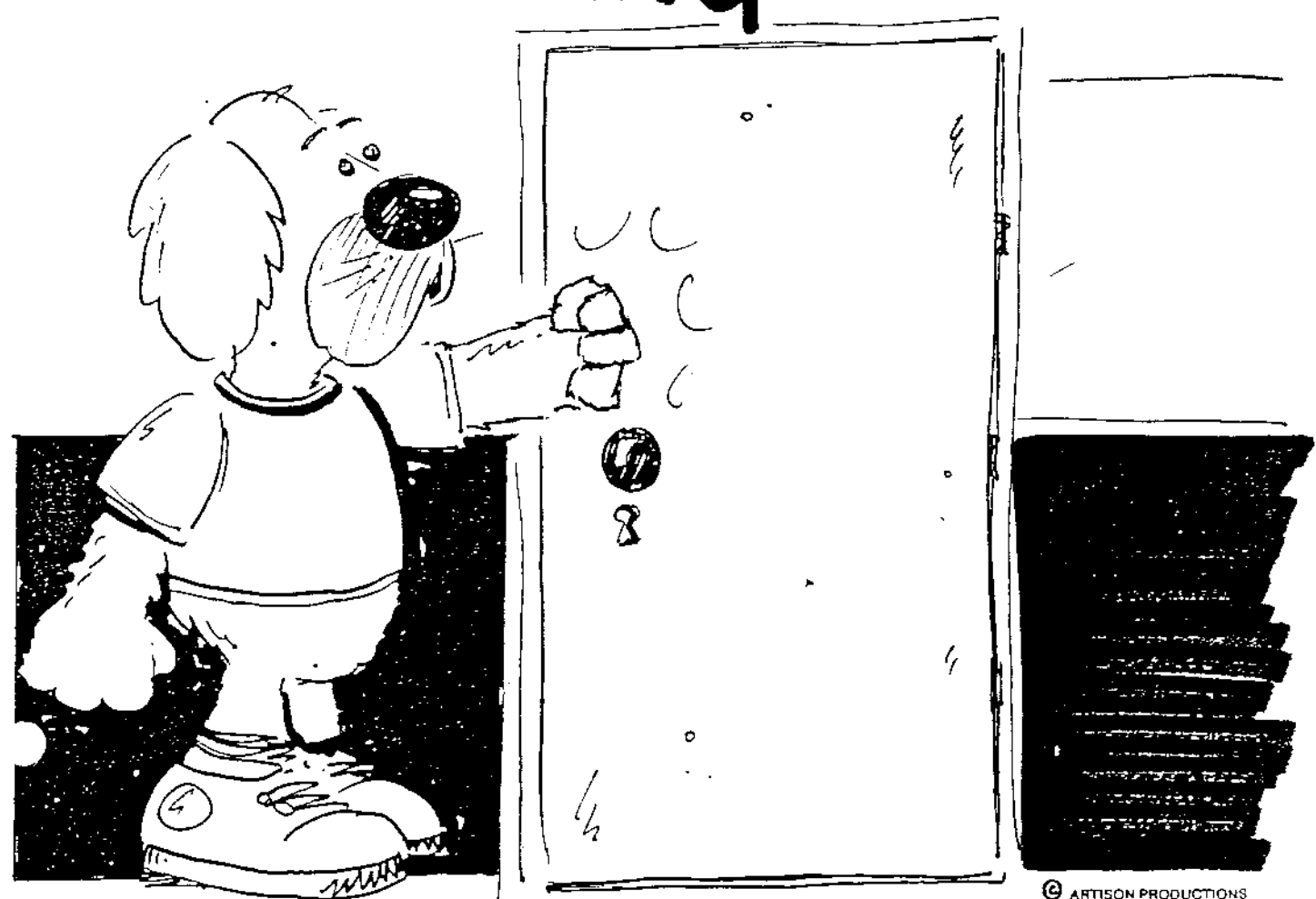
FROM MATTHEW 7 : 7-11 FILL IN THE GAPS BELOW

WOW!
ASK _____

AND THAT IF WE
SEARCH _____



AND IF WE KEEP
ON **KNOCKING** _____



ACTIVITY

How about writing down your very own prayer to God.

Remember, it's just like talking to your best friend.

God loves to hear all about the things you do every day,
like school, home, adventures, friends, pets, worries,
bad times

EVERYTHING

He REALLY is interested
and even though He knows all about you already,
He just loves to hear YOU tell Him yourself.

CONCLUSION

Remember - Praying is NOT like reading a shopping list.

(Teacher, draw up an imaginary list -

I want a :

B M X
BARBIE
BIG MAC
NEW BASKETBALL
etc.

No, Prayer is talking and listening to God,
just like a friend.

He doesn't always answer YES to our requests.
Sometimes, He answers NO,
or sometimes He wants us to WAIT for awhile.

WHATEVER - God really does know what is BEST for us.

Don't forget to always thank Him for everything,
even when things go wrong!

Pray for your family and friends,
and ALSO pray for those people you don't really get on
with, or those people you don't like!

THAT'S RIGHT.

Jesus said, " Don't forget to PRAY for your ENEMIES."

Remember when He was on the cross - what did He pray ?

"FATHER - FORGIVE THEM"

Talking about FORGIVENESS,

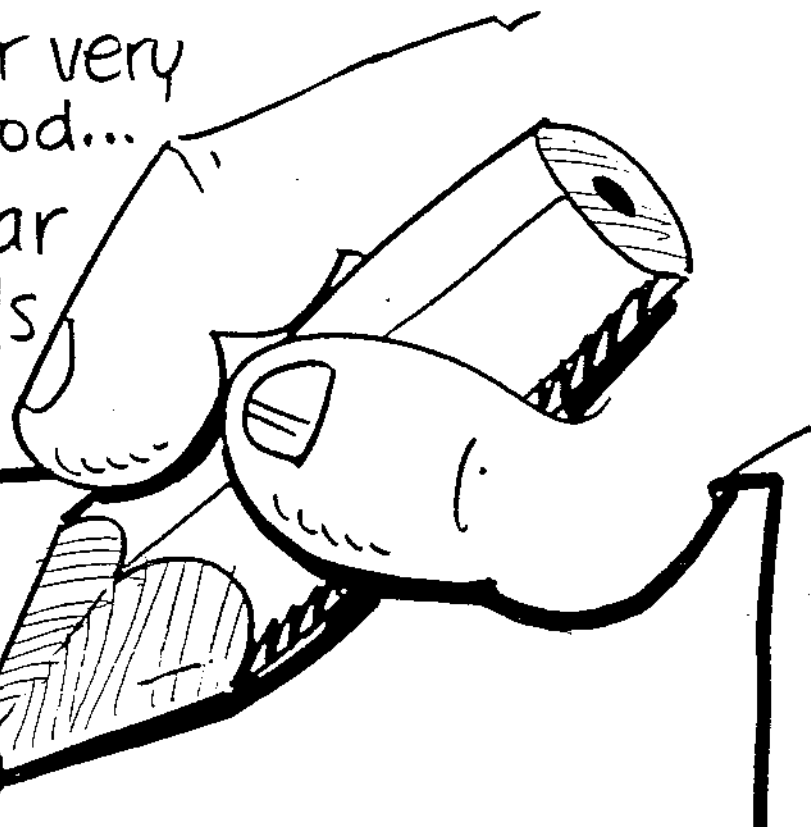
don't forget to say SORRY for the wrong things you do.

God expects us to tell Him about them,
and once we tell Him how sorry we are for letting Him
down,
He lovingly forgives us !

Write down your very
own prayer to God...

He loves to hear
from His friends

don't forget to thank
Him



signed _____

Here's some other TRUE stories about prayer
and the REAL people who prayed,
and what happened as a result.

The first one is an "Emergency Prayer".

Let's read it and then tell me how long the prayer was.

Read the Story

(Answer - "HELP, save me, Lord.")

AT THE CONCLUSION :-

You see, sometimes we haven't got time to say much.

It doesn't matter.

God is ALWAYS right by our side -

and He'll be there to help !



Peter's PRAYER

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There are many different types of PRAYER, which can vary according to circumstances and needs

There are many examples in the BIBLE of people praying in different ways, at different times, for various needs.

Some needs are urgent and immediate, like Simon Peter's :

The disciples were crossing a lake in a small boat, when a strong wind sprung up, making big waves. However hard they rowed, they could make no headway. Jesus saw their troubles from the hills of the shore, and walked across the waters of the lake to them. When they saw him coming, they were scared "It's a ghost !!" they cried out in fear. Then Jesus called out to them, telling them that it was really Him. Peter asked Jesus if he could come to Him on the water - Jesus replied "Come on"

So Peter climbed over the side of the boat and began to walk towards Jesus on top of the water. But Peter looked at the wind and the waves, and in a moment....panicked, and began to sink!

There was no time for anything but the very shortest Prayer and he shouted out to Jesus -- "HELP, SAVE ME LORD"

Jesus put out His hand quickly, caught Peter and pulled him up from the foaming water. "Why did you doubt Me, Peter ?" he asked. Then the two of them climbed into the boat, and immediately the wind became calm.



The second story is quite different.

Poor Hannah prayed with tears flowing down her cheeks -
she was real upset and she told God all about it.

Read the story, and find out why.

Sometimes after a rough day at school or at home,
when you feel that everything is rotten,
and you're all upset inside -

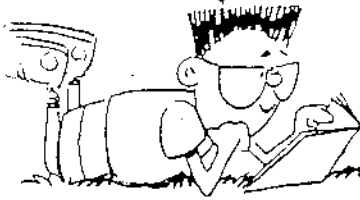
Jesus tells us to go to a quiet place,
like our bedroom or in the backyard,

and tell God all about it.

Tell Him just how you feel.

He loves you and is really concerned about you !

Just like Hannah.



Hannah's PRAYER

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Other Prayer's are for deep personal needs, like Hannah's

Hannah was one of the 2 wives of Elkanah, but unlike the other wife, Peninnah who had children, Hannah was childless. She longed desperately for a child of her own, for having no children was a disgrace.

"Cheer up Hannah," Elkanah would say, "I love you - doesn't that help?"

But Hannah couldn't cheer up when Peninnah kept teasing and taunting.

Every year Elkanah took his family to Shiloh to worship God in the temple.

After their meal, Hannah moved away from the others - she cried her heart out, telling God how miserable she was. She made God a promise - "If you will give me a son, I will give him back to you all his life." She prayed in her heart, moving only her lips. Eli the priest saw her, and thought she was drunk. "No I'm not" she said, "but I am very unhappy." and she told him all about it.

Eli spoke, "Go in peace, and may God give you the son you long for."

And God remembered her and answered her prayer.

He gave her a beautiful baby boy whom she called Samuel.

When Samuel was old enough, Hannah took him up to the temple to live, as she had promised.

When he grew up, Samuel became one of God's great Prophets.

And Hannah had 3 more sons and 2 daughters.



INTRODUCTION

Habakkuk asked a good question ..

- Do you have to pray only in a church ?

And do you have to hold your hands together ?

What do you think ?

- Let's see HOW and WHERE some other guys
in Bible days prayed.....

ACTIVITY

Find the verses and answer the questions.

DO YOU HAVE TO PRAY IN A CHURCH
AND DO YOU HAVE TO PRAY
WITH YOUR HANDS TOGETHER?
I'D SURE LIKE TO TALK
TO GOD BUT I'M NOT
SURE **HOW** or **WHERE**
DOES GOD MIND?..

NO.

GOD JUST WANTS YOU TO
TALK TO HIM - ANY PLACE WILL DO.
IT CAN BE A CHURCH OR IT

CAN BE AT SCHOOL OR IN YOUR
OWN BEDROOM - ANYWHERE'S O.K.
I LOOK AT THESE EXAMPLES BELOW.
THESE GUYS PRAYED IN SOME
AMAZING PLACES - AND GOD
HEARD THEM AND HELPED THEM...



★ GRAB A BIBLE • FIND THE VERSE • ANSWER THE QUESTIONS.

- WHERE DID JONAH PRAY?
JONAH 2:1

- AND WHAT HAPPENED?
JONAH 2:10



- WHERE DID PAUL & SILAS PRAY?
ACTS 16:23

- AND WHAT HAPPENED?
ACTS 16:25-26



- WHERE DID ELIJAH PRAY?
1 KINGS 18:19 and verse 36

- AND WHAT HAPPENED?
1 KINGS 18:37-38



I think you'll soon see that you can pray
ANYWHERE and **ANYHOW**
(with hands together or not) !

In fact, here's a little mini-poster to remind you.

ACTIVITY

Colour it in and maybe hang it somewhere
like in your bedroom,

to remind you about prayer.

NOTE

TEACHER :
Explain that prayer involves not only **TALKING TO** God

but also **LISTENING TO** God.

We don't hear God's audible voice every time.

But as we read His Bible

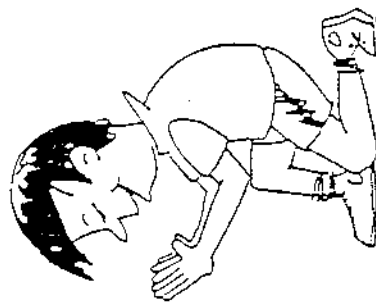
and think about all the good things He does for us,
we **CAN** feel God real close.

That's part of the wonder of Prayer.....

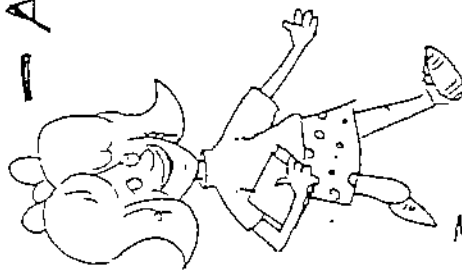
PRAYERS

is talking to GOD... ANYTIME!

— AND LISTENING TO HIM AS WELL!



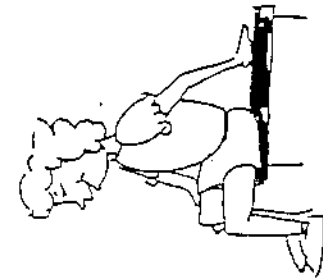
By yourself...



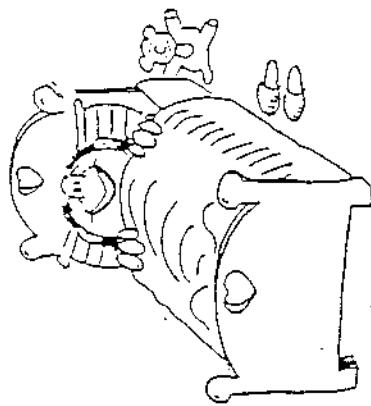
Going to
School...



With a friend...



In your
bed...



ANYWHERE... ANYTIME... ANYHOW

TEACHER

Explain that in many ways,

Prayer can be likened to using a telephone.

Say - If you can use a telephone, then you can pray.

With a telephone :

- You can't see the person on the other end !
so with prayer to God, you can't see Him,
but you can be aware of His answers
- You can use it any time - night or day.
so with prayer, any time at all
- Its use is not dependent on the weather,
or how you feel.....!
so with prayer, its not dependant on how we feel,
or the weather, but simply on Faith.
- There is no (conscious) charge.....
The bill has been paid by Jesus death on the cross !
- Perhaps unlike some people you may call
on the telephone,
God will always answer your prayer to Him
- But some times a telephone line can be cut,
and the call wont get through,
So with prayer - the line of communication
can be cut by SIN -
but it can be re-connected by being sorry and
asking for forgiveness

Remember -- If you can use a telephone,

then.....You can PRAY.

PRAYER IS LIKE USING THE PHONE..

1 God always answers

2 Dial anytime, night or day

3 There is no charge..Jesus
paid the bill

4 Talk to God just
like your best friend



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LOOKING BACK. THE QUEST SO FAR...

When we PRAY, we speak directly and personally with G O D in heaven.
Nothing comes between us and our G O D.
We do not need to use special words or tone of voice, or be in a special place.
All that is needed is to honestly bring to God our deepest feelings and desires

HOW IMPORTANT IS PRAYER ??

We can, and should, pray about everything !
Do not worry about anything. But pray and ask God for everything you need.
And when you pray, always give thanks. Phillipians 4 : 6

HOW SHOULD WE PRAY ??

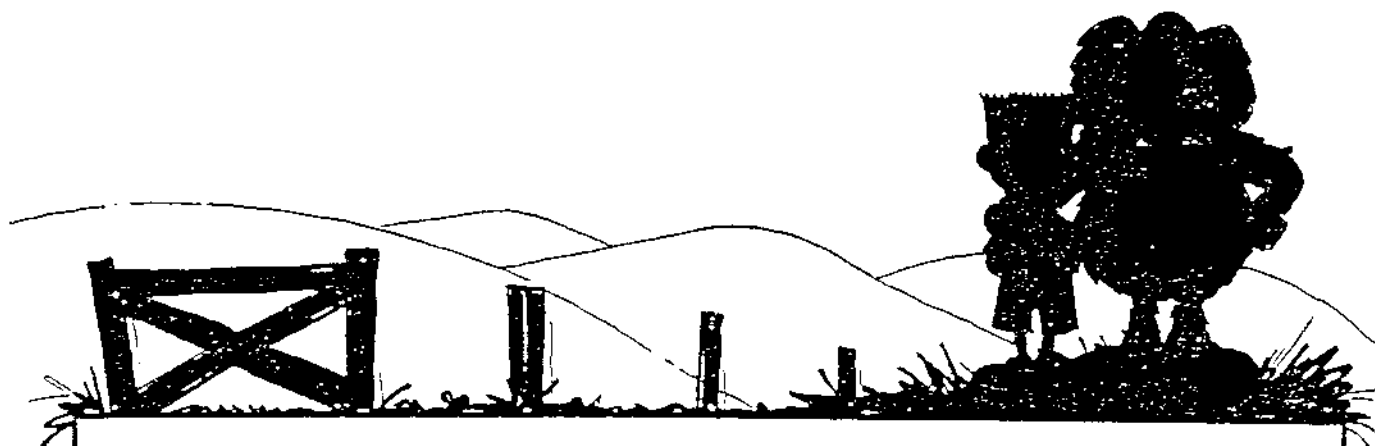
In the name of Jesus.
Jesus said, "If you ask Me for anything in My name, I will do it for you."
John 14 : 13

DOES G O D HEAR AND ANSWER OUR PRAYERS ??

Yes, Absolutely !!!!!
When we ask God for things (and those things agree with what God wants for us), then God cares about what we say. God listens to us every time we ask Him."
1 John 5 : 14,15

WILL G O D ALWAYS GIVE US EVERYTHING WE ASK FOR ??

No, because there are times that we ask for things with wrong motives or with sin in our hearts.
When you ask, you do not receive because the reason you ask is wrong. You want things only so that you can use them for your own pleasure.
James 4 : 3



WHAT PROMISE HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THOSE WHO PRAY ??
(According to God's will)

God will grant your requests. (A.S.K = Ask, Seek, Knock)

ASK and it will be given to you; SEEK and you will find;
KNOCK and the door will be opened to you.

Matthew 7 : 7

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS
BY WAYLIFE PROJECTS LTD

We hope that you have enjoyed using and teaching THEQUEST
We have certainly enjoyed putting it together.

These further sections are planned for soon release :

- 1 WHAT ABOUT HEAVEN ??
- 2 WHAT IS TRUTH ??
- 3 WHAT ABOUT HURTS & SUFFERINGS ??
- 4 YOUR MISSION IN LIFE ??
(What's Life All About?)

For further information on these upcoming publications,
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