

Asking God

Supplication

God's answers: yes, no, wait



"Don't worry about anything.
No matter what happens, tell God
about everything. Ask and pray,
and give thanks to him."

Philippians 4:6

Heavenly Father,
Please:

In Jesus name,
Amen

Spotlight on Prayer 6: *Asking God* (Condensed Version)

SUPPLICATION (Scripture: Philippians 4:6)

Objectives: To explain that: *Supplication means to ask God for something for ourselves or for others. *God wants us to talk to him about everything in prayer. If we are worried about something, we can tell God and ask him to help us. *God's answer might be yes, no, or wait. *We can be sure that God always hears our prayers, even if the answer is different than what we asked him for. We need to trust that God knows what is best for us and others.

"I Wonder" Questions: (*Point to poster picture*) *What do you see in this picture? *I wonder what the children are praying for. *I wonder what the word "supplication" means. Let's find out more in our lesson....

Lesson Props: Small post-it notes for writing prayer requests to attach to poster

Lesson Summary: Jesus taught us to pray. Previously, we have talked about different types of prayer, like adoring God in worship, confessing our sins, and giving thanks to God. Now we are going to talk about "asking" God for things. Another word for "asking" is "**supplication**".

(*Point to word on poster*) Supplication means to ask God for something for ourselves or for others. Can someone read the memory verse on our poster? (*Child reads verse*) Do you sometimes worry about things? Yes, me too! But God tells us not to worry. Instead, he wants us to talk to him about everything in prayer. We can tell God about it and ask him to help us. Our Heavenly Father always hears our prayers and wants to answer them. God's answers might be yes, no, or wait. Sometimes God's answer to our prayer is "**yes**". (*Point to "yes"*) Jesus told his disciples: "Ask, and you will receive." (Matthew 7:7) God loves to give good gifts to his children. **Does that mean that God always gives us exactly what we want?** (*Children respond*) No, he doesn't. Sometimes God's answer to our prayer is "**no**". (*Point to "no"*) That might be because our prayer is selfish. (James 4:3) (*Example: praying for a blue bike when your red bike is just fine.*) Other times the prayer might not be selfish at all, but the answer is still "no". It can be hard for us to understand why we don't get what we ask for. However, God sees the big picture and knows what is best for us, and we can **know** and **trust** that he takes care of us. **God's will is always best** because he is perfectly wise and loving. Sometimes God's answer to our prayer is "**wait**". (*Point to "wait"*) The answer to our prayer might not come right away. God wants us to keep on praying and trust that he will answer our prayer when the time is right. One thing we can be sure of is that God **always** hears our prayers, even when the answer is different than what we asked him for.

We can talk to God in many different ways: We can pray alone, and we can pray together. We can pray with our family at home, and with our church family. Praying with somebody is another way of caring for them. We don't have to pray out loud for God to hear us, but we pray out loud so others can hear our prayer and be encouraged. When we pray, we can use prayers that are written out for us, like the Lord's Prayer. We can also pray using our own words. It does not have to be a long prayer; it can just be short and simple. (*Point to poster*) On our poster we have a short and simple prayer. Let's use that now to pray together. Is there anything you would like us to pray for today, for yourself or someone you know? (*Write children's prayer requests on post-it notes and stick them on poster. Model how to pray for one of the requests using the poster template. Then let the children who want to pray out loud, take turns speaking their prayer to God.*)

Suggested Questions: **What did you learn about prayer today?** (God wants us to talk to him about everything. We can ask God to help us or others. God's answers can be "yes", "no", or "wait") ***What does the word "supplication" mean?** (To ask God for something for ourselves or for others) ***What does God want us to do when we are worried about something?** (To talk to him about it, and to ask for his help) ***What are the three answers to prayer that God might give?** (Yes, no, and wait. We can trust that God's will is always best)

Bible Memory Verse: "Don't worry about anything. No matter what happens, tell God about everything. Ask and pray, and give thanks to him." (Philippians 4:6 NIRV)