

SECTION V. Jesus taught and modeled that prayer was talking to God and that God would answer our prayers. There are several places in the New Testament where prayer is talked about. The writer James talks about prayer.

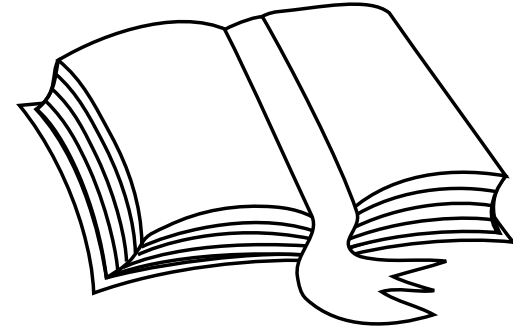
A. Read James 1:5.

1. What does James encourage us to do?
2. What does James say the result will be?

B. The disciples also prayed as a group. Read Acts 2:42.

1. What were the things that the disciples did together as a group during the early days of the Christian church?
2. Why do you think prayer was an important part of early Christian life?
3. What are some ways we can encourage each other to pray, both as individuals and in a group?

NOTES



TALKING TO GOD

SECTION I. Introduction

- A. Two hundred years ago in your culture, what were the ways people usually communicated?
- B. What are the most important ways to communicate today?
- C. What is your favorite method to communicate with someone you love? Why do you like this way best?

SECTION II. God wants us to communicate with Him. He has told us this. He himself has communicated with us in many ways. He has spoken to us through the prophets; through His Son, Jesus Christ; and through the Bible. In the book of Psalms, we can see how God's people communicated with Him through prayer thousands of years ago. King David, the second king of Israel, wrote these psalms during Old Testament times.

A. Read Psalm 5:1-3.

1. How did David begin his day?

2. In what ways does David show he honors God?
3. What does David ask God to do in verse 1?
4. After David gives God honor and tells God what he needs, what does David say he does?
5. What does this Psalm show us about prayer and how to pray?

B. Read Psalm 55:1-2a. In these verses, what four things does David ask God to do?

C. Read Psalm 145:18.

1. What does this verse show that David believes?
2. What evidence (proof) do you see in your own life or the lives of those around you that this is true today?

D. Read Psalm 6:8-10. David shows that he believes that his prayer has had results. What are the results?

SECTION III. In New Testament times, people continued to communicate with God. Jesus prayed to *His Father in Heaven*. The apostles and Jesus' other disciples also prayed. Jesus gave many examples of praying. Read Luke 6:12-13.

- A. Where and how long did Jesus pray?
- B. Why do you think Jesus prayed so long at that particular time?
- C. What can we learn about prayer from Jesus' example?

SECTION IV. According to the New Testament, Jesus prayed often. He also encouraged His disciples to pray and gave instructions about prayer.

A. Read John 16:23b-24.

1. How does Jesus say His disciples are to ask God the Father for what they need?
2. What does He say the results will be if we ask for something in Jesus' name?

B. Read Matthew 21:22. What should we believe when we pray?

C. Read John 15:7.

1. When Jesus says that we can ask for anything and we will receive it, what is the condition?
2. When we pray, how can we know that we have met the condition that Jesus talks about here?