

Monday

The Work of the Father

Our Heavenly Father plays a very important role in our lives. He is at work everyday. What does He do? We already studied them in Sunday school, but we will study them again this week a little more in depth. One of God the Father's jobs is that He hears our prayer.

1. Read Matthew 6:9-13 – This passage is commonly known as The Lord's Prayer. However, a better name would be The Model Prayer. Jesus was teaching His disciples how to pray. To Whom did Jesus direct His prayer?
2. Jesus told us to direct our prayers to the Father. Would it make sense for Jesus to tell us that if the Father would not hear us?
3. Read Psalm 34:15 – The final clause in this verse states, "...his ears are open unto their cry." This is a present tense verb which shows continuous action. Does that mean that God the Father will hear us at any time?
4. If God the Father does hear us, we ought to pray to Him. Read Psalm 18:6 – When does this verse say is a good time to pray to Him?
5. Read Psalm 145:19 – What promises are given to people who fear God and pray to Him?
6. Read Psalm 66:18 – Is there ever a time when God will not hear our prayer?
7. To regard something means to view it as valuable. To regard iniquity or sin is to be unwilling to confess it as wrong and turn from it. Is there anything in your life that is preventing God from hearing your prayer?

God wants to hear from you. Take time to talk to Him today!

Tuesday

The Work of the Father

God the Father has many children, and they keep Him very busy. One of His jobs is to hear prayer. Thankfully, He doesn't just hear it; He answers it! God is able to change the circumstances in our lives.

1. Read Matthew 7:7-11 – What three things did Jesus tell us to do?
2. What did He say would happen when you do them?
3. What promises are given in verse 8?
4. Would any loving father do what is described in verses 9-10?
5. Notice the phrase "how much more" in verse 11. If a loving earthly father will provide for his children, what will our Heavenly Father do so much more for His children?
6. Can we be certain that God will answer our prayers?
7. Read Jeremiah 33:3 – What two things will God do for those who call on Him?
8. Read Ephesians 3:20 – What does this verse teach about how God answers prayer?
9. Read Proverbs 28:9 – When will God not answer prayer?
10. Read Hebrews 11:6 – What does this verse teach about how God answers prayer?

God hears you and answers you. Some of God's response is dependent on you. Stay in close fellowship with Him.

Wednesday
The Work of the Father

God has many responsibilities. He hears and answers our prayers. He also knows and meets our material needs. We all have needs. Our Heavenly Father knows each one and has the resources to meet each one.

1. Read Matthew 6:24-34 – About what things does Jesus tell us not to worry in verse 25?
2. According to verses 26-29, why should we not worry?
3. What is the conclusion of the thought in verse 30?
4. What did Jesus repeat in verse 31?
5. According to verse 32, what is the reason for not worrying about those things?
6. According to verse 33, what is truly important?
7. What promise comes in the end of verse 33 when you obey the commands at the beginning of verse 33?
8. What command is repeated in verse 34?
9. What is promised in Philippians 4:19?
10. God the Father promised to give us everything we need. Will God necessarily give us everything we want?
11. What needs do you have?

God knows every need you have, but He wants you to tell Him about them. The God of the universe is personal enough that He wants to hear from you. Trust Him to meet your every need.

Thursday
The Work of the Father

There are some jobs that parents have that aren't so enjoyable. Disciplining their children is one of them. Our Heavenly Father sometimes needs to discipline us. It's another one of His jobs as our Heavenly Father.

1. Read Hebrews 12:5-13 – According to verse 5, what should we not despise?
2. We should not faint or be discouraged either when we are chastened by the Lord. What is the reason given in verse 6?
3. God corrects those whom He loves, His children. According to verse 8, how many of God's children receive God's discipline?
4. According to verse 8, what does it mean if you do not experience God discipline?
5. Verse 9 teaches us that our earthly discipliners discipline us, and because of that, we respected them. What should be our reaction to our Heavenly Father's discipline?
6. According to verse 10, why does God discipline us?
7. According to verse 11, what is the result of God's discipline?
8. Since our Heavenly Father's discipline is good for us, though it is not enjoyable, according to verses 12-13, what should we do?
9. Read I Samuel 15:22 – What would God rather have you do than be disciplined and ask for forgiveness?

God does not enjoy disciplining us, but it is for our own good. He loves us and wants us to be like Him, so He corrects our actions.

Friday
The Work of the Father

Another job that our Heavenly Father has that no other human father has is ruling Heaven and Earth. That's a big job, but our Heavenly Father is more than capable of fulfilling that responsibility. What difference does it make to our lives that He is ruler? Let's find out!

1. Read Deuteronomy 10:14 – What three things belong to God?
2. If God owns it, can He do whatever He wants with it?
3. Read Joshua 2:11 – Rahab is talking to the two spies who surveyed Jericho before they went in and God destroyed it. For what reason were the people of Jericho scared of the Israelites?
4. The people of Jericho understood that Israel's God was the God of Heaven and Earth. He would take care of His children and destroy their enemies. Do you think that God will do that for you today?
5. Read Matthew 11:25 – What did Jesus call His Father?
6. If God the Father is Lord or Master of Heaven and Earth, who must obey Him?
7. Read Acts 17:24-28 – What is God called in verse 24?
8. Verse 26 says that God made everyone of one blood. We are all related. According to verse 27, why did He do that?
9. According to verse 28, what three things do we have through our Heavenly Father?

Our Heavenly Father is Lord of Heaven and Earth. He deserves our complete obedience!

Saturday
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Another responsibility of fathers is to teach his children (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). Our Heavenly Father desires to teach us as well. We have a lot to learn! Thankfully, He knows everything, and He knows the best way to teach us.

1. Read Matthew 16:13-17 – What question did Jesus ask His disciples in verse 13?
2. Jesus asked this question to prepare them for His next question in verse 15. What was it?
3. Why do you think He asked that question?
4. What was Peter's response in verse 16?
5. Jesus called Peter blessed in verse 17 because he knew correctly Who Jesus is. Who revealed that particular truth to him?
6. What did not convince him that Jesus is the Son of God?
7. Peter didn't rely on external physical proofs to prove to him that Jesus was God's Son. God the Father revealed it to him. God taught Him directly. There's no better teacher than God Himself. What is God trying to teach you?
8. God gave us His Word to teach us. Read Hebrews 11:1-3 – What else is necessary to understand Biblical truth properly?
9. Does skepticism of God's Word ever help understand it?

God the Father wants to teach you about Himself and about His Word. He wants you to be willing to learn from Him. Spend time in His Word everyday, and be open to knowing Him better.

Sunday

The Work of the Father

God the Father has jobs. He has many more, but we will look at one more today. Thankfully for us, He blesses His children. Any father wants to bless his children. Our Heavenly Father certainly does too. Blessings come in all shapes and sizes. How exactly does He bless us?

1. Read Ephesians 1:3 – What kind of blessings does God the Father give us?
2. Where are those blessings?
3. Read Psalm 68:19 – How often does God bless us?
4. What blessings have you received today?
5. Read James 1:17 – From where do our blessings come?
6. God the Father is described as having no variableness or shadow or hint of turning. In other words our Heavenly Father never changes. How does that apply specifically to the fact that God blesses His children?
7. Read Exodus 14:13-14 – What kind of blessing were the Israelites going to receive?
8. Read I Thessalonians 2:19-20 – What was Paul’s blessing from God?
9. Whom have you led to the Lord?

God blesses us everyday. We just need to look around and see what God has done for us. We deserve none of God’s blessings, but He is so loving that He gives them to us anyway. Our Heavenly Father is wonderful. Are you His child?