

Last week you left Christian and Pliable talking as they walked towards the wicket-gate. *Pilgrims Progress continues:* Now I saw in my dream that they drew near to a very miry slough that was in the midst of the plain; and they, being heedless, did both fall suddenly into the bog. The name of the slough was Despond. Here, therefore, they wallowed for a time, covered with the dirt and Christian, because of the burden that was on his back, began to sink in the mire.

Then said Pliable, "Ah! Neighbour Christian, where are you now?"

"Truly," said Christian, "I do not know."

At that Pliable began to be offended, and angrily said to his fellow, "Is this the happiness you have told me all this while of? If I get out again with my life you shall possess the brave country alone for me." And with that he gave a desperate struggle or two, and got out of the mire on that side of the slough which was next to his own house; so away he went and Christian saw him no more.

Wherefore Christian was left to tumble in the Slough of Despond alone; but still he struggled to that side of the slough that was still further from his own house, and next to the wicket-gate; this he finally did, but could not get out, because of the burden that was upon his back. But I beheld in my dream that a man came to him, whose name was Help, and asked him what he did there?

"Sir," said Christian, "I was told to go this way by a man called Evangelist, who directed me also to yonder gate that I might escape the wrath to come. And as I was going I fell in here." "But why did not you look for the steps?"

"Fear followed me so hard, that I fled, and fell in."

Then said he, "Give me thy hand." He gave him his hand and Help drew him out and set him upon sound ground, and bid him go on his way.

Then I stepped to him that pulled him out, and said, "Sir, wherefore is it that this place is not mended, that poor travellers might go with more security?" And he said unto me, "This miry slough is such a place as cannot be mended. It is the hole where the scum and filth that comes with conviction for sin, does continually run and therefore it is called the Slough of Despond; for as the sinner is awakened about his lost condition, there ariseth in his soul many fears, and doubts, and discouraging concerns, which all of them get together, and settle in this place. And this is the reason of the badness of this ground. It is not the pleasure of the King that this place should remain so bad; his labourers, also, have, by the directions of his Majesty's surveyors, been, for above these 1,600 years, employed about this patch of ground, if, perhaps, it might have been mended; yea, and to my knowledge," said he, "here have been swallowed up at least 20,000 cart-loads; yea, millions of wholesome instructions, that have, at all seasons, been brought from all places of the King's dominions, and they that know, say they are the best materials to make good ground of the place, if so be it might have been mended; but it is the Slough of Despond still... True, there are, by the direction of the Lawgiver, certain good steps, placed even through the very midst of this slough; but sometimes as this place doth spew out its filth these steps are hardly seen; or if they be, men step besides, and then they are bemired."

Now I saw in my dream, that, by this time, Pliable was got home to his house again so that his neighbours came to visit him and some of them called him wise for coming back, and some called him fool for going with Christian; others, did mock at his cowardliness, saying, "Surely, since you began to venture, I would not have given out for a few difficulties." So Pliable sat sneaking among them. But, at last they all turned their tales and began to deride poor Christian behind his back.

Jesus Prays

Sabbath

Do you have a friend you like to talk to?

What do you talk about? Tick the things you talk about and then add anything else on the bottom of the list.

- ☐ What you want to do
- ☐ Things you like
- ☐ Things you don't like
- ☐ Things you have done
- ☐ Problems you have
- ☐ Questions you have
- ☐ What they want to do
- ☐ What they like
- ☐ What they have done
- ☐ Things that you both like to do
- ☐ What you will do in the future
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

Year 2, Quarter 4, Week 2, Level: "Pre/Teens"

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Refer: Matthew 6:1-24; 7:1-11; Luke 5:16; 6:12; 11:1-13; 16:10-12; 18:1-14 John 16:7 NIV & NLT;

Christ's Object Lessons 150-163; Steps to Christ 150-163;

The Bible Story vol8 p66-69, 141-144

Sunday

Jesus often slipped away to spend time alone with His Father in Heaven. Sometimes the disciples were nearby, at other times He was totally alone; sometimes He even spent the whole night praying.

One day the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. This is the prayer that Jesus taught them.

"Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy;
May your Kingdom come soon;
May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us today the food we need,
And forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us.
And don't let us yield to temptation,
But rescue us from the evil one."

This prayer is recorded for us in Matthew 6:9-13_{NLT}

This is a story Jesus told about prayer:

One day a Pharisee and a despised tax collector were praying in the temple. The Pharisee looked toward heaven and prayed, "Thankyou God that I am not a sinner like everyone else. I don't cheat and I don't break the commandments. I am not like that tax collector over there! I fast regularly and I always give you my tithe."

The tax collector, on the other hand, bowed down and cried, "O God, be merciful to me, because I am a sinner."

Jesus said, "The tax collector who knew he was a sinner pleased God."

When you pray, when you help others and when you fast, don't be like some people and blow trumpets and make a big deal out of it so everyone will know; do it quietly so that others don't notice and then God who sees everything, will reward you."

Friday

Turn over this page and read what happens to Christian next in Pilgrims Progress.

If you remember last week, the burden on Christian's back represents the guilt which many people feel when they come to understand they are sinners.

The Slew of Despond is named for despondency which means: **hopelessness, sadness and depression**, and this is what John Bunyan, the author of Pilgrims Progress felt before he came to know Jesus as his personal Saviour; Martin Luther and many of the other reformers also felt the same way and many people today do as well. Even King David in the Bible felt this.



What did David write in Psalm 40:2_{NLT}? "He _ _ _ _ _ me out of the pit of despair, out of the _ _ _ and the _ _ _ . He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along."

Many people think they have to be good before they can come to God, but no matter how hard they try they fail. We can't be good by ourselves – we need God's help.

Romans 5:8_{NLT}, "But _ _ _ showed His great love for us by sending _ _ _ _ _ to die for us **while we were still sinners.**"

Jesus said, "Healthy people don't need a _ _ _ _ _ -- sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are _ _ _ _ _ ." Mark 2:17_{NLT}

Read John 3:16 and write it in your own words below. Notice the requirement is not being good enough, but believing; and like the father in Mark 9:24 we can say, "Help me overcome my unbelief!"

Thursday

God,

You are amazing, wonderful and powerful!

Thank you for giving me food and clothes.

I am sorry for what I have done wrong, help me to forgive others. Please fill me with your Holy Spirit and help me to do what is right.

L O V P A E M E J O C Y A P W
E A W O N D E R F U L A N D I
C E P W D A T I O E O N D C T
O T H E R S E K R I T O N D H
N H E R S P S G G O H O D N O
E A S F S I S F I A E I W T L
H N F U U R L N V E S O R R Y
S K S L G I E M E N T L O E O
N E S S S T E E L F A C N O U
W H A T N T R O L L R I G H T
H O M V E P L E A S E J O Y O
A H A V E P E A M C E P G A T
T I Z E N C E K I N Y Y O U D
N F I L L E D O S F O O D S H
G O N O O D O N E O U S S F E
A R G I V I N G I R R T H F L
U L N E S S E G E N T H E L P

Monday

This is another story Jesus told about prayer:

A widow was asking for justice from a judge who did not care about anyone or anything. She kept asking and asking and asking until the judge got tired of her asking and did what she wanted just to quiet her.

Jesus said, "Even though the judge didn't care about anyone, he gave her justice in the end. God cares about you very much - He will give you justice because He loves you."

Another time, Jesus said, "Imagine that a friend comes to visit you in the middle of the night and you have no food for him. You might knock on your neighbour's door and ask for some food and your neighbour says, "Go away. It's the middle of the night."

If you keep knocking, your neighbour will eventually give you what you want just so that you will go away.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:17_{NLT}, Paul writes, "Never stop praying."

"If a son asks for something to eat, will his father give him a stone or a snake? No! - Sinful, earthly fathers give good gifts and your Heavenly Father will give you good gifts too! Ask and you will be given, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened.

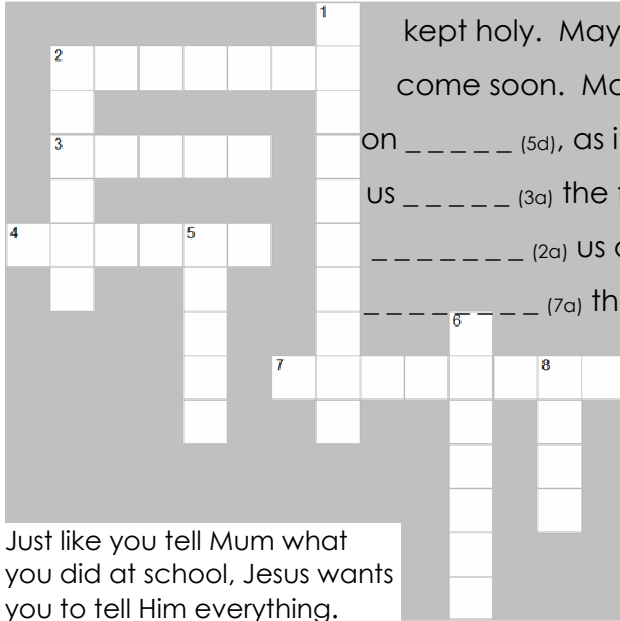
You want to give your children good gifts and your Father in heaven wants to give you good gifts too. But most of all, He wants to give you the best gift - the Holy Spirit.

Later, Jesus actually said to the disciples, that it was good He would return to heaven because then the Holy Spirit would come to them. We do not have Jesus with us today, but we can have the Holy Spirit. When we follow Jesus example and spend regular time with God, when we do as Jesus said and ask for the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit will come into our hearts. As Revelation 3:20_{NLT} says, "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear My voice and open the door, I will come in..." Will you ask the Holy Spirit into your heart today?

Tuesday

The Lord's Prayer is found in Matthew 6:9-13, fill in the missing words and solve the crossword.

Our _____ (2 down) in _____ (4 across), may your name be



kept holy. May your _____ (6d)

come soon. May your will be done

on _____ (5d), as it is in heaven. Give

us _____ (3a) the food we need, and

_____ (2a) us our sins, as we have

_____ (7a) those who sin against

us. And don't let

us yield to

_____ (1d),

but rescue us from

the _____ (8d) one.

Just like you tell Mum what you did at school, Jesus wants you to tell Him everything.

Here are some things you might pray about. To find them write the letter from the front of the line and then the letter from the end of the line and then the next one from the front and the next one from the back and so on.

Pes epm o ob nr ihm rterhoby twygae ttne lheat

Plea

lhdago a tsho oaydtloc ayddo e=

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Pes epm ihm ettdyao sty twe lheat

Plea

We can talk to Jesus about anything. We can also ask Him to help us to do the right thing. Jesus wants to be our best friend.

Wednesday

What was wrong with the Pharisee's prayer?

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z						

The Pharisee didn't realise something very important and because of this, he didn't see any need in His life for Jesus.

✓ ↓ ◆ ◆ ◆ ↓ ◆

Use the code to solve Romans 3:23_{NLT}

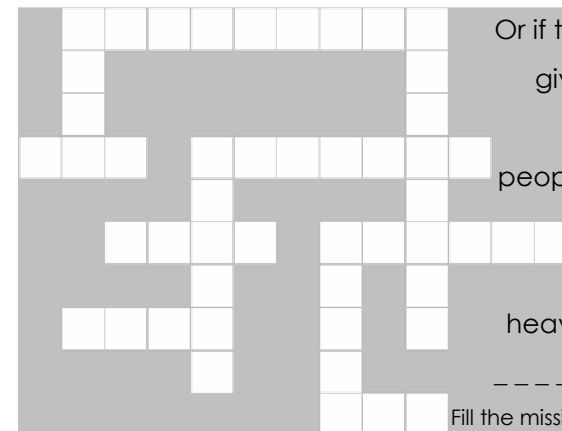
↑ ◆ ◆ ◆

The Pharisee was praying so that other people would notice him and think how good he was. But when we compare ourselves to God, what does Isaiah 64:6_{NLT} say?

"We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our _____ deeds, they are nothing but _____."

The true purpose of prayer is for us to spend time with God. When Jesus was on the earth the disciples spent time with him in person, but, Jesus could only be in one place at a time then. The Holy Spirit can be everywhere, all the time; that is why Jesus said it was good that He would leave so the Holy Spirit could come into their lives.

What did Jesus say in Luke 11:11-13_{NLT}? "You _____ -- if your children ask for a _____, do you give them a _____ instead?"



Or if they ask for an _____, do you give them a _____? Of course not! So if you sinful people know how to give _____ gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the _____ to those who _____ Him.

Fill the missing words then fit them in the grid.