



Parents: These are some assistance for Youth typically aged 13-16. Please go through this with your children.

Lesson 1: Decisions, prayers and how to use the Bible

Tena koutou in Jesus Christ Our Lord and Saviour

Decisions

We come to certain points in our lives where we have to start making decisions, that will affect us in the long run. Young people are not often sure as to what would be a good decision. Sometimes we may think that we will put it away for another time. It may be better to think, *"I can't change the past and I have not been promised the future, but I can make the most of my time today."*

Bible Teaching: How to read the Bible?

1. Go to the front of the Bible and look at the contents section;
2. Look for the book and look for the corresponding page;
3. The first letters are the shorthand (abbreviation) for the Book in the Bible;
4. These can usually be found in the front of your Bible;
5. The number before the : is the chapter of the book (usually a big number in the text); and
6. The numbers after the : are the verses (small numbers in the text);

NAME OF BOOK CHAPTER VERSE/S

Matthew 6:9-13

Dear God,
I know that I'm not perfect,
I know sometimes I forget to pray.
I know I have questioned my faith,
I know sometimes I lose my
temper, but thank you for loving
me unconditionally and giving me
another day to start over again.

6 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. 9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10 Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Prayer

Prayer is **not just about asking God for things**. In prayer, we wish to have a meeting space with God, where we can talk to him as we are and where we are.

The question one must ask is, “Is my prayer life active, does it help me to bear spiritual fruits and is it leading me to a closer relationship of love with God, and my neighbour as myself?”

Apostle Paul in the oldest book in the New Testament, 1 Thessalonians 5:7, states that we should **pray without ceasing**.

In the **first Gospel of the New Testament, Matthew**, we read in 6:6 what our Lord Jesus teaches us we should do when we pray, **“But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”**

Prayer is about **strengthening our relationship with God**. This needs time, so prayer needs a bit of time. There is no incorrect prayer. Go to the Lord, kneel and He will be there.

Apostle Flor Teaching on the importance of prayer (2014)

Apostle Flor teaches that faith and prayer go hand in hand. Prayer starts at home. Prayer can be done every morning if we think first of Creator. By having part of the family prayers before anyone leaves the house, we are displaying this faith to those souls that are in that household. The family that prays together stays together.

Parent Resource to be shared with children

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YzmbLWIqUBk>

Next Time

More on prayer and the bible

To Do: Always pray before meals

Get a Bible and a quiet space: Open at Psalm 139: 1-7

Open in prayer: “In the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost, Amen.”

Read the words of Psalm 139:1-7 as your prayer, followed by an “Amen.”

Close your prayer with, “ I pray this in the name of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus, Amen



References

Apostle Flor, C. (2014). *Words of life 2014: 34*. Apostolic Church of Queensland: Northern District: MacKay
NCRS. (2016a). *Commitment and Ministry*. NCRS: Author.
NCRS. (2016b). *On the Threshold*. NCRS: Author.



Confirmation Student Personal Thoughts

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