

A series of footprints are visible in the sand, leading from the top of the page down towards the bottom. The footprints are dark and distinct against the light-colored sand. The overall image has a warm, golden-brown tone.

# IN HIS STEPS

Fix Your Eyes on Jesus

**Large Group Leader's Guide**

connection  
*ministries*

# INTRODUCTION

The theme for this year's Summer Friendship Gatherings (SFG) is "In His Steps." 1 Peter 2:21 states; *"To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps."* Through His teachings and actions, Jesus models many ways that we as Christians are to live out our faith, and follow in His steps.

This week, we will be studying a handful of Jesus' teachings which reveal to us the love and grace of God, and how we can implement these critical virtues into our lives. The following leader's guide is worded into simple language so our friends with intellectual disabilities can better understand and apply the message of Jesus into everyday situations they may encounter. However, the Savior's teachings are meant for all to understand and treasure. May the Holy Spirit guide you in your preparations and stir you to follow in the steps of Jesus Christ, both at the Gathering and in everyday life.

**As a Large Group Leader, it will be important to emphasize the following key points during the three-day study:**

## DAY 1

### **INTERRUPTIONS**

Jesus heals Jarius' daughter,  
and the bleeding woman  
(Mark 5:21-42)

#### **Lesson Objectives:**

**1. Handling interruptions  
as modeled by Jesus.**

Jesus allowed Himself to be interrupted in order to teach those around Him. How we handle interruptions can be a Christian example for others.

#### **Daily Bible Verse:**

**In their hearts humans  
plan their course, but the  
Lord establishes their  
steps. Proverbs 16:9 (NIV)**

## DAY 2

### **COMPASSION**

The Good Samaritan  
(Luke 10:25-37)

#### **Lesson Objectives:**

- 1. Love others like Jesus loves us; treat them how we want to be treated.**
- 2. Look to Jesus' teaching on how we can show compassion to others.**

#### **Daily Bible Verse:**

**" 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul. Love Him with all your strength and mind.' And, 'love your neighbor as you love yourself.' "**  
*Luke 10:27 (NIRV)*

## DAY 3

### **PRAYER**

Jesus Teaches Us to Pray  
(Matthew 6:5-13)

#### **Lesson Objectives:**

- 1. How, when and why do we pray?**
- 2. We follow in Jesus' steps by praying the prayer Jesus taught us.**

#### **Daily Bible Verse:**

**Never stop praying. Give thanks no matter what happens. God wants you to thank Him because you believe in Christ Jesus.**  
*1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 (NIRV)*

## HELPFUL HINTS

### BE PREPARED!

To be properly prepared to lead the large group, please read through this guide and study the following Biblical passages prior to the event:

### REVIEW EACH DAY'S OUTLINE

### ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION

**SKITS, PROPS AND COSTUMES:** Interactive resources to engage the large group in the Bible lesson, through the use of skits, costumes, and/or having a guest visitor.

**SONGS:** Worship and interactive songs related to that day's Bible lesson.

**BIBLICAL CHARACTER:** A volunteer can play a Bible character from that day's lesson, to emphasize the main points.

### WAIT PATIENTLY FOR A RESPONSE

When asking an adult friend a question, take a moment to wait for his/her response. Those with disabilities sometimes need a moment to process the question, and to formulate their answer. If he/she does not respond after a minute, ask the question again or rephrase it.

### CONNECT THE BIBLE LESSON TO REAL LIFE

Connect the Bible lesson to a real-life situation. This helps everyone relate the Bible lesson to their lives. And whenever possible, tie the large group Bible lesson back to walking in Jesus' steps.

#### DAY 1

#### INTERRUPTIONS

Jesus heals Jarius' daughter, and the bleeding woman (*Mark 5:21-42*)

#### DAY 2

#### COMPASSION

The Good Samaritan (*Luke 10:25-37*)

#### DAY 3

#### PRAYER

Jesus Teaches Us to Pray (*Matthew 6:5-13*)

# DAY 1

## INTERRUPTIONS

Jesus heals Jarius' daughter, and the bleeding woman  
(Mark 5:21-42)

### Daily Bible Verse

In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps. *Proverbs 16:9 (NIV)*

### Lesson Objectives

1. How to deal with interruptions as modeled by Jesus.

### Suggested Props/Teaching Aids

- Large clock to "turn back time"
- 2 volunteers to play in the Skit, and the Large Group Leader
- SFG "Day 1" Power Point slides

### Bible Lesson Outline

*Note: This lesson is intended to be team taught. Speaker #1 gives an introduction of the three-day event, pretending to be the teacher. Speaker #2 critiques Speaker #1, and is invited to take over the lesson. Speaker #2 needs to be the Large Group Lesson Leader.*

### **I. Introduction: Skit. (Power Point Slides 1 & 2 introduce lesson)**

**Speaker #1:** Welcome to this summer's Friendship Gathering! For these next three evenings we are going to study the life of Jesus, and learn how we can walk in His steps. In fact, "In His Steps" is our theme for this summer, and later tonight everyone will get "In His Steps" t-shirts. During the Gathering, we are going to look at the way Jesus lived His life. Jesus allowed people to interrupt Him, He had compassion for people, and He was quick to pray...

*The "Interrupter" interrupts Speaker #1.*

**Interrupter:** Excuse me, can you please tell me where the church office is? I need to find the pastor.

LARGE GROUP

DAY 1

## Section I Contin.

**Speaker #1:** Does this look like the Information Desk? We are in the middle of a Bible class here. Just wander the hallways and you'll probably find him. Please leave! Now where was I before that crazy interruption?

**The Interrupter leaves.**

**Speaker #2:** Excuse me...

**Speaker #1:** Not another interruption! We'll never get to our lesson tonight. What do you want?

**Speaker #2:** I don't think you handled that interruption like Jesus would have.

**Speaker #1:** Like you could do better?

**Speaker #2:** God has been teaching me how I might better handle interruptions.

**Speaker #1:** Well, whoop dee doo! I'll just sit down and see what you have to say.

**Speaker #1 sits down, and Speaker #2 continues with the Bible lesson.**

### **A. Who likes to be interrupted? (Slide 3 in Power Point)**

1. As the Bible teacher, give an example of an interruption that annoys you.
2. The dictionary defines “**interruption**” as something that causes a stop or break in the continuity of something; simpler language might be, “something that causes a delay or stops an activity from continuing”.
3. Interruptions seem to come at the worst possible time; they happen to all of us!

### **B. Examples of interruptions. (Slide 4 in Power Point)**

1. The man/woman who came in asking for directions during the Friendship Gathering.
2. Your friend is sad and wants to talk while you're watching your favorite TV show.
3. You were getting ready to take a nap, and someone asks you to help with chores.

### **C. We have all been interrupted at one time or another. But, how do we respond to those interruptions? (Slide 5 in Power Point)**

1. **Pity Party:** My friends asked me to go to dinner with them, but I have to go grocery shopping instead. *Poor me!*
2. **Anger:** Don't interrupt me! Can't you see that this exciting show is on? *Get lost!*
3. **Not Fair:** Why do I have to help with the dishes? I'll miss the beginning of my favorite TV show. *It's not fair!*

**LARGE GROUP**

**DAY 1**

## Section I Contin.

4. **Frustration:** What do you mean the van won't start? Now I'm stuck at home when I really wanted to go to Bible study, or shopping, or anyplace but home. *Why me?*
5. **Ignore:** If I ignore it, maybe it will go away. *I can't hear you.*

**D. How many of us have responded to interruptions in these ways? How do you think Jesus would have responded to an interruption?**

**E. Leader can tie into lesson by saying, "Today, we are going to see how Jesus responded to interruptions."**

## II. God Uses Interruptions to Shape Us.

**A. Like a potter shapes the clay, God uses interruptions to shape our character. (Slide 6 in Power Point)**

1. Not every interruption is a good interruption, but God can still use it.
2. "And we know that in all things God works for those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." *Romans 8:28 (NIV)*

**B. God uses interruptions to chip away at pride and the "me first" attitude in our lives. (Slide 7 in Power Point) Ask the following questions to the adult friends, for them to think about:**

1. Does my response to an interruption show me and others when I'm being selfish?
2. Is my time more important than the needs of others?
3. When faced with an interruption, do I think: *I don't need this! I shouldn't have to put up with this. Not now, not me!*

**C. Who controls your time? You, the world, or God? Who should be in control? (Slide 8 in Power Point)**

1. Does God want you to do something other than what you think is important? We may think we can control every minutes of our life, but we just can't!
2. Memory verse: "In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps." *Proverbs 16:9 (NIV)*

**D. God uses interruptions to change us to be more like Jesus. It's in frustrations and interruptions that we find opportunities to rely on God. We learn to obey Him, and be an example to others. (Slide 9 in Power Point)**

**LARGE GROUP**

**DAY 1**

## Section II Contin.

1. These interruptions are the moments when things don't go our way.
2. Examples: someone asks you to dry the dishes when you want to play a game; you get stuck behind a school bus when you are in a hurry.

**E. When we respond to interruptions like Jesus, we become a Godly example for others. (Slide 10 in Power Point)**

**F. When we experience worldly interruptions or distractions (something that God would not want us to do), how should we respond? (Slide 11 in Power Point)**

1. Does the interruption harm our relationship with God? (Slide 12 in Power Point)
2. Does it take away from our time with God?
  - Does it take away from our weekly Bible class, or church service?
  - Does it take away from prayer time, or time reading the Bible?
  - Is the interruption something that God would not want us to do?

**G. Does the interruption harm relationships with others? (Slide 13 in Power Point)**

1. Any activity, good or bad, can be a distraction if it consumes our life.
  - Example: talking on the phone or texting with friends during a family meal.
  - Not making time for the people God has placed in our lives.

**H. Jesus did not say “yes” to every interruption. (Slide 14 in Power Point)**

1. “Very early the next morning, long before daylight, Jesus got up and left the house. He went out of town to a lonely place, where He prayed. But Simon and his companions went out searching for Him, and when they found Him, they said, “Everyone is looking for you.” But Jesus answered, “We must go on to the other villages around here. I have to preach in them also, because that is why I came.”  
*Mark 1:35-38 (NIV) (Slide 15 in Power Point)*
2. What was Jesus doing when His disciples interrupted Him?
  - **Answer: He was praying.**
  - We will talk more about prayer on Day 3. (Slide 16 in Power Point)
3. How do we figure out what God wants us to do?
  - **Answer: we need to pray!**
  - **Answer: we need to study God's Word to learn how to walk in Jesus' steps.**

**LARGE GROUP**

**DAY 1**

## **Section II Contin.**

### **I. In our prayers, we can ask God these questions: (Slide 17 in Power Point)**

1. Does this interruption strengthen my faith in God, or someone else's faith?
2. Will my response to the interruption make me more like Jesus?
3. Will I be a Christian example for others to follow?
  - If the answer to any of these questions is "yes", it may be something that God wants you to do.
  - If all of the answers are "no", the interruption could be a worldly distraction.

### **III. How Jesus Handled Interruptions. (Mark 5:21-42)**

#### **A. When Jesus' prayer time was interrupted by His disciples (Mark 1:35-38), did He throw a pity party, get angry, frustrated, or ignore it? Not at all!**

1. Jesus was frequently interrupted. There is another story about this in Mark 5:21-42.

#### **B. Jesus had crossed over to the other side of the lake. A large crowd had gathered around Him. (Slide 18 in Power Point)**

1. The first interruption came when Jairus, a respected synagogue leader, approached Jesus. Jairus pleaded for Jesus to heal his 12-year-old daughter, who was dying.
2. Jesus responded to the interruption, and went with Jairus.

#### **C. The second interruption came while Jesus was on His way to Jairus' house. The crowds were pressing in on Jesus. An unnamed woman who had been bleeding for 12 years touched His garment, and right away her bleeding stopped. (Slide 19 in Power Point)**

1. Jesus knew power had left Him and He looked for the person who touched Him.
2. The woman came to Jesus and told Him what she had done. Jesus said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you." (this was a term of endearment only used for people very close to someone).
3. Because of her faith, Jesus healed the woman.
4. As Jesus was still speaking, men came from Jairus' house and told Jesus that Jairus' daughter had died. Jesus continued to the house, and raised Jairus' daughter from the dead. (Slide 20 in Power Point)

**LARGE GROUP**

**DAY 1**

## Section III Contin.

### **D. In this story, Jesus allowed Himself to be interrupted by two people.**

1. Jairus pleaded with Jesus to heal his daughter. A man of his stature would never plead, but he was desperate. The bleeding woman cut in front of Jairus, because she was also desperate.
2. Because of her illness, the bleeding woman would have been an outcast. Jairus was respected by the whole city, where she was rejected.
3. Jairus was a leader in the synagogue, while the woman would not have been permitted in the synagogue because of her illness.
4. Everyone would have known Jairus by name, while no one would have known the bleeding woman's name. Yet Jesus referred to the woman as "daughter," a term of endearment.
5. Everyone is important to Jesus regardless of their position in life.

### **E. Jesus responded to the interruption of the respected synagogue leader Jarius, and also to the unnamed woman. Did Jesus respond by throwing a pity party or getting angry? Did He get frustrated or ignore the interruptions? (Slide 21 in Power Point)**

## **IV. What Jesus Teaches Us.**

### **A. How should we handle interruptions?**

1. Jesus always put people first! He allowed Himself to be interrupted in order to teach those around Him. Should we walk in Jesus' steps, and allow God to interrupt us to help others?
2. We can be an example for others.
3. Never underestimate how God will use an interruption to change your life or the life of another person.

### **B. What should we remember from our lesson? (Slide 22 in Power Point)**

1. Many interruptions are really things God would want us to do.
2. If we pray and listen, God can show us how He wants us to respond to the interruption, and do something about it.
3. We should ask what God wants us to do with every interruption.
4. If we want to walk in Jesus' steps, we want to respond like Jesus did!

**LARGE GROUP**

**DAY 1**

## Section IV Contin.

### **C. Ask yourself these simple questions: (Slide 23 in Power Point)**

1. Does this interruption strengthen my faith in God, or someone else's faith?
2. Will my response to the interruption make me more like Jesus?
3. Will I be a Christian example for others to follow?

### **D. If we can answer “yes” to any of these questions, it could mean the interruption is something God would want us to do.**

**Speaker #2:** Ok, let's see how well you were listening! We are going to turn back time on our clock, and go back to the beginning of our lesson.

**Use large clock and turn the hands back to the time it was at the start of the presentation.**

**Speaker #1:** Welcome to this summer's Friendship Gathering! For these next three evenings we are going to study the life of Jesus, and learn how we can walk in His steps. In fact, “In His Steps” is our theme for this summer, and later tonight everyone will get “In His Steps” t-shirts. During the Gathering, we are going to look at the way Jesus lived His life. Jesus allowed people to interrupt Him, He had compassion for people, and He was quick to pray...

**At the identical point in the introduction as before, have the same person who interrupted the first time interrupt the speaker again.**

**Interrupter:** Excuse me, can you please tell me where the church office is? I need to find the pastor.

**Speaker #1:** I sure can. Just continue down the hallway to your right and the office is the first door on your left. By the way, if you have time after your meeting with the pastor, you are welcome to join us at our Gathering.

**Interrupter:** Thanks, I might just do that.

**Interrupter leaves.**

**Speaker #2:** Wonderful! How many here think he/she learned how to respond to interruptions like a Christian?

### **Closing Prayer**

**Dear God, we thank You for giving us interruptions to build our faith in You. Please help us respond to interruptions as Jesus would. Thank you for showing us today how to walk in Jesus' steps. In Your Name, Amen.**

**LARGE GROUP**

**DAY 1**

# DAY 2

## COMPASSION

The Good Samaritan (*Luke 10:25-37*)

### Daily Bible Verse

“ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul. Love Him with all your strength and mind.’ And, ‘love your neighbor as you love yourself.’ ” *Luke 10:27 (NIRV)*

### Lesson Objectives

1. Love others like Jesus loves us, and treat them how we want to be treated.
2. Look to Jesus’ teaching on how we can show compassion to others.

### Suggested Props/Teaching Aids

- Costumes/opened front robes for acting out Bible lesson
- 3 volunteers to play in the Compassion Skit
- SFG “Day 2” Power Point slides

### Bible Lesson Outline

#### **I. Review “Day 1” Bible lesson, tie into “Day 2” lesson.**

##### **A. Remember what we talked about yesterday, and how Jesus turned interruptions into teachable moments for His disciples (*and for us*)?**

1. God uses interruptions to change us to be more like Jesus. It’s in these small frustrations and interruptions that we find opportunities to rely on God. We learn to obey Him, and to be an example for others.
2. “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.” (*Romans 8:28*)
3. God uses interruptions to chip away at pride, and the “me first” attitude in our lives.

##### **B. Jesus did something else for the bleeding woman, and for Jarius’ daughter: He had compassion for them. Does anyone know what compassion means?**

LARGE GROUP

DAY 2

## Section I Contin.

1. Compassion: sympathy of another's problems with a desire to do something about it.
2. Define "compassion" into simpler language for the adult friends; example: you feel sorry for someone when he/she is struggling, and you want to help.

### **C. Jesus showed compassion many times during His ministry, and it teaches us how to have compassion for others. Here are some examples:**

1. **Jesus healed a blind man**; Jesus was walking along the road with His disciples and saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked if the man's sins or the sins of his parents caused the blindness. Jesus replied that neither had been the cause, but it was so the works of God would be displayed in him. (*John 9:1-6*)
2. **Jesus healed a crippled man at the pool of Bethesda**; Jesus visited the pool of Bethesda, and found a crippled man who had been lying at the poolside for 38 years. Jesus asked the man if he wanted to be well. The man explained that no one would help him into the pool when the waters were stirred, and someone else always entered the pool before he could. Jesus then commanded the man to get up, pick up his mat, and walk. The man was instantly healed! (*John 5:1-8*)
3. **Jesus raises a widow's son**; Jesus and His disciples went to a town called Nain. As they approached the gates, a dead man was being carried out, followed by his mother, who was a widow. Jesus had compassion on her, and told her not to weep. Jesus then touched the board the dead man was lying on, and told him to get up. The man immediately sat up and began to talk! (*Luke 7:11-17*)

**D. We may not be able to heal someone; only God can. But, we can help them.**

**E. Today, we will learn more about compassion through a parable (a story with a special meaning) that Jesus taught in the Gospel of Luke.**

## **II. Love God, and Love Others. (Luke 10:25-29)**

**A. One day when Jesus was teaching, an expert in the law wanted to test Him. He said to Jesus, "Teacher, what must I do to receive eternal life?"**

**B. "What is written in the Law?" asked Jesus.**

1. Briefly explain that "the Law" referred to the Old Testament.

**LARGE GROUP**

**DAY 2**

## Section II Contin.

- C. The man answered, “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul. Love Him with all your strength and mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself.’ ” *Luke 10:27 (NIRV)*
- D. “You have answered correctly,” said Jesus. “Do this, and you will live.” But the man wanted to look good in front of everyone. So he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus told this story...

### III. The Good Samaritan. (*Luke 10:30-35*)

- A. A man was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way, he was attacked by robbers who tore off his clothes, beat him, and left him lying in the road to die.
- B. Soon a priest came down the same road. But when he saw the man lying there, he passed by on the other side.
- C. Then, a Levite came to the place where the beaten man lay. He also walked by on the other side, and did not help the man.
1. The Levite and the priest might have felt “pity” for the man, but they did nothing.
  2. To have pity means we feel sorry for someone else, but we don’t act on it. To have compassion is when we are moved to act because we feel sorry for someone.
  3. Having pity is not a bad thing (ex. we *might have pity for people who lost their homes in an earthquake*), because it can lead us to take action, whether it be with prayer, providing resources, and physically helping those in need.
  4. However, just feeling pity becomes a problem when we don’t take action through prayer, physically helping someone in need, donating money, etc. In Jesus’ story, the man who was beaten up desperately needed help. Although the priest and the Levite could clearly see this, they did not move beyond their pity to take action and help the man.
- D. Then a Samaritan came to the place where the wounded man lay. And when the Samaritan saw him, he had compassion for him.
1. The Samaritan moved beyond just feeling pity, and took action to help the man.

**LARGE GROUP**

**DAY 2**

## Section III Contin.

- E. The Samaritan went to the man and cleaned, treated and bandaged his wounds. He set him on his own donkey, brought him to a nearby inn and took care of him.**
- F. The next day when the Samaritan was leaving, he took out two silver coins and gave them to the owner of the inn. “Take care of the man,” he said. “I will repay you for any expense when I come back.”**
1. The expert in the law would have seen Samaritans as inferior because they had different customs. So, for the Samaritan to be considered the neighbor instead of a Jew would have gotten the expert’s attention.
  2. We don’t know if the beaten man was rich, poor, respected by the community, or a nobody. Jesus was making the point that it doesn’t matter who someone is, or where they come from— we should have compassion for everyone!

## IV. What Jesus Teaches Us. (Luke 10:36-37)

- A. After Jesus finished the story He asked, “Which of the three do you think was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by robbers?”**
1. Ask the adult friends the same question: “Who do you think was the neighbor to the man attacked by robbers? The priest, the Levite, or the Samaritan?”
- B. The expert in the law replied, “The one who had compassion for him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do as he did.”**
- C. Recite the memory verse together: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul. Love Him with all your strength and mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself.’ ” Luke 10:27 (NIRV)**
- D. In Jesus’ story, a man was attacked and beaten by robbers. A priest, a Levite, and a Samaritan all came by. What did each man do when they saw the wounded man?**
1. All three saw the man (the priest, Levite, and Samaritan).
  2. Most likely all three felt pity for the man.
  3. BUT...only the Samaritan took action and helped the man. He moved beyond pity, and had compassion!

**LARGE GROUP**

**DAY 2**

## Section IV Contin.

**E. We don't know the reasons why the priest and the Levite did not help the man. They might have been worried the robbers were still around. Maybe they didn't want to get involved in the situation. Or, perhaps they were too busy to help.**

1. Remember what we talked about yesterday, and how God can use interruptions to chip away at our "me first" attitudes? Do you think the priest and the Levite had a "me first" attitude?
2. Whatever their reasons, the priest and the Levite put their own needs first, and were willing to let the man suffer and possibly die on the road.
3. Too often we also put ourselves first, before others. Our sinful nature makes us selfish, and we can all have a "me first" attitude.
4. We need to remember the memory verse from Luke 10:27, and that we are to love God and also love others!

**F. How can we walk in Jesus' steps, and show compassion for others?**

1. Remember, compassion is when you feel sorry for someone else, and are moved to take action to help. Here are some examples:
2. Your housemate is upset because someone made fun of him at workshop. You comfort him, and pray together.
3. While waiting in line at the supermarket, you see a woman ahead of you drop her bag of groceries. You step out of line, losing your place, and go over to help her pick up the groceries.
4. One of the caregivers at your house is struggling with a personal issue. You make notes of prayers and encouragement, and give them to her.

## V. Compassion Skit.

**Setting: two neighbors are talking across the fence.**

**Gabby:** Hi neighbor! I pray that God has been good to you during this hot weather.

**Chatty:** Thank the Lord we have been safe and cool. How has your family been?

**Gabby:** We have been blessed also. Have you heard about the family down the street?

**Chatty:** Yes. I understand that the mother fell, and broke her arm. They never pick up the toys in their yard; I bet she just tripped over those toys. I have also never seen them in church.

**LARGE GROUP**

**DAY 2**

**Gabby:** Trying to help her would take up a lot time. It might require visits to the doctor, doing grocery shopping, and who knows what else.

**Chatty:** Yes, getting involved would require a lot of time. Although, she probably needs help around the house since she only has one arm...

**Gabby:** I just don't have that kind of time. There is all **my** housework on top of **my** job, and cooking for **my** family. **My** evenings are full with the Ladies Bible study at church, and then there's choir practice.

**Chatty:** Yeah **my** schedule is packed, too. Trying to keep up with **my** kids means I'm a full-time taxi driver.

**(enter Martha) Martha:** Hi ladies. I saw you talking as I was parking, so I thought I'd stop and say hi. I'm on my way to Samantha's house to take her and her family dinner for tonight. She just got home from the hospital last night. Wow, her right arm is in a cast, and she is in a lot of pain.

**Gabby:** That's nice of you. I would help, but I have choir practice tonight and I don't really know that family.

**Chatty:** My kids have so many activities that I don't have time to help.

**Martha:** My family and I have enjoyed getting to know them. Next week, my daughter and I are going over to clean up their yard. We have even written some encouraging notes to give to Samantha and her family. I pray that a little help will open the door for sharing Jesus with them. I would like to invite them to church. Maybe there are a few other things some of us from church and the neighborhood can do for them. Well, I'd better get going so I can get their dinner on the table. Bye!

**Skit volunteers exit.**

**Bible Teacher comes back up, ask these questions:**

1. How many times did we hear the word "**my**" from Chatty and Gabby? **(a lot!)**
2. In the skit, who was the neighbor to the woman who broke her arm? **(Martha!)**
3. Repeat memory verse: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul. Love Him with all your strength and mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.' " *Luke 10:27 (NIRV)*

### **Closing Prayer**

**Dear God, please guide me in my life to have compassion for other people. Help me to walk in Your steps and love others, as You love me. Bring me opportunities to show others Your love. In Your Name, Amen.**

**LARGE GROUP**

**DAY 2**

# DAY 3

## PRAYER

### Jesus Teaches Us to Pray (*Matthew 6:5-13*)

#### Daily Bible Verse

Never stop praying. Give thanks no matter what happens. God wants you to thank Him because you believe in Christ Jesus. *1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 (NIRV)*

#### Lesson Objectives

1. How, when and why do we pray?
2. We follow in Jesus' steps by praying the prayer Jesus taught us.

#### Suggested Props/Teaching Aids

- 4 or 5 volunteers to play in "How to Pray" Skit
- SFG "Day 3" Power Point slides
- Optional Props to consider (*not provided by Connection Ministries*):
  - Large hand cut-out
  - Picture of people smiling
  - Poster with the word "HOLY" written on it
  - World globe
  - Loaf of Bread
  - "No Trespassing" sign
  - Monopoly money
  - Crown

#### Bible Lesson Outline

##### I. Review Days 1 and 2.

- A. Day 1: Be patient when we face interruptions. Is our response to the interruption a Christian example to others?
- B. Day 2: Show compassion for our neighbors, love others as Jesus loves us.

LARGE GROUP

DAY 3

## II. Introduction: “How to Pray” Skit.

A. Today we will learn about the third step in what it means to be a Christian as we follow in Jesus’ steps. We will learn about prayer. But first, let’s listen to this conversation...

**Characters:** *passenger, stranger, janitor, young woman.*

**Props:** *cell phone, sandwich, broom and trash can.*

*A passenger is stranded in an airport. He is talking on his cell phone. He sits down in a seat. Each of the prayers will either need to be recorded earlier and played over the sounds system, or there will need to be someone reading the prayers over a microphone off-stage.*

**Passenger: (on cell phone)** No. No. They canceled it. They completely cancelled it! I don’t know, Megan! I guess they thought a wing might fall off. I don’t know. All I know is that the flight is canceled, and I’m not coming home tonight. I’m going to be stuck here.

**PAUSE**

**Passenger:** NO. I didn’t bring the pillow you gave me.

**PAUSE**

**Passenger:** Because...it takes up too much room in my carry-on.

**PAUSE**

**Passenger: (admitting the real reason)** No, you’re right. It’s because I don’t like to inflate it. **(pause)** Well, honestly, it’s a little embarrassing to inflate a huge teddy bear pillow on an airplane. It creeps people out. Yeah. Well. Okay. All right, bye.

*(As the passenger sits down, a stranger sits down next to him. He has a sandwich. The passenger is frustrated and says the next line out loud to nobody in particular.)*

**Passenger:** Aaaah, I can’t believe this!

**Stranger:** Flight canceled?

**Passenger: (a little sharply)** Yeah. How’d you guess?

**Stranger:** Mine was too. Earlier. **(looks at his sandwich)** Well, I don’t mean to be rude, but I haven’t eaten in a while.

**Passenger:** No. Hey. Don’t mind me.

*(Stranger smiles, and then unwraps his sandwich. Before he takes a bite, he stops to pray. The following prayer is heard over the sound system.)*

**Stranger:** Dear God, thank you for a safe flight this morning and for this sandwich. I think this young man is pretty frustrated. Please help him, God. Amen.

**LARGE GROUP**

**DAY 3**

## Section II Contin.

*(Passenger is slowly aware that he can hear the stranger's prayer. He looks around and notices that the stranger is not talking, but the passenger can still hear the prayer. Just then the janitor walks past. He has a broom and trash can and looks worn out. Passenger hears his prayer, too.)*

**Janitor:** God, help me get through today. I am so tired, but we really need the money. I know You will provide. Help me rest in You. Amen.

*(Passenger looks around, not knowing what to think. Then a young woman who is dressed for an interview walks past him, and he hears her prayer.)*

**Young woman:** God, please help me with this interview today. I am really nervous. Amen.

*(She walks off, and the stranger sitting next to the passenger gets up and leaves. Passenger is left totally alone.)*

**Passenger:** Okay. I think I get it. God....um...forgive me for being so impatient with my wife. I want to thank You for her.

*(Passenger stops praying and pulls out his cell phone to call his wife.)*

**Passenger:** Hi honey. About earlier...I just want to tell you that I'm sorry I was so sharp with you. I love you...

### III. The 5 Ways to Pray: What does Our Prayer Life Look Like?

**A. Our prayer life is like a hand; just like we have 5 fingers, there are also 5 ways to pray. Let's go over them together...**

1. Use a visual hand cut-out (or your own hand) to explain the different ways to pray. Or, you can use the Day 3 Power Point presentation that features a hand showing the "5 Ways to Pray".

**B. (THUMB; use the "thumbs up" sign) Adoration – prayers of praise and worship to God.**

1. We were made to worship God, and He wants us to worship Him! It's important to praise Him in our prayer life and acknowledge that He is our Good and Holy Lord. It's a thumbs up to God!

**C. (POINTER FINGER; wag it from side to side) Confession –**  
when we admit to God that we have sinned; confession is a  
prayer of repentance.

**LARGE GROUP**

**DAY 3**

## Section III Contin.

1. It's hard to admit when we've done something wrong. However, this is an important part of our prayer life. God wants us to tell Him when we have sinned against Him. And here's the good news! When we confess our sins to God, He is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all wrong doing! (1 John 1:9)

**D. (MIDDLE FINGER; point up to God. Note: do *not* point the middle finger by itself, for obvious reasons! Please make sure you also have the thumb and pointer finger pointed up, too.) Thanksgiving – thanking God for all He has given us.**

1. Just like it's important to praise God in our prayer life, it's also important to thank Him. God has blessed us with many things in our lives, and we should thank Him for these blessings. Sometimes this can be hard to remember, especially when we are struggling. However, God does bring blessings and we need to give Him thanks!

**E. (RING FINGER) Intercession/Blessing – when we pray for someone else and ask God to bless that person.**

1. It is said that the ring finger connects directly to the heart. That is why people wear wedding rings on their left ring finger; it is a reminder that their relationship should always be a matter of the heart.
2. Loving with our hearts should be true for all relationships, whether they be family, a spouse, friends, and neighbors. We are to love all of God's people as He loves us. Praying for others is a vital area of prayer where we should spend more time. Jesus modeled this at the Last Supper; He spent more time praying for the disciples and the world than He did for Himself. While God wants us to come to Him when we struggle, let's never forget to pray for others.

**F. (LITTLE FINGER) Supplication – a prayer that asks God for something.**

God wants us to come to Him when we struggle; it shows that we trust Him. God also wants us to know that He is always with us and hears our prayers. However, sometimes we can get caught up praying too much for ourselves. This is where God can remind us to pray for others and thank Him for the people He has placed in our lives. It's good to go to God in prayer for ourselves, but it's also important to pray for others!

**G. Discussion about the “How to Pray” Skit.**

1. Think about the 5 ways to pray that we just talked about. (Quickly review them again: adoration, confession, thanksgiving, intercession/blessing, and supplication.)

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**DAY 3**

## Section III Contin.

2. What kind of prayers did you hear in the skit?
  - Passenger: *prayer of confession*
  - Stranger: *prayer of intercession/blessing*
  - Janitor: *prayer of supplication*
  - Young woman: *prayer of supplication*
3. Is it better to pray for yourself or for others?
  - When you need prayer, pray! But, always look for reasons to pray for others.
  - Example: Jesus prayed for Himself at the Last Supper, but He prayed more for His disciples. (reference *John 17:6-26*)
4. With so many people praying at once across the world, do you think God hears all of them?
5. How do you think God can hear them all?

## IV. Jesus' Disciples asked Him how to Pray. (Matthew 6:5-13)

**Note:** *The following are explanations for each section of The Lord's Prayer. As the Large Group Leader, you can choose to use your own props to illustrate each section (optional props are listed under "Suggested Props/Teaching Aids"), or you can use the Day 3 Power Point presentation, which includes images that coincide with each section.*

### A. Our Father who art in heaven. (Optional prop: picture of people smiling.)

1. Think about the close relationships in your life. These could include family, a spouse, friends, your caregivers, church members, or Friendship group volunteers. You love those people very much, right?
2. God is **Father** to all of us. As believers, we are brothers and sisters in Jesus. Because of Jesus, the God of the universe allows us to call Him **Father!**
3. While human relationships can fail us, God never does. Through the blood of Jesus Christ, our relationship with God is made perfect! To remember our Father in heaven helps us to think about how we feel when we are with the person who knows us and loves us best.

### B. Hallowed be Thy Name. (Optional prop: poster with the word **HOLY** written on it in large letters.)

1. "Hallowed" means holy, special, righteous. Hallowed be Thy Name means that we keep God's Name holy. We don't use

**LARGE GROUP**

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## Section IV Contin.

it to hurt others, or in a disrespectful way. Just as we don't like it when people use our names disrespectfully, God doesn't want us to disrespect His Name, either.

2. Do you misuse God's Name when you are angry?

### **C. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. (Optional prop: a globe or picture of the world.)**

1. In this part of the prayer we are asking God to help us make the world the way HE wants it to be.
2. What do you think the earth would be like if it was the way God wanted it to be?
3. Do you think it would be more like heaven?

### **D. Give us this day our daily bread. (Optional prop: a loaf of bread.)**

1. Back when the Bible was written, bread was the basic necessity of life. In the Lord's Prayer, bread is the symbol for asking God to make sure we have what we need.
2. Sometimes we can confuse what we want with what we need. God might not give us what we want, but He gives us what we need for today.
3. Besides bread, what are the things we need in daily life?
  - (spiritual) God's Word.
  - (emotional) Fellowship with other believers.
  - (physical) Food, water, shelter.

### **E. And forgive us our trespasses (sins) as we forgive those who trespass (sin) against us. (Optional prop: "No Trespassing" sign.)**

1. "Trespasses" is when we sin against one another. When we trespass, or sin, against someone, it can be very hurtful to the other person. It is also hurtful to God, as we are doing wrong against Him, too.
  - What kinds of things would be trespasses against someone else?
2. When we sin, we need to ask God to forgive us for what we have done. We should also promise God that we will forgive people who hurt us. This can be very hard to do. We don't like to be hurt by others, and we have a hard time forgiving and forgetting what was done to us.
3. That is why we need God's help. When God forgives our sins, He also forgets about them; He does not hold grudges against us. We need His help to forgive people who have done us wrong, and to not hold grudges against them.

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## Section IV Contin.

4. Sometimes it takes us a long time to forgive; it might even take the rest of our lives. We need to remember that we can't forgive without God's help, and we should always turn to Him for guidance.

### **F. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. (Optional prop: Monopoly money.)**

1. Temptation can take many forms. It could be anything from wanting to steal to hitting someone out of anger to watching the wrong type of movie. In this section, we are asking God to help us stay away from things that we know are wrong.
2. Remember on the first day, when we talked about the "me first" attitude? Well, when we fall into temptation and sin, we once again put ourselves first before others, and before God.
3. Have you ever been tempted to...
  - *Hit someone when you were angry?*
  - *Make fun of someone else?*
  - *Eat lots of junk food?*
  - *Think impure thoughts about an attractive man/woman?*
  - *Ignore someone who wants to talk?*
  - *Watch the wrong thing on TV?*
4. It's important to remember that the Holy Spirit is alive and active in our lives, and He gives us the strength to not fall into temptation. This also ties into the "deliver us from evil" part of the prayer. We ask God to keep us from doing wrong, as well as to protect us from the wrong things others might do to us.
5. What can you do to keep from falling into temptation?
  - *Pray to God for strength.*
  - *Surround yourself with other believers, who can hold you accountable.*
  - *Read the Bible.*
  - *Attend church and the weekly Friendship group to learn more about God.*

### **G. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. (Optional prop: a crown.)**

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## Section IV Contin.

1. This last part of the Lord's Prayer is called the "doxology", or praise to God. Jesus did not mention this in the Bible, but it is a conclusion to the Lord's Prayer. The doxology is a great way to start and end prayers; it is praising God for all that He is, and all He has done! It reminds us that everything in the world, even our own selves, belong to God. Even the things we think we own really belong to God.
2. The apostle Paul concluded some of his letters to churches with a doxology. (reference 1 Timothy 1:17; Ephesians 3:20-21)
3. Now that we know all power and glory belong to God, what do we do with this knowledge? Remember the previous lessons? We can...
  - Day 1: *Be patient when we face interruptions. Is our response to the interruption a Christian example to others?*
  - Day 2: *Show compassion for our neighbors, and love others as Jesus loves us.*
  - Today's lesson: *go to God in prayer.*

### H. Amen.

1. When we come to the end of a prayer, we say the word "Amen". It means "so be it", or "let it be so". When we say "Amen", we are saying that we trust God has heard our prayers and will answer according to His will. (2 Corinthians 1:20)
2. Now, let's stand and say the whole Lord's Prayer together. When we get to the end, we will all say "AMEN" as loud as we can!

## V. How Can We Pray?

**A. Review the "5 Ways to Pray" method, using the hand/fingers visual.**

**B. Remember how we talked about our prayer life being like a hand? Just like we have 5 fingers, there are also 5 ways to pray. Let's review them...**

Use a visual hand cut-out (or your own hand) to explain the different ways to pray. Or, you can use the Day 3 Power Point presentation that features a hand showing the "5 Ways to Pray".

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## Section V Contin.

**D. (POINTER FINGER; wag it from side to side) Confession** – *when we admit to God that we have sinned; confession is a prayer of repentance.*

1. It's hard to admit when we've done something wrong. However, this is an important part of our prayer life. God wants us to tell Him when we have sinned against Him. And here's the good news! When we confess our sins to God, He is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all wrong doing! (1 John 1:9)

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**DAY 3**

## VI. Conclusion

### A. Jesus taught us how to pray with the Lord's Prayer.

1. Recite the memory verse: *Never stop praying. Give thanks no matter what happens. God wants you to thank Him because you believe in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 (NIRV)*
2. We should pray in all circumstances. Anytime, and anywhere. We can sit. We can stand. We can kneel. We can pray at church, before meals, first thing in the morning, and at night before we go to sleep. We can pray with people, but we can also pray alone. We can pray anytime we want to talk with God.
3. It's important to remember that God always listens and answers our prayers. He might not answer our prayers the way we want Him to, but He always answers them according to His will and what is best for us (*Romans 8:28*).
  - The apostle Paul prayed 3 times for God take away the "thorn in his side" but God did not. It was meant to make Paul dependent on God, and not on himself. (*2 Corinthians 12:7-10*)
4. The 5 ways to pray that we learned are also found in the Lord's Prayer. Jesus gives us this prayer as a model to adore God, confess our sins, thank God for what He gives us, pray for others, and ask Him to be with us.

### Closing Prayer

**God, thank You for sending Jesus to teach us to pray. Help us remember that we can always pray to You, and that You hear and answer our prayers. Help us to walk in Jesus' steps, and keep prayer a daily part of our lives.**

**(Repeat the Lord's Prayer to conclude.)**

Credits: Skit – Connecting with God through Prayer. Here We Stand. Augsburg Fortress 2010  
Lord's Prayer in a Bag – Dr. Elizabeth Windsor

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**DAY 3**

# WORSHIP MESSAGE

**What A Friend we have in Jesus (John 15:10-17)**

## Bible Text

**John 15:10-17**

*Song played prior to message: "What a Friend we have in Jesus".*

## Message

### **I. These past three days have been a great time for fellowship, good food, and learning to walk in Jesus' steps!**

#### **A. In the lesson today we learned why we need to pray continually.**

1. Jesus prayed continually. This was how He knew what His Father wanted Him to do. He spent time alone with His Father. It was in prayer that He got His marching orders. He knew what was important to His Father.
2. We also need to know what is important to God, and we need to pray continually.
3. God can also speak to us through His Word. When we study the Bible, we read about the things Jesus did and how to follow in His steps.

#### **B. In our first lesson we learned how people interrupted Jesus, and how He responded not to just rich or famous people, but to un-named people.**

1. Remember Jairus? He was well-known in town. He was a leader in the synagogue; a lot like a pastor.
2. Jairus interrupted Jesus by asking Him to come to his home and heal his daughter.
3. While Jesus was on His way to Jairus' house, He was interrupted again by an un-named woman who had been bleeding for 12 years.
4. Because of her illness, she would have been rejected by the people in her town.

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## Section I Contin.

5. She got close to Jesus and touched His cloak. She was healed immediately. The Bible said that Jesus felt the power come out of Him.
6. Jesus referred to the woman as “daughter,” a name reserved for someone you care about.
7. Jesus cares for all of us, and is willing to be interrupted.

### **C. The second day we heard another story. An expert in the law asked Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus asked him, “What is written in the Law?”**

1. The man replied, “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul. Love Him with all your strength and mind’. And, ‘love your neighbor as you love yourself.’ ”
2. Jesus told him, “Do this and you will live.” But the man wanted to be a wise guy and asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” So, Jesus told him this story;
3. A traveler was robbed and beaten alongside the road, and left to die.
4. Two other travelers came by; a priest and a Levite. They not only ignored the beaten man, but passed by him on the far side of the road.
5. Then a third traveler came along. He was a Samaritan, and was despised by the Jews. But, the Samaritan allowed his travel to be interrupted.
6. The Samaritan not only felt pity for the man, but he also acted with compassion.
7. He stopped and treated the man’s wounds, put him on his donkey, took him to an inn, and continued to care for him.
8. The next day, the Samaritan paid the inn keeper to take care of the man.
9. All three travelers saw the beaten man, but only the Samaritan moved beyond pity and acted with compassion.
10. When He had finished the story, Jesus asked the expert, “Who was this man’s neighbor?” The expert responded, “The one who had compassion on him.”

## **II. We started our worship service with the song, “*What a Friend we have in Jesus.*” This song was first written as a poem by Joseph Scriven to his mother, whose health was failing.**

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**WORSHIP MESSAGE**

## Section II Contin.

### A. Joseph Scriven grew up in Dublin, Ireland.

1. At age 25, Joseph's life was interrupted. He lost his fiancé in a tragic drowning accident the night before they were to be married.
2. He turned to God, gave his life to serve others in need, and moved to Port Hope in Canada.

### B. Daily Joseph walked the roads helping widows, the sick and the poor. He never turned away anyone who had need.

1. His desire was to reflect the love of God through his life.

### C. At age 39 he fell in love a second time, only to be interrupted again. His fiancé became ill, and he lost her. Once again, his fiancé died just before their wedding day.

### D. After this second tragedy, Scriven completely consecrated his life to Jesus.

1. He didn't get angry with God, or throw a pity party.
2. Instead, in his grief he wrote the poem, *"What a Friend we have in Jesus"*.
3. Joseph devoted his time with great compassion doing chores for people with disabilities, or those who were financially destitute.
4. He took no pay for his labor.

### E. One afternoon, two businessmen standing on a Port Hope street corner noticed Joseph walking by carrying a saw. One of the businessmen said, *"Now there is a man who is happy with his lot in life. I wish I could know his joy. Perhaps I can get him to cut my winter's supply of wood."*

*"I know that man,"* the other businessman replied. *"He would not cut your firewood. He cuts wood only for the poor, and for those with disabilities who cannot cut their own firewood."*

### F. Joseph became known as the Good Samaritan of Port Hope.

### G. He was a neighbor to many people who needed help. He was willing to be interrupted, even in his grief.

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## Section II Contin.

- H. Jesus was his close friend, and Joseph continually took his sorrows, weaknesses, troubles and sins to God in prayer.

### III. In the Bible passage from John 15, Jesus offers all of us His friendship.

- A. But, as in Joseph Scriven's life, Jesus' friendship needs a response from us; the responsibility to love our neighbor.

1. In this passage, Jesus refers to us as **friends**! We are not just acquaintances. He willingly died for us to forgive our sins.
2. His Father sent Him to earth for this purpose.
3. Jesus only did what His Father wanted Him to do because He remained in His love. (reference John 5:19)
4. He was in constant contact with His Father through prayer.
5. Jesus also wants us to keep His commands, and remain in His love.
6. This is where Joseph Scriven found Jesus' joy. Jesus tells us this is where we will also find His joy, and our joy is made complete.

- B. So, what is Jesus' command to us? What does He want us to do? Jesus said, *"My command is this: love each other as I have loved you."*

1. Jesus tells us; "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends". This could also refer to our neighbor.
2. This is what Jesus did. It is what Joseph Scriven did, and it is what Jesus wants us to do.
3. Does this mean we need to die on a cross like Jesus?
4. Probably not, but we must allow our lives to be interrupted.
5. When we see someone who is hurting, we need to move past pity and put our own needs on hold. We should be moved to act with compassion.
6. To do this, we need to pray continually and stay in tune with God's plan for us.

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**WORSHIP MESSAGE**

## Section III Contin.

7. This will prepare us for interruptions by the people we can love.

### C. There is one more step Jesus took that we need to follow; Jesus forgives!

1. Jesus considers us His friends. He showed this by dying on the cross so that our sins would be forgiven.
2. But John 15 also says that as friends, we know our master's business. Do you know what that business is? Jesus came to save the world! In John 3:17 it says, *"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him."*
3. Jesus didn't only die for those He calls friends, but also for His enemies. He cried out from the cross, *"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."*
  - Can we forgive the people who hurt us in the same way Jesus forgives?
4. Jesus died for all people, including those who crucified and rejected Him, and He died for the people who still reject Him today.

### D. Like Jesus, we need to forgive the people who hurt us.

1. If we truly walk in Jesus' steps, we need to forgive the people who make fun of us and reject us.
2. We can show them kindness, and pray they will someday know the love of Jesus.

## IV. This week we have learned how we can walk "In His Steps".

- A. Whose steps are we following? (Jesus!)
- B. What 4 steps did we learn to walk in? (pray, willing to be interrupted, be compassionate, and forgiving.)
- C. To help us remember to follow "In His Steps", we are handing out wristbands with the message, "In His Steps". (pass out wristbands)
- D. Let's pray!

## What a Friend we have in Jesus

**What a friend we have in Jesus,**  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
**Everything to God in prayer!**

O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
**Everything to God in prayer!**

Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged,  
**Take it to the Lord in prayer.**

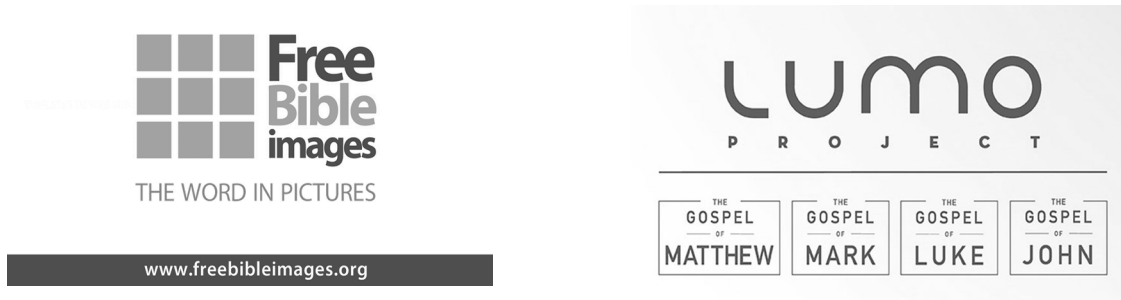
Can we find a friend so faithful  
Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness,  
**Take it to the Lord in prayer.**

Are we weak and heavy-laden,  
Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge—  
**Take it to the Lord in prayer.**

Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer;  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,  
**Thou wilt find a solace there.**

**LARGE GROUP**  
**WORSHIP MESSAGE**

## References:



<https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/New-International-Readers-Version-NIRV-Bible/>

New International Readers Version (NIRV) Bible

New International Version (NIV) Bible



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