

References:



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<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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IN HIS STEPS

Fix Your Eyes on Jesus

Discussion Booklet



DAY 1
INTERRUPTIONS
Jesus heals Jarius' daughter, and the bleeding woman
(Mark 5:21-42)

Do you like to be interrupted? Most people don't. Interruptions seem to come at the worst possible time; they happen to all of us!

How do we respond to interruptions?

For example, let's say one of your housemates is sad and wants to talk while you're watching your favorite TV show. Or, perhaps you were getting ready to take a nap and someone asks you to help with chores. How would you respond to these interruptions? Would you...



- **Throw a pity party?** *Poor me!*
- **Get angry?** *Don't interrupt me while I'm watching TV; get lost!*
- **Think it's not fair?** *Why do I have to help with chores? It's not fair!*
- **Get frustrated?** *Why me?*
- **Ignore the situation?** *Maybe he/she will go away. I can't hear you.*

How do you think **Jesus** would have responded?

Although interruptions can be annoying, God can use them to shape our character, like a potter shapes clay. While not every interruption is a **good**

**IMPORTANT POINTS
TO REMEMBER**
INTERRUPTIONS
DAY 1 Jesus heals Jarius' daughter and bleeding woman (Mark 5:21-42)

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.

Memory 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)

1. Love others like Jesus loves us.

2. Treat others how we wanted to be treated.

3. Look to Jesus on how we can show compassion to others.

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)*

DAY 3 **PRAYER**
Jesus Teaches Us to Pray (Matthew 6:5-13)

1. How, when and why do we pray?

2. We follow in Jesus' steps by praying the prayer He taught us.

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)*

REFLECTION QUESTIONS CONT.

Give us this day our daily bread.

4. Do you thank God for what He has given you this day, or are you always wanting more?

And forgive us our trespasses (sins) as we forgive those who trespass (sin) against us.

5. Do you struggle to forgive others? Is there someone right now in your life that you are struggling to forgive?

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

6. Do you look to God to keep you from temptation? Why or why not?

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

7. What are the best ways to respond to God's blessings?

interruption, God can still use it. We can trust in God's ways, knowing *"that in all things God works for those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."*

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

How does God use interruptions to shape us? He uses them to chip away at pride and the "me first" attitude in our lives. *"In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps."* Proverbs 16:9 (NIV)



God also uses interruptions to change us to be more like Jesus. It's in these frustrations that we find opportunities to rely on God and obey Him. When we respond to interruptions

like Jesus, we become a Godly example for others.

Jesus faced interruptions, too. Sometimes Jesus said "yes" to the interruption, and sometimes He said "no". One instance when Jesus said "no" was when His disciples interrupted Him while He was praying; *"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)

Jesus always obeyed His Father’s will. We read about more interruptions Jesus faced in **Mark 5:21-42**. The first interruption came when Jairus, a synagogue leader, approached Jesus. Jairus pleaded for Him to heal his 12-year-old daughter, who was dying. **Jesus responded to the interruption, and went with Jarius.**



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. Jesus knew power had left Him and



He looked for the person who touched Him. 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 you.) **Because of her faith, Jesus healed the woman. Jesus continued on to Jarius’ house, and raised his daughter from the dead.**

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)

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

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

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Day 3 Reflection Questions can be done with families and caregivers

Our Father who art in heaven.

1. Who is most important in your life, God or yourself?

Hallowed by Thy Name.

2. Do you misuse God’s Name when you’re angry?

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

3. When you pray, are you seeking what God wants, or what you want?

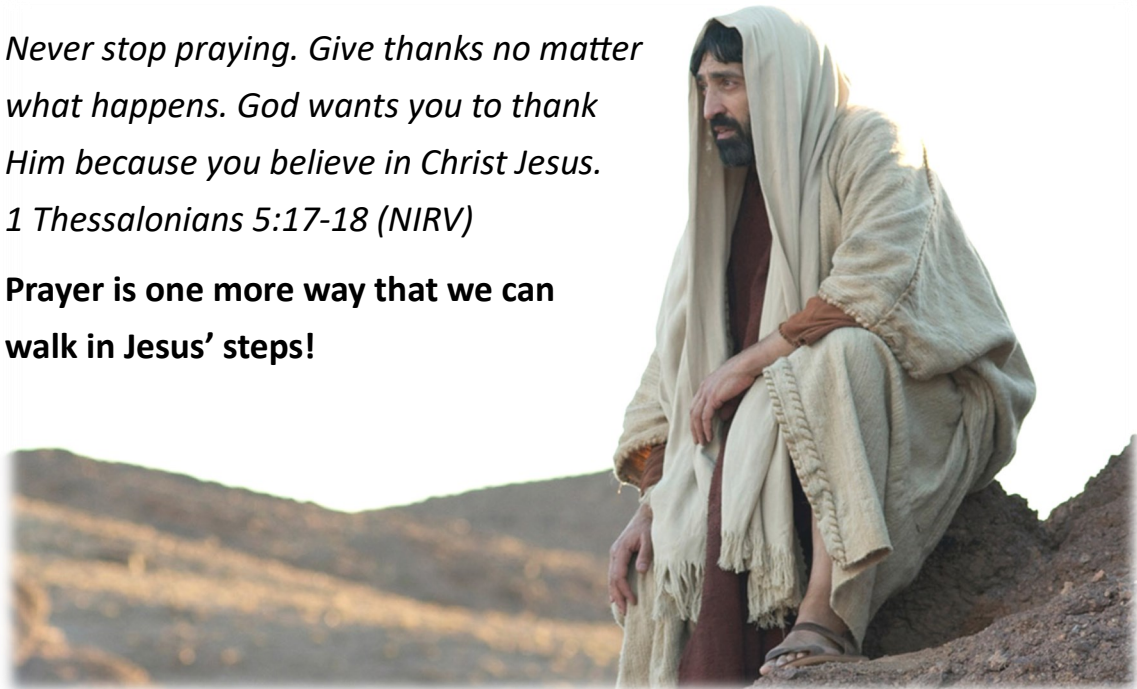
- *What can you do to keep from falling into temptation?*
 - *Pray to God for strength; fellowship with other believers.*
 - *Read the Bible; attend church and the weekly Friendship group to learn more about God.*

7. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. 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!**

8. Amen. When we come to the end of a prayer, we say “*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). **We can pray anytime we want to talk with God.**

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)

Prayer is one more way that we can walk in Jesus’ steps!



In this story, Jesus was interrupted by two people. One was Jairus, who was a respected leader in the synagogue. The other was the unnamed woman, who would not have been permitted in the synagogue because of her illness. Jesus allowed Himself to be interrupted in order to teach those around Him.

Many interruptions are really things God would want us to do. If we pray and listen, God can show us how He wants us to respond to the interruption. Never underestimate how God will use an interruption to change your life, or the life of another person. If we want to walk in Jesus’ steps, we want to respond like Jesus did!

The next time you’re faced with an interruption, pray to God and ask these questions:

- *Does this interruption strengthen my faith in God, or someone else’s faith?*
- *Will my response to the interruption make me more like Jesus?*
- *Will I be a Christian example for others to follow?*

If the answer to any of these questions is “yes”, the interruption may be something that God wants you to do!

**DAILY BIBLE
VERSE**

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



THOUGHT OF THE DAY

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.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would Jesus want us to respond in these following situations?

a. The man/woman who interrupted the Gathering looking for the pastor.

- What would you have told him/her?
- Would you have invited him/her to join our group?

b. You are watching your favorite TV show, and a friend who is going through a hard time wants to talk.

- How would you feel about your friend wanting to talk while your show was on?
- What would you tell him/her? Pick the best response:
 - “You will have to wait until my show is over.”
 - “Shhh, this is the best part.”
 - “Let me turn the volume down. Come sit with me.”
 - “Get lost!”

c. You were getting ready to take a nap and someone asks you to help with some chores. What would you do?

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.

5. And forgive us our trespasses (sins) as we forgive those who trespass (sin) against us.

“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. 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.

6. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

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. When **we fall into temptation and sin, we once again put ourselves first before others, and God. The Holy Spirit is alive and active in our lives**, and He gives us the strength to not fall into temptation. We ask God to keep us from doing wrong, and also protect us from what others might do to us.



Jesus not only models for us the importance of prayer, but He also teaches us how to pray! The disciples asked Jesus how to pray in **Matthew 6:5-13**. In response, He gave them (and us) the Lord's Prayer. Let's take a look at each section of the Lord's Prayer!

1. Our Father who art in heaven. 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? Well, God's love is even greater! Think about it. The God of the universe allows us to call Him Father. It is through the blood of Jesus Christ that our relationship with God is made perfect!

2. Hallowed be Thy Name. "Hallowed" means holy, special, righteous. Hallowed be Thy Name means that we keep God's Name holy. We don't use it to hurt others, or in a disrespectful way. God doesn't want us to disrespect His Name.

3. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. In this part of the prayer we are asking God to help us make the world the way HE wants it to be. *What would the earth be like if it was how God wanted it to be?*

4. Give us this day our daily bread. 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. Sometimes we



2. In Mark 1:35-38, Jesus was interrupted by His disciples while praying by Himself. They told Him that the people were looking for Him. What was Jesus doing when the disciples interrupted Him?

- a. Did Jesus respond to the interruption by...
- Throwing a pity party? Getting angry? Thinking it was unfair? Getting frustrated? Ignoring it? **How did Jesus respond?**

3. How do we know what God wants us to do?

4. What interruptions annoy you the most?

- a. How do you respond to these interruptions? Do you...
- Get angry?
 - Throw a pity party?
 - Get frustrated?
 - Ignore the interruption?

b. How should you respond to interruptions?

5. Why do we respond the wrong way to interruptions?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Think of a recent time when you were interrupted. How did you respond?

- a. Did you respond correctly? How could you respond next time?

DAY 2

COMPASSION

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

Remember yesterday's lesson, and how we learned that Jesus used the interruptions of Jarius and the bleeding woman to teach others? Well, Jesus did something else for Jarius and the bleeding woman: **He had compassion for them.** Compassion is when you have sympathy for another's problems, with a desire to do something about it. Jesus teaches us about compassion through a parable (*a story with a special meaning*) found in **Luke 10:25-37.**



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?" "What is written in the Law?" asked Jesus. The man said, " '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)*

"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...

DAY 3

PRAYER

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

Jesus was in constant communication with His Father through prayer. **To walk in His steps, we need to follow Jesus' example and be in daily prayer with God.**



Our prayer life is like a hand; like we have 5 fingers, there are **5 ways to pray.** Use your hand to remember.

The first way to pray is with **Adoration** (*thumb*). These are prayers of praise and worship to God.

The second way to pray is with **Confession** (*pointer finger*). This is when we admit to God that we have sinned; confession is a prayer of repentance.

The third way to pray is with **Thanksgiving** (*middle finger*). We pray to thank God for all He has given us.

The fourth way to pray is with **Intercession/Blessing** (*ring finger*). This is when we pray for someone else and ask God to bless that person. **While God wants us to come to Him when we struggle, let's never forget to pray for others.**

We also pray with **Supplication** (*little finger*). These are prayers that ask God for something. God wants us to come to Him when we struggle; it shows that we trust Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS CONT.

4. In Jesus' story, who was the neighbor to the man?

5. What does Jesus teach us through the Good Samaritan?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How can you walk in His steps, and have compassion?

2. Who in your life can you be a neighbor to right now?

There will be no discussion group on Day 3. The Day 3 Reflection Questions can be found in the next section. You can take the booklet home today.

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.



Soon a priest came down the same road. But when he saw the man lying there, **he passed by on the other side.** 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.**

Then a Samaritan came to the place where the wounded man lay. **And when the**

Samaritan saw him, he had compassion for him. 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.

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."

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?"



The expert in the law replied, “The one who had compassion for him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do as he did.”



To have **compassion** is when we are **moved to act** because

we feel sorry for someone. It was only **the Samaritan** who moved beyond pity, and **took action**. Having pity is not a bad thing because it can lead us



to take action, whether it be with prayer, providing resources, and helping those in need. However, feeling pity isn't enough.

Remember yesterday, and how we talked about “me first”

attitudes? Too often we put ourselves first, like the priest and Levite did.

Our sinful nature makes us selfish, and we can **all** have a “me first” attitude. **We should have compassion for everyone!** “*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)*

What are ways you can show compassion? You could pray with your housemate after a hard day. Perhaps while waiting in line at the grocery store, you see a woman drop her groceries. You step out of line to help her. Or, someone you know is struggling with a personal issue. You could make notes of encouragement for them. There are many ways we can show compassion for others. **When we do, we are walking in Jesus' steps!**

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)*

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

1. Love others like Jesus loves us.
2. Treat others how we want to be treated.
3. Look to Jesus on how we can show compassion to others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who were the people in Jesus' story?
2. What actions did the priest, the Levite, and the Samaritan take?
3. What did the Samaritan do for the beaten man?