

Colossians 4:2-6

“Now What? Pray!”

Scripture: Colossians 4:2-6

Memory Verse: Colossians 4:2 “*Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving*”

Lesson Focus: Continuing in our “*Jesus is Risen! Now What?*” theme, our final answer is “**PRAY**”. We will use these few verses in Colossians as a launching point to teach the kids the “ACTS” model of prayer. If Jesus Christ is risen, if we have access through our faith in Him to the throne room of God, then we ought to come before Him in prayer!

Activities and Crafts: Coloring Picture of Family Prayer, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion and Prayer Requests for 3rd – 5th Craft for 1st & 2nd: Praying Hands

Starter Activity: Aladdin

We will have all of the kids stay in the Summit Room for our starter activity. Many of the kids have probably seen the new Aladdin movie and we are going to watch a scene from that movie (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NNJy3ILt_Qw) that will get them thinking about prayer. A few questions we will ask after the video:

Q: How many of you guys saw this movie?

Q: What is going on in this scene? A: Aladdin just found the “magical” lamp. After he rubbed it, the genie came out and granted Aladdin three wishes.

Q: Wouldn't that be nice to have three wishes and get whatever YOU want? (What would you wish for?)

Q: But is there a problem with this? Yes! It is all about YOU! * This is just glorified SELFISHNESS! It assumes YOU know what is best for you!

While we laugh and have fun watching movies like this, we need to be careful that the ideas in these movies do not twist our understanding of what we KNOW is true. For example, we might confuse real prayer with what is going on in this movie. We think we can say a few “magic words” and expect God to do what WE want! * But is that how prayer works? BALONEY! *

Earlier in Colossians we talked about how we need to be good detectives and use the Bible as our BALONEY detector. Let's open them up now and see what God has to say about real prayer!

Bible Study:

Colossians 4:2a: We are told to CONTINUE in prayer. To CONTINUE in something means we have already gotten started!

Prayer is the easiest thing to do! It is simply talking to God. Yet it is also the hardest thing to do as we can get so easily distracted! *

After watching Aladdin we have seen what prayer is NOT. But what the heck is it? How do we do it?

Teachers: We will use the acrostic A.C.T.S. to teach the kids different aspects of prayer that we see in the Bible. Plan to write ACTS vertically on the board and then write out each aspect across and explain each.

ADORATION -> **Teachers:** Consider drawing a “heart” next to this word.

Q: What does it mean to *adore* something? A: You love it! You cherish and treasure it!

Prayer should be soaked in praise of and love for God, declaring how great He is! What a privilege it is to come before the Creator of the whole universe and that He would listen to us!

CONFESSION -> **Teachers:** Consider drawing a “frown” next to this word.

Q: What does it mean to *confess*? A: You admit when you have sinned and express your need of God’s forgiveness and grace.

Prayer must make room for REAL “I’m sorry”. Not the fake “I’m sorry” that you tell your parents to get out of trouble, but the REAL “I’m sorry” that causes you to turn away from your sin and turn to God seeking His loving forgiveness.

THANKSGIVING -> **Teachers:** Consider drawing a “smile” next to this word.

Q: What does it mean to *thank*? A: You show your appreciation for something given to you or done for you.

Prayer expresses to God an “attitude of gratitude”. We thank Him for what He has given us (like forgiveness) rather than complain about what He has not given us.

SUPPLICATION -> **Teachers:** Consider drawing a “?” next to this word.

Q: What does it mean to *supplicate*? A: This is just a big word for “ask”.

Prayer rightly has us come before God with our requests for others and for ourselves.

But notice the order here! Q: What comes first and what comes last? Often I think we order our prayers “Aladdin-style” where we treat God like a genie. (**Teachers:** Consider writing the word “SCAT” and talk about what that is to make the point!)

A.C.T.S Quiz! (**Teachers:** Below are several examples of prayer across different Biblical characters. Pick several of them to read aloud and have the kids decide which of the four are being demonstrated. Notice several have more than one!)

Jesus: Matthew 6:9 -> Adoration!

David: Psalm 51:1-3-> Adoration, Confession, and Supplication!

Paul: Philippians 4:6-7 -> Supplication and Thanksgiving!

Nehemiah: Nehemiah 9:6 -> Adoration!

Ezra: Ezra 9:6 -> Confession!

Daniel: Daniel 6:10 -> Thanksgiving!

Moses: Deuteronomy 32:3-4 -> Adoration!

Peter: 1 Peter 5:10-11 -> Adoration and Supplication!

Colossians 4:2b: So with this understanding of what prayer is, let's go back to our study. We are to enter into prayer with vigilance or alertness!

Imagine coming before an earthly king sitting on his throne and as you are in his presence talking with him, you fall asleep! Is that showing respect to this king? NO!

Boys and Girls: We have access to the throne room of the King of Kings through faith in Jesus Christ! Shouldn't we come **respectfully** with alertness and readiness? Yes!

Colossians 4:3-4: Here we have another example of Supplication!

Paul is asking for these believers in Colosse to be praying for him. He also reminds them that he is in jail, in chains, for being a Christian.

Q: But what did he ask them to pray about? Did he ask them to pray that he would be set free so he can go home and have a nice, comfy life? No!

A: He wants them to pray that God would enable him to speak and preach the gospel, even in jail! *

Boys and Girls: Would you pray for me? I need God's help in teaching and preaching the word to you! (**Teachers:** Consider also grabbing one of the missionary pamphlets that we have next to the Children's Info Desk and encourage the kids to take one and pray for those missionaries to teach and preach the gospel)

Colossians 4:5-6: Now Paul turns the tables on these believers a little bit challenging them to consider how **THEY** may make Jesus Christ known to those around them!

Sometimes we can get the **WRONG** idea that making Jesus Christ and the gospel known is only the job of pastors or missionaries. But here Paul says that it is the job of all believers, even **YOU!**

Paul says our speech is to be like salt. Salt enhances flavor! Everyone needs the gospel and it is our job to present it to people in such a way that it is appetizing!

Key Point: Let's go back to the video we watched at the beginning. In that silly song, the genie said to Aladdin, "*You ain't never had a friend like me*". This song gives us the idea that the best kind of friend is one who just gives us whatever WE want. But is that really the best kind of friend?

While Jesus Christ is not a genie that is going to give you whatever you want, it is true that "*you ain't never gonna find a better friend than Him!*"

- 1) He is the good shepherd and He gave His life for you. He also knows what is best for you. **ADORE** Him as your great God and shepherd! (**John 10:11**)
- 2) He gave His life to rescue you from sin, darkness, and hell. Turn from your sins, **CONFESS** them to Him that He would cleanse you from all evil. (**1 John 1:9**)
- 3) Recognize what Jesus gave up to rescue you! It cost God to save you. Give Him **THANKSGIVING** for salvation and for all of the other blessings that you have! (**Psalm 100:4**)
- 4) Ask Jesus to align your desires with His. You know what happens then? Your **SUPPLICATION** becomes in line with what Jesus wants! You don't just ask for what you want. You ask for what He wants and trust Him to know what is best! (**Matthew 6:10**)

And Jesus wants people to know Him and love Him. Pray and ask the Lord to help you make Him known to your friends! Then they will join you in saying, "*I ain't never gonna find a better friend than You, Jesus!*"

Bring It Home

Lesson Theme: “Now What? PRAY!”

Scripture: Colossians 4:2-6

Memory Verse: Colossians 4:2 “Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving”

Teachers/Parents: In class we watched a short video from the new Aladdin movie where he discovers the magic lamp and the genie grants him three wishes. While this movie can be funny and entertaining, we also highlighted how powerful media is and that if we aren’t careful it can twist our perceptions. For example, we might be influenced to think that real prayer to God is a lot like saying some magic words or rubbing a magical lamp, then expecting God to do whatever WE want! How is that different from real prayer and why might it be easy to be fooled into thinking prayer works the “Aladdin” way?

Discussion Questions:

- 1) We used the ACTS acronym (**A**doration, **C**onfession, **T**hanksgiving, and **S**upplication) to teach the kids several different elements of prayer that we see in the Scriptures. Discuss what each one means. Which aspects of prayer do you find easier? Which do you find harder? Why?
- 2) In class we also stressed that this acronym teaches a priority in prayer. Often we may have it a little backwards and make **S**upplication primary. Why do you think it is important to give **A**doration priority? **Read Matthew 6:9**. How did Jesus begin?
- 3) In class we looked across the Bible at examples of prayer and asked the kids to say what aspect(s) of prayer they saw being practiced. **Read Psalm 95** together slowly. As you read, pause and discuss what aspects of prayer you see on display in this Psalm.
- 4) **Colossians 4:2** challenges us to pursue a vigilance or alertness in prayer. Why do you think we need to be commanded to be vigilant/alert in prayer? What are some practical ways toward making that happen?
- 5) **Read Colossians 4:3-4**. Paul mentions here that he is in jail. Considering that, what would you expect his prayer requests to be? What are they instead?
- 6) **Read Colossians 4:5-6**. Who is someone in your life that needs to hear the gospel? Considering this section of the letter is all about prayer, where do you think God would have us start in reaching out to them?