

**Materials I Need:**

**Legend:**

 = Option 1, Appropriate for 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

 = Option 2, Appropriate for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Bolded Words in Story = Key Concepts to Highlight during the Bible Adventure**

**Memory Work:**

“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” Luke 11:9

**Aim Questions:**

1. Repeat the prayer that Jesus taught in your own words. What does this prayer say about the following: God, food, forgiveness, and temptation?
2. What two stories did Jesus tell about prayer, and what can we learn from them?
3. You hear that you should pray often. What does this persistence or endurance have to do with our prayers, according to Jesus?
4. What do you expect from God when you pray? How often has God answered your prayers?
5. Do you pray expecting real answers? Why or why not? What did Jesus say you should expect?

**Bonus Question:** What wrong things did Jesus speak to the Pharisees and teachers about?



**Hook:**



**Fathers and Their Gifts (*Guest Speaker*).** Arrange to interview the fathers of two or three of your students. (*This can also be pre-arranged and taped ahead of time and listened to in class.*) Ask them questions like these:

When do you give gifts to your son or daughter?

What things do you keep in mind when you look for a gift for your child?

Do you give him/her everything he/she wants? Why?

Tell us about the gift you gave on his/her last birthday or Christmas.

Tell us about the last time you surprised your child with an unexpected gift.


How do you feel when you are preparing a gift for your child?




**Prayers We Pray (*Discussion*).** Ask students if they know any memorized prayers such as “Now I lay me down to sleep,” etc. or “Come Lord Jesus be our guest; let this food to us be blest.” Share these prayers. Is this a good way to pray? These prayers can help little children learn to pray, but many times when people recite memorized prayers, they are just saying words and not talking to God from their hearts. Religious people did this in Bible times. But Jesus taught His disciples how He wanted them (*and us*) to pray.



**Persistence (*Role-play*).** During song time (*or other time when distraction would not be too harmful*), have a helper ask repeatedly, “Can we have snacks now?” After many requests, say yes. Draw a parallel to this when you tell the story of the persistent friend.


 **Daily Bread (Object Lesson/Discussion).** Bring in a loaf of french bread and an “Our Daily Bread” devotional. Ask students why we could call each of these “daily bread.” Have them listen for the part in the Bible Adventure where Jesus asked for daily bread.


 **Expectations (Discussion).** What happens when your birthday or Christmas rolls around? Don’t most of us look forward to a few gifts, maybe even a lot? What do you expect will happen on these special days? Wouldn’t you be rather disappointed if your family totally forgot and carried on like it was just another day? Families are important. We come to expect certain things from each other such as caring, sharing and giving to one another. We soon learn though that our expectations need to be realistic. We don’t usually march up to Mom or Dad and ask for things that are outrageous such as ten thousand bucks, ten bikes or 100 candy bars. What about what we ask of God? Do we pray and ask for “things” or for some event to happen that may be unreasonable? Jesus taught the disciples how to pray. Listen to what He said about asking our Heavenly Father for the things we may need or want.



### **Book:**

#### **Presentation Ideas -**

 **Friend Asking for Bread (Illustration).** See **BLUK10.GF1 Pg. 1 and Pg. 2** in LOOK time. Assemble ahead of time and use for an illustration during the Bible Adventure.

 **A Father’s Gift (Illustration/Overhead).** Luke 11:11-13 “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will you Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” **BLUK10.GF2.**

#### **Bible Adventure -**

“Let’s pray!” How many times in your lifetime have you heard those words? At mealtimes, bedtime, at the day’s beginning or when we become aware of a special need, believers participate in this thing called prayer. What is it exactly, and why does God place such a high value on prayer?

If we look at the life of Jesus Christ, it doesn’t take long to discover that prayer played a big part in all He did. He prayed before making decisions. He often went off alone and prayed. He prayed in front of others. He even prayed while He was on the cross. The amount of time Jesus spent in prayer did not go unnoticed by His disciples. As we begin to look at Luke chapter eleven today, one of Jesus’ disciples approaches Him and says, “Lord, teach us to pray as John taught his disciples to pray.” Now in those days it was common for rabbis to teach their disciples to pray. Prayer could take on many different forms. Some people prayed aloud on the street. Others offered prayers at the temples. Many people prayed on their knees on the ground. When Jesus taught about prayer, He did not mention any of these things. Instead, **He gave them an example to use when they prayed.** It was not to be used as a ritual prayer, repeated again and again until it had no meaning, but rather it was a tool Jesus used. The prayer went like this:

“Father,  
hallowed be your name,  
Your Kingdom come.  
Give us each day our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.  
And lead us not into temptation.” (vs. 2-4)

Notice how Jesus began the prayer, “Father.” It reminds us of the relationship we have with God if Jesus is our Savior. The Almighty God of the Universe is now our Father, and He eagerly awaits us as we approach Him. The next two lines of the prayer teach us that when we do approach God, we agree with Him that His name is to be kept holy and treated with the greatest respect, both by us and by others. Today, we might say it this way, “Your name is holy.” “Your kingdom come” is our way of saying that we want the Good News of God’s power to save men to be spread everywhere and that we want to be a part

of that. Next Jesus teaches that we need to approach God as the source of all our physical needs, especially food. We would have nothing if not for God. Even the air we breathe is a gift of His grace to us.

The next thing Jesus taught in this model prayer was that we need to pray often for forgiveness and to make a practice of forgiving others. When we ask God for forgiveness, we not only admit our sin problem, but we show we have faith that God will forgive us. If God, being righteous and holy, can forgive my sin and yours, shouldn't we, being imperfect and sinful, be able to forgive others when they sin against us?

Jesus ends His model prayer by praying, "lead us not into temptation." Jesus didn't mean that God would lead us to tempting things and situations, but that by our very nature we are headed there. It's a natural thing for us. Jesus meant that we should say, "I'm headed for trouble, Lord. I pray that you will lead me away from it." This is the only way you and I will ever be able to triumph over sin. We must pray and ask God to help keep us from situations where we'll be tempted to do or think wrong things.

Jesus didn't just give this model prayer to His disciples to teach them. He also told them two stories that had lessons about praying in them. The first story was about a **man who came to his friend's door at midnight one night and woke him up asking for three loaves of bread** (*place Illustration BLUK10.GF1*). The man had company and had nothing to feed them. The man inside the house told his friend to go away. He and his children were in bed, and he could not come to the door and give the friend any bread. Even the fact that the men were friends was not enough to get one out of bed to get bread for the other. However, Jesus said that **the man at the door would not give up**. He kept asking until his friend got up out of bed and got him the bread that he needed. Jesus said that this was the attitude His disciples needed to have as they prayed to God. He did not mean that we should nag God or be a pest but that we should be persistent and not give up if we don't get an answer right away. You see, God is not a short-order prayer answerer. We're not to give up on God if we don't get the answer we're seeking right away. You can read in Luke 18 about another story Jesus told encouraging His disciples to pray always and never give up.

The second story Jesus told in Luke 11 had to do with fathers and their children. (*Place Illustration BLUK10.GF2*.) He asked his followers if they **would give a snake to their child if he asked for a fish, or a scorpion if he asked for an egg**. Those who were listening thought, "Of course not! I'd never do that to my child." Jesus then told them that if they, being evil, knew how to give good gifts to their children, wouldn't God certainly know how to give good things to His? Jesus was not saying we can just waltz up to God, put in our little request, and hey, presto! Here it comes! What He was saying is that God wants us to ask. The answer may not be what we are looking for, but knowing God, it's going to be good. Jesus said God would give the Holy Spirit to those who asked Him. Isn't that just like God to give something of infinite value, something important and eternal? The Holy Spirit is all a believer will ever need, power, hope, truth, comfort and wisdom.

After Jesus had finished teaching these and other lessons, He went to eat with a Pharisee who had invited Him over for dinner. When Jesus did not ceremonially wash His hands before the meal as the Pharisees did, His host was surprised. Jesus, who had just finished teaching His disciples how important our heart attitude is as we approach God in prayer, had plenty to say about the heart attitude of the Pharisees. They were so concerned about outward appearances that their insides had become corrupt and ugly. They had become greedy, proud and wicked, doing everything they could to impress others with their keeping of their rules and regulations. Yet their hearts were far from God. What a contrast to the kind of heart Jesus taught we should have, a heart that acknowledges that God is God, and we are not. We need a heart that knows how dependent we are on Him, a heart that wants only to help God's kingdom grow, and a heart that continually confesses its sin to God and in turn is forgiving toward others.

Jesus wanted us to learn to pray well. Many times in Scripture we are told to pray according to God's will and to pray in Jesus' name. **Jesus gave us a model of prayer** and examples of prayer because He wanted us to learn to pray as He did. He prayed often and sought most of all what God wanted from Him.

Do you pray persistently, or do you give up after the first few times, assuming that God doesn't care to answer? Are you convinced that God wants to give good things in answer to His children's prayers, or do you feel like you almost have to talk Him into it? It's time to move past our faulty ideas about prayer and stand on what God's Word has to say about it. Let's pray persistently and with the expectation that God will answer with good things. God delights in the prayers we bring to Him in faith.

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### Look:



**Friend Asking for Bread (Craft).** Luke 11:5-8 tells of a man who received what he asked from his friend not because of his friendship with the man but because of his boldness. Each student will need **BLUK10.GF1 Pg. 1 & Pg. 2**, crayons, scissors and glue. This can be used as an illustration during the Bible Adventure and would help to have an example for the students to follow as they assemble theirs.



**Luke 11:9 (Illustration).** This is a fun verse to memorize. The first main word "ASK" provides an acrostic for the verse itself. Write it on the board this way:

"So I say to you:

**ASK** and it will be given to you;

**SEEK** and you will find;

**KNOCK** and the door will be opened to you."



**Learning to Pray (Booklet).** The Lord's Prayer isn't in the Bible for us to repeat word for word. It's there as a guide to help us commune with God. In this booklet, students can write prayers from their own hearts to help them learn from Jesus' model. This is not an exercise in writing. It's more important to pray these things than to write them. Have students use these booklets in their prayer time at home. Encourage students to identify areas in their lives where they need God's guidance and strength in order to obey. Other areas may include: power to witness (*Acts 1:8*), words to say (*Luke 12:12, I Corinthians 2:13*), assurance of salvation (*Romans 8:16, I John 14:13, I John 5:6*), understanding of God's Word, (*John 14:26, John 16:13*), wisdom, comfort - all the things our hearts need! These are prayers God delights to answer, **BLUK10.GF3**.



**Good Gifts (Worksheet).** Fathers love to give good gifts to their children. Our Heavenly Father loves to give good gifts, too. Circle the good gifts in Luke 11:11 and 12. Cross out the bad gifts. What is the gift that our Heavenly Father will always give to those who ask Him? **BLUK10.GF4**.



**Time to Pray (Craft).** 🍞 What time was it when the friend asked for three loaves of bread in Luke 11:5-8? What time and how often can we ask God for what we need? It's always time to pray! Students will each need **BLUK10.GF5 Pg. 1 and Pg. 2**, scissors, glue, a brad and a paper plate.



**Whisper a Prayer (Song).** Sing this old favorite with the class. Sing after "Time to Pray" craft, **BLUK10.GF6**.



**Lord's Prayer (Worksheet).** Use the words provided to fill in the blanks. Jesus said to say these things when we pray, so re-write the prayer in your own words, just as you would talk to God, **BLUK10.GF7**.



**Journey with Jesus (Journal).** Have students make an entry in their journals. Any disciple might write something like this:

*We have been noticing lately that Jesus spends a lot of time in prayer, but He doesn't pray like the priests and Pharisees. We asked Him to teach us to pray just like John taught his disciples. He gave us a sample prayer to follow. Jesus taught us to keep asking for what we need and to expect God to answer with good things.*

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### Took:

**Practice Makes Prayerful (Prayer Time/Discussion).** Pray in small groups. Refer to 'Learning to Pray' booklets. Have students (*who wish to participate*) each pray a sentence prayer of **worship**. Then say sentence prayers for **daily needs**. Talk about **confession** (*have students pray silently after a little discussion to make sure they understand this aspect of prayer*). End with requests for **ways God will help me to obey**. Discussion may be needed here. Refer to lesson plan instructions for the 'Learning to Pray' booklet.

**Luke 11: 9 Scavenger Hunt (Game).** Have students work in small teams to obtain three ingredients for a snack-mix. (*These could be nuts, raisins, M&M's, pretzels, crackers or nuts.*) Prepare one small zip-lock bag of each ingredient for each group. At game time, give each group a medium sized bag and tell students that they are looking for three ingredients for a snack mix. Give them no further instructions except that their three clues for their three ingredients can be found in Luke 11:9. The clues are:

1. For "Ask and it will be given to you," groups need to ask one of the game leaders/teachers for an ingredient. He will have (in hiding) the bags of ingredient #1.
2. For "Seek and you will find," hide the bags of ingredient #2 somewhere in the room.
3. For "Knock and the Door will be opened to you," have a helper stand outside the classroom door with the bags of ingredient #3. When groups knock, he can open the door and give each of them a bag.

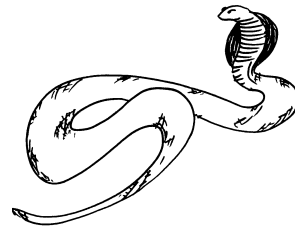
## ***Friend Asking for Bread***

*Color the pictures on pages 1 and 2. In the picture below, cut along the top, bottom and center sides of the shutters, leaving the hinged sides to fold back so they can open and close. Paste outer edges of page 1 over page 2 so that the shuttered portions of the doors fit over the pictures of the man asleep with his family and then rising up to give his friend bread. Why did he finally get up and answer the door? See Luke 11:8-10.*





# *A Father's Gift*





**A**sk and it will  
be given to you;



**S**eek and you  
will find;



**K**nock and the  
door will be  
opened to you.

*Learning*

*to Pray*



BLUK10.GF3

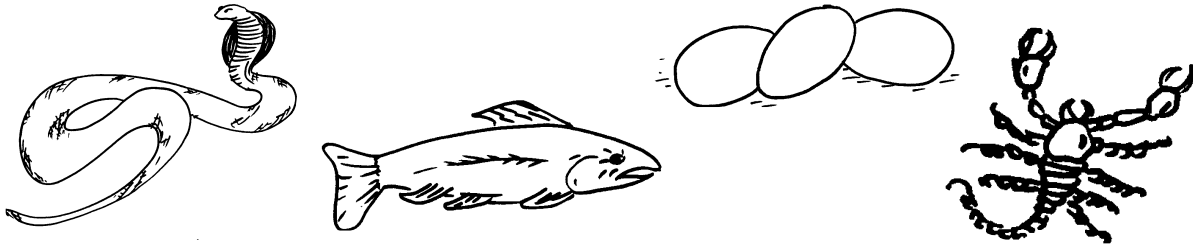






# Good Gifts

Fathers love to give good gifts to their children. Our Heavenly Father loves to give good gifts, too. Circle the good gifts mentioned in Luke 11:11 and 12. Cross out the bad gifts.



Here are some more gifts. Circle the ones you would like to receive. Cross out the “bad” gifts.



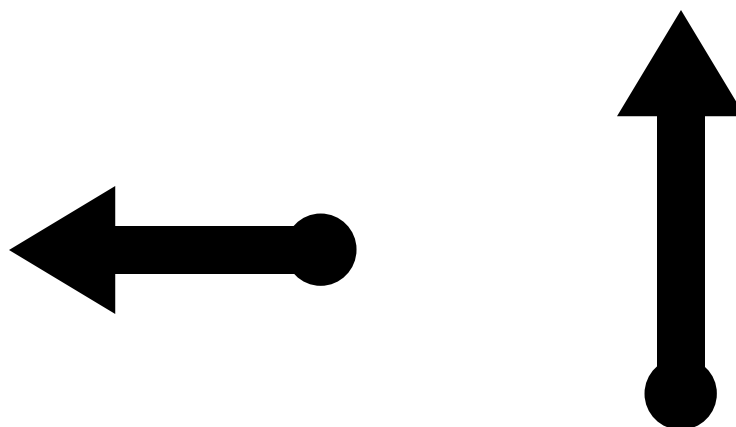
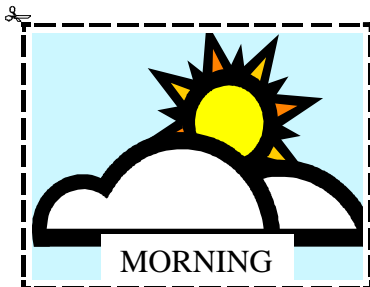
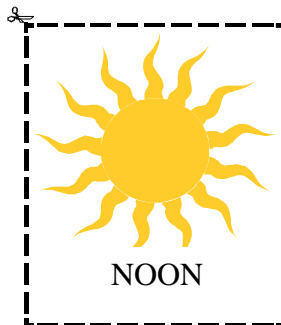
What is the gift that our Heavenly Father will always give to those who ask Him? H \_\_\_\_\_ S \_\_\_\_\_

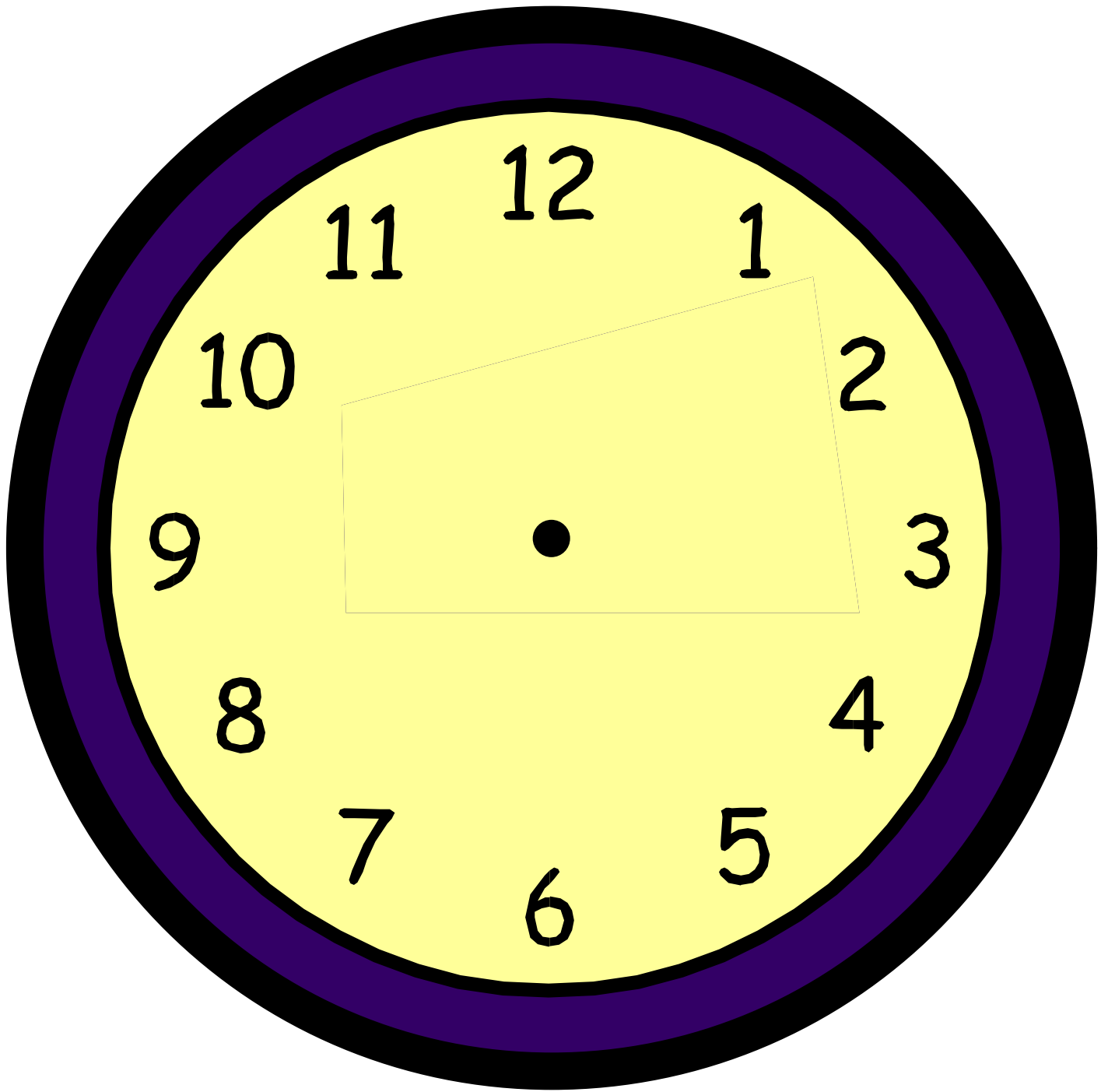
Luke 11:13

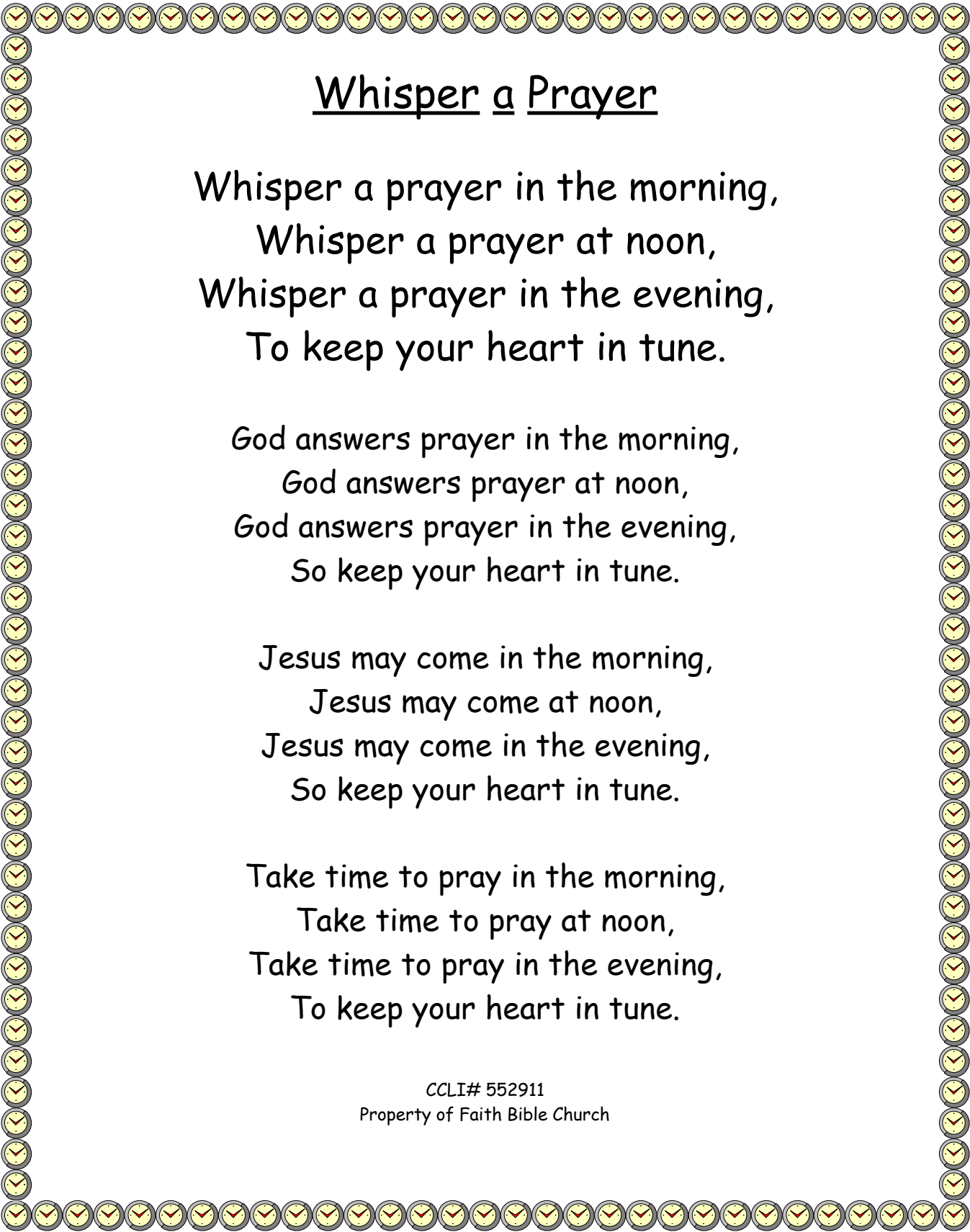
What time was it when the friend asked for three loaves of bread? Luke 11:5- 8.

What time and how often can we ask God for what we need? It's always time to pray!

Cut out the clock-face on Pg. 2 and glue it to a paper plate. Cut out and add the small pictures and words: Time to Pray. Fasten the clock "hands" to the center of the clock with a brad.







## Whisper a Prayer

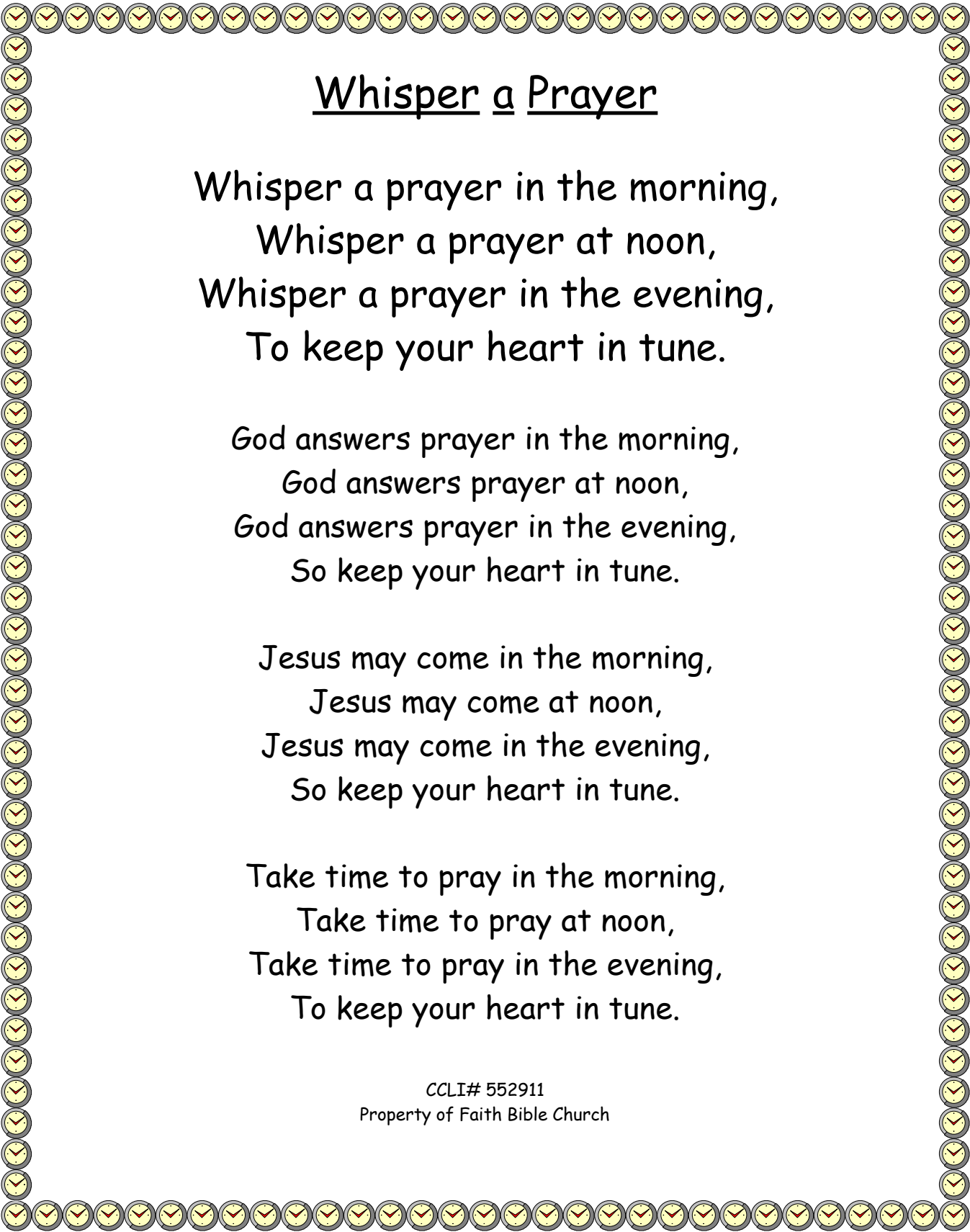
Whisper a prayer in the morning,  
Whisper a prayer at noon,  
Whisper a prayer in the evening,  
To keep your heart in tune.

God answers prayer in the morning,  
God answers prayer at noon,  
God answers prayer in the evening,  
So keep your heart in tune.

Jesus may come in the morning,  
Jesus may come at noon,  
Jesus may come in the evening,  
So keep your heart in tune.

Take time to pray in the morning,  
Take time to pray at noon,  
Take time to pray in the evening,  
To keep your heart in tune.

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## Whisper a Prayer

Whisper a prayer in the morning,  
Whisper a prayer at noon,  
Whisper a prayer in the evening,  
To keep your heart in tune.

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