



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Series: God's Big Gift  
Winter Year 2, Lesson 45

# The Holy Spirit Helps Us Pray to the Father for Just What We Need

**Primary Scripture:** Romans 8:13,16, 26, 27

**Key Verse:** Romans 8:26, "At the same time the Spirit also helps us in our weakness, because we don't know how to pray for what we need."

## **How does this address a need in our kids' lives?**

Kids need to learn the difference between their want list and their need list. Sometimes they get confused and think that things they want are things they absolutely must have. This can develop into a demand for immediate gratification. Is that new bike a want or a need? If I must have it now and not having it will threaten my well being, then I am confused about the difference between wants and needs. Jesus wants us to understand that we have needs that are spiritual. He wants us to desire to have those needs met by coming to him and seeking his presence in our lives. If we seek God as our greatest need, he gives us the desires of our hearts (Psalm 37:4, 5.)

## **How does Jesus fill this need?**

**Jesus for us:** Through Jesus' death and resurrection, he provided for our greatest need – forgiveness of sins and salvation.

**Jesus in us:** Jesus speaks to the Samaritan woman at the well and offers her what she needed: living water. She was only seeking what she wanted – physical water. Living water is the presence of Jesus in our lives, received by faith.

**Jesus through us:** As we seek what we truly need spiritually, Jesus changes the desires of our hearts and what we want. We use those blessings to help others.

Kids Church Year 2 - Lesson 45 - 1

## Stamp of Excellence:

*Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.*



## Worship

### Invocation:

*Let kids bring forward the worship symbols, such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

### Attention Grabber:

*Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.*

Pretend to call a child in from playing outdoors. (You might go to the door or a window and call down the hall or outside if this won't disturb anyone else.) Tell them it is time to come in. Use your typical parent voice in a pleasant way.

**Is it fun to come in? What would it be like if you were called in and your mom or dad had your favorite meal ready for you? What if they had a game for you to play together or a special movie to watch with popcorn to share just because they enjoy your company?**

**Let's listen to what God is saying to us right now. He is calling us into his special house. This is God's house. As he is calling us, he is calling us into a house we cannot see with our eyes. We can see it with our hearts. Close your eyes and listen to him call.**

Use a God-like voice to call some children's' names. Then say:

**Imagine God calling for you because he wants to spend time with you. When you go to him in this special place (add your own description of God's throne of worship), you are coming in to worship him. God wants to spend time with you and you respond with your worship.**

**But, how many of you have been in worship and found yourself thinking about things other than God? Maybe you were looking up here at the stage and your mind was thinking about other things.**

**Who would like to tell about some of the things your mind has wandered to during Kids Church?**

Interview some kids.

**Did you know that the devil wants to suggest to your mind to think about other things when you are worshiping and to not think about God? Sometimes it is hard to think only about God during worship. That is why the Bible verse today says, “At the same time the Spirit also helps us in our weakness, because we don’t know how to pray for what we need.” (Romans 8:26)**

**Let’s pray now for God’s Spirit to be with us and to help us concentrate on worshiping him. Let’s ask the Holy Spirit to help us pray for just what we need.**

**Dear God, send your Holy Spirit now to help us in our weakness and to help us focus on you during this worship time. We love you, Lord, and give you our praise and honor. Amen.**

## **Songs of Worship:**

*Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!*

Your choice of music.

## **The Power of the Cross:**

*Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.*

*Prop needed: a suitcase*

Role-play the following scenario: You are a child that did something wrong in your house (like not making your bed), and your parents told you to pack your things and move out. Then say:

**Your parents wouldn’t do that, would they? Does God do that? No. If we sin against him, he does not tell us we can’t be his children any more. Instead, God says he wants to help us because we are his children. He says, “Tell me what you have done wrong. I will forgive you and help you do better.”**

Let's take some time right now and tell God some things we might have done wrong this week. He wants to help change our hearts by forgiving us. After you name these things in your mind, we will call on Jesus and the power of his sacrifice on the cross. Our sins will be forgiven.

The forgiveness verse is Romans 8:15, *"You haven't received the spirit of slaves that leads you into fear again."*

This means that we don't need to be afraid of God or that we cannot be good enough for him. The verse continues, *"Instead, you have received the spirit of God's adopted children by which we call out, 'Abba! Father!'"*

Abba was the way the people in the Bible said "daddy." That is what we can call God, because in Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven. He is our daddy/God.

## **Song of Response:**

*Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.*

## **Offering:**

*Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.*

**What does God need from us? Does he need our money?**

Refer to Psalm 50:10, 12.

*"Every creature in the forest, even the cattle on a thousand hills, is mine... If I were hungry, I would not tell you, because the world and all that it contains are mine."*

This verse says that everything we have God already owns. Why do we bring our offering to God? Psalm 50:14 says, *"Bring your thanks to God as a sacrifice..."*

When we give God our money we are saying, "thank you" to him for giving us all these things. God will use this money to help other people receive blessings from him.



# The Word

## Learning Game:

*Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.*

Due to extended sections in other parts of the lesson, today, the Learning Game section will not be implemented.

## Bible Reading:

*Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.*

*Needed: an overhead and transparency (or white board)*

Draw two columns with a marker on the transparency or white board. Label one column "I Want" and label the other "I Need." Ask kids for things we need to live: food, air, clothes, home, love, etc. and write them in the first column. Then ask for kids' want lists: new bicycle, friends, sports, etc. and write these down. To help the children imagine their want list, you might invite them to close their eyes and dream about having anything they wanted.

Go back to the list and look to see if there are any spiritual items listed. Then say:

**God says that the top need on our "I Need" list should be a friendship with him through trust in Christ. There are other spiritual needs, such as forgiveness and life with him forever.**

Help the children understand the difference between wants and needs. Needs are things that we absolutely must have to stay alive and thrive. More importantly, these things help us stay alive both physically and spiritually. Wants are things that we do not have to have, but we simply want to have them.

**What do we spend most of our time thinking about and striving after? Is it our wants or our needs? Are wants bad? Of course not. But, when they become more important than our needs, they can be.**

Read Romans 8:15-17 and describe a relationship with God as one that calls on him as Father or Daddy (Abba).

**The Holy Spirit helps us understand that we are God’s children. We can ask God for anything.**

Then read verse 26 and point out how the Holy Spirit can help us in our weakness when we do not know how to pray for our true spiritual needs. In verse 27, God says that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us just the way that God wants him to. (Another option for teaching here is Psalm 37:4, 5.)

**As we seek for our needs to be met in God, he gives us the desires of our heart or our wants. It is just that he often changes our wants to be more of the things that he wants for us.**

### **Puppet Sketch: “Harold Goes Bananas” (See appendix)**

*Needed: a monkey with plastic bananas hanging around his neck. Other animals or objects can be used which illustrate wants that are excessive beyond our needs.*

### **Bible Reading II: A Samaritan woman meets Jesus at the well (John 4:1-28, 39-42)**

*Note: Two things are remarkable about how Jesus treats the woman at the well.*

- 1) She was a woman. In those days, Jewish men looked down on women and would never speak to a woman they didn’t know.*
- 2) She was a Samaritan. In those days, Jews looked down on the Samaritans. A Jewish man would never strike up a conversation with a Samaritan.*

*Props needed: period costumes for a woman and Jesus, a bucket of water with a soup ladle*

Invite two children to come forward to act out the drama. Dress one child as the woman at the well and dress another child as Jesus. Give the bucket of water to the woman. Have the children actors role-play while reading John 4:1-28, 39-42. You might interrupt your storytelling to ask the actors what they think they would say next or what might be going through their characters’ thoughts.

**The key point is verse 15, when the woman says that she wants water so she won’t get thirsty. She was only thinking of her physical need. Jesus helped her understand that she had a spiritual need, as well. That need is forgiveness and a relationship with him. That living water is God’s Holy Spirit poured out into our life, which becomes a spring gushing to eternal life, filling us with Jesus, himself.**



## **Witness and Tell:**

*Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.*

Have kids tell how things they thought were on their need list were actually on their want list. Have some kids tell what their most important spiritual needs.

## **Prayer:**

*Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.*

**Options:** (select one from the options below)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

**Lord's Prayer:** Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

## **Blessing:**

*Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.*

## **Song of Sending:**

*Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.*

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## **“Harold Goes Bananas”**

**Presenter:** Harold, you wanted to see the kids today, so here you are. These are the kids. Kids, this is Harold.

Harold: *(Ducking down.)* Oh, well, I don't know if I want to see them now.

**Presenter:** What do you mean? You just said that you wanted to see what happens in Kids Church. Don't tell me you have stage fright.

Harold: Stage fright! No. The only thing that is frightening here is looking at you!

**Presenter:** Oh, Harold. Boys and girls, I'm sorry. Harold just likes to tease.

Harold: I'm not teasing. I'm telling the truth! Have you looked in the mirror lately? Well, it's frightening what you'll see. It will turn your hair white.

**Presenter:** Harold, my hair is already gray.

Harold: See what I mean?!

**Presenter:** Harold, we did not come out here to talk about me. I want to talk about you. Why in the world are all those bananas tied to you?

Harold: Oh, this? This is my banana surplus.

**Presenter:** Wow! You must be hungry.

Harold: Not really.

**Presenter:** Why all the bananas?

Harold: I have already eaten four of them.

**Presenter:** Why do you need these other ones?

Harold: Well, I always like to carry extras with me.

**Presenter:** But there is no way you could eat more. Why don't you share some?

Harold: I don't want to! Consider me a banana collector.

**Presenter:** A what?

Harold: Yes! I collect bananas.

**Presenter:** That means you will have more bananas that you could possibly eat.

Harold: Sure!

**Presenter:** Where do you put them?

Harold: Well, sometimes I wear them like I am doing now. After a while, I store them at home.

**Presenter:** At home?

Harold: Yes, in my closet.

**Presenter:** In your closet?

Harold: Yes, in a box!

**Presenter:** In a box? What kind of box is it?

Harold: It is a box with lots of mushy black stuff in the bottom.

**Presenter:** I thought you said it was filled with bananas.

Harold: Well, I guess it is. It's just that now there are lots of black, mushy ones at the bottom. And flies. Lots and lots of flies buzzing around.

**Presenter:** Harold, that sounds gross! Do you really need that?

Harold: Yeah, I do!

**Presenter:** You really need all those extra bananas?

Harold: Yeah, I do. I need them!

**Presenter:** You are absolutely sure you need them? If you did not have them you would die or something?

Harold: Well, I don't know about that.

**Presenter:** Harold, maybe it is just that you *want* them and not that you *need* them.

Harold: But what if they stop making bananas? Then I will need them!

**Presenter:** All your extra bananas are black mush now anyway.

Harold: Oh, yeah. I forgot.

**Presenter:** The Bible says that God gives us just what we need for the day. We should not be too worried about all the things that we want. We should ask him for the things that we need day by day.

Harold: You mean I am supposed to ask God for bananas every day?

**Presenter:** You sure are. He says in the Lord's Prayer, "Give us this day our daily..."

Harold: Bananas!

**Presenter:** No. Our daily bread. Each day we ask God and trust him for what we need. We don't want to get to the point that, when we don't get what we want, we get too upset.

Harold: Oh, you mean if I don't get all the extra bananas, it is not supposed to bother me?

**Presenter:** Right.

Harold: But that is hard. I would have a hard time not thinking about the bananas.

**Presenter:** God will help you. God says, "You really need me in your life." The more we remember what Jesus has done for us and that he wants to live in our lives, then it helps us not get too worked up over bananas.

Harold: How do I do that?

**Presenter:** Just like this. Let's pray. Dear God, thank you for giving us what we need. We pray that you would give us what we need every day – our food, our love, and our health. What we need most of all, though, is you living in our lives, helping us to want the things that you want for us. Help us not to get worked up over trying to collect too many extra bananas.

Harold: Yeah, because they turn to black mush anyway!

**Presenter:** Yeah, because they turn to black mush anyway! Thank you for helping us. In Jesus' name, amen.

Harold: That's much better. Maybe I can take some of these bananas off and not think about all the extra stuff I want.

**Presenter:** Good idea. I will help you clean out the closet.

Harold: Great! We'll make some black banana mush pies for the kids. Bye, kids!

**Presenter:** Bye, Harold.

# Supplies:

## *The Power of the Cross:*

- suitcase

## *Bible Reading:*

- overhead
- transparency
- marker
- monkey puppet with bananas hanging around his neck
- Jesus and Samaritan woman costumes for children
- a bucket with a ladle