



Date: _____

Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Jesus Is the King Series, Lesson 38

Lesson Title: The King Is a Priest

Take Home Point: Jesus is our priest. He is our bridge builder to God.

Warm-Up:

Imagine that you are a good friend of the U.S. Ambassador to a particular country. You are preparing to visit that country, and your friend says to you, "Here is my cell phone number. Please call me directly any time during your stay. I can ensure you will receive help if you are in need, or we can just talk. I can also show you places that most visitors would not see." What do you do? Do you not bother to call this most influential and interesting friend? Of course not! You make certain to call and enjoy the benefits of a gracious invitation.

Read: Matthew 6:9-13

Observation (What happened?):

According to what Jesus said in verse 9, who should pray?

What is the one point Jesus emphasized from his simple prayer after he had finished instructing those listening?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think Jesus was teaching Jews, the people of God, how to pray? (Read verses 5-8 for a hint at what they were learning by example if not by direct teaching.)

According to Hebrews 4:14-16, we can pray directly to God with what kind of attitude in our hearts?

Insight:

Hebrews 4:16 tells us why we can and should pray; Matthew 6:9-15 tells us how. Our Heavenly Father is much more than just an influential and interesting friend. He is God, Creator, and Sustainer of the universe, our Strength and our Provider. Jesus knows us so well! he knows we need to come to our Father in worship and submission to his will. He also knows we have other needs as we live on this earth—needs that may cause us to worry or turn our focus away from the One who provides. What are some of the needs Jesus addresses? Things like provision for physical needs, forgiveness, forgiving others, discernment to distinguish right from wrong, and protection from temptation. Each one of these is part of living as a child of God in this world, and Jesus tells us to go to him in prayer with our needs.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

If God is offering full and free access to his power through Jesus, how are you taking advantage of that offer?

Take some time now to pray for the children in your small group to understand that they can talk to God about anything anytime anywhere.