



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

Series: Jesus Is the King  
Winter Year 1, Lesson 38

# Ask, Seek, Knock

**Primary Scripture:** Luke 11:1-13

**Key Verse:** Luke 11:9 (NIV), “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.”

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

Kids can be quite persistent in asking their parents for certain privileges or gifts. Sometimes it can even sound like nagging. In a much healthier way, kids need to ask persistently and boldly of their Heavenly Father for true heavenly riches. Jesus is eager to give blessings to those who ask, seek, and knock.

**How does Jesus fill this need?**

**Jesus for us:** Jesus, our high priest, gave his life for us. When we believe in him, we can pray persistently in his name and God will provide.

**Jesus in us:** According to Luke 11:13, the Father gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask, seek, and knock. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus living in us.

**Jesus through us:** Just as Jesus has taught us to pray, he works through our prayer to bring his kingdom into the lives of people.

## 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 the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

### Attention Grabber for Worship:

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

*Supplies:*

- *incense*
- *matches*

Read Psalm 141:2 as you light incense.

***"Let my prayer be accepted as sweet-smelling incense in your presence. Let the lifting up of my hands in prayer be accepted as an evening sacrifice."***

Explain that in the Old Testament, the priest would light the incense in the morning and evening every day. As the smoke would rise, it reminded people that their prayers continually would rise up to God.

**Watch the smoke rise from this incense that I'm burning. When we pray and praise today, it's a lot like this smoke. Our prayers and praise rise to God.**

**Does this incense smell good? Praying sincerely and telling God just how much we love him smells good to him, just like the incense smells good.**

**We will let this incense burn and it will fill this place with a sweet fragrance that reminds us of our worship and our praise.**

**Now offer your hearts and your lives to God as you sing these songs and tell him how much you love him.**

## **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!*

## **Attention Grabber for Theme:**

*Keep the children's attention on worship and the message for the day.*

*Supplies:*

- telephone

Pick up the receiver of the phone as if answering a ring. Have an imaginary conversation with God and then offer the receiver to the group. Say:

**It's God. Who wants to talk with him?**

Bring forward a child who raises his hand. Hand him the phone. Since he won't hear anything, you can take the receiver back from the child and pretend to hear God.

**Wait a minute. God wants to know what you want.**

It's more than just a funny challenge. Let the children offer suggestions to this question:

**If you could ask God for anything right now, what would it be?**

After taking some answers, offer some prayers on the spot about those very issues. Remind the kids that God wants us to pray not just for "stuff" but also for how he will work in our lives. Remind them to pray for others.

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

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

**Did any of you have a hard time thinking of something you wanted to ask God about?**

**Did you know that worrying about things is something God doesn't want you to do? He doesn't want you to try to solve your problems by yourself. He wants you to talk to him about your worries. He wants to help you. God wants you to trust him. That happens when you pray to him. God wants you to ask him.**

**Here's what the Bible says: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."**

**Let's tell God we're sorry for not asking enough, and not seeking enough, and not knocking enough.**

Allow for quiet meditation and for the kids to ask for forgiveness in their hearts. Assure them of their forgiveness. God is our Heavenly Father who has given us Jesus so we can be forgiven. We can come to him and ask him for anything.

## **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.*

In committing the offering plates to the Lord, hold them above the incense smoke. Offerings are also an expression of our thankfulness to the Lord.



# The Word

## Bible Presentation:

*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.*

*Supplies:*

- *three loaves of bread*
- *plastic fish*
- *rubber snake*
- *egg*
- *plastic scorpion (optional)*
- *malted milk balls*

Read Luke 11:1-13. As you read, hold up the objects that were used by Jesus in the teaching. Ask the children to pay close attention because they will need to remember what the Bible Presentation says for the next game.

After reading verse 12, ask the kids to guess how the last verse ends. Challenge them to fill in the blank of verse 13: ***“...how much more will your Father in heaven give the \_\_\_\_\_ to those who ask him?”***

Give the child that answers “Holy Spirit” a malted milk ball. This should wet the appetite for malted milk balls involved in the learning game.

## Learning Games:

*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.*

The following three learning games are puzzles that have clues in today’s Bible Presentation. They follow the key words “ask, seek, and knock.” If the children don’t recall the key words from memory, ask a child to read the verse in which they will find the answer to the puzzle. For the next three games, divide the kids into groups of ten.

## **Game #1: ASK**

### **“Strong Fist Wrestle”**

*Supplies:*

- *ten malted milk balls in a container for each group of ten kids*

For “Strong Fist Wrestle,” have each group pick a representative who is a “strong kid.” This person’s job is to get a malted milk ball out of the tightly held fist of the large group leader. (We recommend that the malted milk ball be wrapped in plastic.) Introduce the activity:

**I have a malted milk ball for everyone in your group if you have one strong kid who can come up and “Strong Fist Wrestle.” The representative from your group must get this malted milk ball out of my hand for everyone in your group to get a malted milk ball. This strong kid can pull on any finger but cannot kick, bite, or scratch. He will have only 15 seconds to do whatever he can to get my hand to open.**

Have the “strong kid” from each group come up one at a time. Most likely, the kids will try to take the malted milk ball by force.

The secret of getting you to open your hand is to simply ask. If a child asks, open your hand and give him the malted milk ball. If a child can’t get your hand opened and returns to his group, give a clue. Have the group check Luke 11:13. The entire group can work on suggestions for the next turn.

The learning point is:

**God wants to give us the very best gifts. We don’t have to wrestle them out of his hand. We simply need to ask. But he wants us to keep on asking, remembering that it comes from him. We can trust God to give us the best, even if it’s not what we necessarily want. God wants you to ask him!**

## **Game #2: SEEK**

### **“Handful of Blessings”**

*Supplies:*

- *ten malted milk balls in a bowl*

Have each group pick another child to come up. The large group leader has a bowl of malted milk balls.

Somewhere in this room is a bowl of malted milk balls just like this one in my hand. We will call the bowl a “Handful of Blessings.” If the representative from your group finds the “Handful of Blessings” first, he will share it with the rest of his group.

You have to find the bowl of malted milk balls within 30 seconds. Only the person you have chosen from your team can look. Everyone else in the group can give advice as to where to look. When you find the bowl, raise it over your head so all can see and the game will stop. Go ahead!

The kids will probably look all over the room for the bowl. But you said they would have a bowl just like the one in your hand. In fact, it is the one in your hand. The first person that seeks the bowl in your hand receives it. The Bible verse clues are in Luke 11:11-12. The gifts are given right from the Father’s hand. To stress the learning point, say:

**When we seek, search, and look for blessings, we need to first look to the source—right from God. He’s the one who has just what we need right in his hands. When we pray for God to work in our lives, we will have blessings.**

### **Game #3: KNOCK “Blessing Machine”**

*Supplies:*

- *“Blessing Machine” that dispenses malted milk balls. Essentially this is a large box or freestanding divider that has a tube coming out of it. For the tube, use whatever’s handy. One great suggestion is one of those flexible plastic tubes that are used to make noise by spinning them over one’s head. Other options might be a cardboard tube, PVC, or marble roller.*
- *foil wrapped malted milk ball hidden carefully in or around a door where, if there were some kind of knocking, it would come loose. For example, the malted milk ball could be in a box above the door that when knocked on, the candy would fall.*
- *malted milk ball for each child*



**This is the “Blessing Machine.” Malted milk balls are the blessings, and this is the machine that brings them to people. There are blessings for everyone in the room, but there’s a trick.**

**To turn on the machine, someone needs to find the special “foil wrapped” malted milk ball and turn it in to me. It is hidden somewhere in this room. And if you listen closely to today’s Bible verse, I bet you will be able to find it. Let me read again verses 9 and 10.**

The foil wrapped malted milk ball must be hidden very carefully in or around a door where, if there were some kind of knocking, it would come loose. For example, the malted milk ball could be in a box above the door that when knocked on the candy would fall. But the candy must be hidden so well that it frustrates the efforts of all the searchers.

The desired outcome is to have one child ask you where it is. If they do, tell them on which door they are to knock.

After the special malted milk ball is turned in, children can then line up at the “blessing machine” to be turned on.

The learning point is:

**God wants us to ask for his blessings.**

## **Application:**

*Supplies: sign that reads “WHY?” on one side and “WHO!” on the other side*

**Who has prayed really, really, really hard and when they were through, they didn’t get what they wanted? I need a panel of five people who will come up and share their stories.**

Interview each of the five panelists and ask if they did what the Bible says. Did they ask, did they seek, and did they knock? If they did, then why didn’t they get what they wanted? Why? Why? Why?

Explain that God always answers prayer, but sometimes that answer might not be “yes.” God’s answer might be “no” or “not yet.”

**God, who knows everything, might have a special purpose for not giving you what you want right away or not giving it to you at all. He might even want to give you something better. So the answer isn’t “why, why, why.” Hold up the sign to show the “WHY?” side. The answer is “who, who, who!” Turn the card over.**

**Who does God give us when we really ask, seek, and knock for him? God says that he gives us his Holy Spirit. Of all the gifts in the whole world, that’s the best gift of all. The Holy Spirit is God’s own Spirit and he will live right in our hearts and lives. That’s how we can say that Jesus lives in our heart. It’s because the Holy Spirit is in us and with us.**





# Witness

## 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.*

Interview kids who have had answers to prayers that they have been persistently asking.

## 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.*

## 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.*

# Supplies:

## *Attention Grabber for Worship:*

- incense
- matches

## *Attention Grabber for Theme:*

- telephone

## *Bible Presentation:*

- three loaves of bread
- plastic fish
- rubber snake
- egg
- plastic scorpion (*optional*)
- malted milk balls

## *Learning Game:*

- ten malted milk balls in a container for each group of ten kids
- ten malted milk balls in a bowl
- “Blessing Machine” that dispenses malted milk balls. (See picture on page 7 of lesson.) Essentially, this is a large box or freestanding divider that has a tube coming out of it. For the tube, use whatever’s handy. One great suggestion is one of those flexible plastic tubes that are used to make noise by spinning them over one’s head. Other options might be a cardboard tube, PVC, or marble roller.
- foil wrapped malted milk ball hidden carefully in or around a door where, if there were some kind of knocking, it would come loose. For example, the malted milk ball could be in a box above the door that when knocked on, the candy would fall.
- malted milk ball for each child

## *Application:*

- sign that reads “WHY?” on one side and “WHO!” on the other side

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Why?

**Who!**

The image features the word "Who!" in a bold, stylized font. The letters are yellow with a thick green outline, and the entire word is set against a red background. Above the word, there are four exclamation marks of different colors and sizes: a blue one on the left, an orange one in the middle-left, a large magenta one in the middle-right, and a yellow one on the right. The exclamation marks are tilted at various angles, adding a dynamic feel to the composition.