

BIBLE TEACHING AND WORSHIP GUIDE



FOR THE HOME-BASED CHURCH

Produced Weekly

Faith Is the Victory
1 John 5

Copy this sheet for the Gathering Time, Bible Study, and Worship Experience leaders for the next meeting of the church.

Leaders' Responsibilities:

Important: Each person who will be leading one of the three parts of a session during a series of sessions needs to have access to the "Introduction" article found at the beginning of each series (Bible Teaching #....). The weekly session "Background" located in the Teacher Preparation is much more specific to that day's study.

1. **The Gathering Time Leader** will gather all of the people together and help them prepare their minds and hearts for a wonderful worship experience before God. His/her responsibility is to introduce the congregation to the theme (content) and the Scripture that will be central to their worship experience for the day.

2. **The Bible Study Leader** will then help the people understand what the Scriptures have to say and teach us about the content of the study for the day. He/she will guide the people to make a general application of the study (ie: How does this Bible study apply to people today?)

3. **The Worship Time Leader** has the responsibility to use the theme and Scriptures to guide the congregation to make personal commitments to God's will for each one in regard to the study for the day. He/she will use others to lead in the music, taking the offering, ministry moment comments, and other activities and parts of the **Worship Time** that can aid in participatory worship.

Prior to this Coming Session:

Gathering Time Leader:

Bible Study Leader:

Have the summary of verses 1 John 5: 18-20 written on a whiteboard or large piece of paper. (See Teacher Preparation)

Follow the instructions and prepare a story of someone that you know lives or lived a truly victorious life in Christ despite difficult circumstances.

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2

Faith Is the Victory – 23-50-05-en

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Worship Time Leader:

Music Sources:

Victory in Jesus, *The Worship Hymnal* # 1259; CCLI # 499

The Wonder of It All, *The Worship Hymnal* # 108; CCLI # 15733

The Love of God, *The Worship Hymnal* # 111, CCLI # 18448 Public Domain

In Moments Like These, *The Worship Hymnal* #451; CCLI # 10082

Bow the Knee, *The Worship Hymnal* #505; CCLI Not available

Be Strong in the Lord, *The Worship Hymnal* # 504; CCLI #52105

Gathering Time: (Suggested time: 15 minutes)***Faith Is the Victory*****Focal Text**

1 John 5

Background

1 John 5

Main Idea

Faith in Jesus as the Son of God enables us to face life's challenges victoriously and with confidence.

Question to Explore

What do you know?

Teaching Aim

To help the church affirm or reaffirm their faith in Christ, who enables us to face life's challenges victoriously and with confidence.

Gathering together:

Sing **Victory in Jesus**, *The Worship Hymnal* # 1259; CCLI # 499

First thoughts:

Ephesians 4:14-15 speaks of believers who are not clear and firm in their belief system. ***Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.***

Throughout the book of 1 John we have reviewed again and again the basic doctrines which will keep us from being tossed back and forth by the waves and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.

John has clearly delineated the belief system of the Christian in the opening verses of 1 John 5. These are – belief in Jesus as the Christ, love for God and one another, and obedience to the commands of God. This is the intellectual belief system which leads to the dynamic faith experience which enables us to continue all of our lives experiencing God in His fullness.

Closing the Gathering Time:

Take time at this point to mention items of prayer concern for the church, announcements of ministry or activities, and anything else that needs to be shared with or by the congregation. Pray for these needs. Remember to praise God in prayer.

Break time! Take five minutes between sessions. Encourage children to use the washroom so that they won't need to leave during the Bible Study time.

Distribute youth/adult Bible study outlines or paper for note-taking, if available.

Also hand out the activity sheets for preschool and younger children to use during Bible Study and/or worship.

Note to the Bible Study Leader: Suggested teaching time for the Bible study should be about 35 minutes. Use the “Teacher Preparation” for your personal study during the week before the session. Use the “Bible Study Plan” for the actual session.

Teacher Preparation

Faith Is the Victory

Focal Text

1 John 5

Background

1 John 5

Main Idea

Faith in Jesus as the Son of God enables us to face life's challenges victoriously and with confidence.

Question to Explore

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To help the church affirm or reaffirm their faith in Christ, who enables us to face life's challenges victoriously and with confidence.

Introduction to your personal study:

Think about people you know who have lived or are living victorious Christian lives. The author visited two in just one day. One was a 95 year old who this past year suffered a broken pelvis and two broken hips. She is in a nursing home and is unable to worship in church after having been in worship services literally since her birth. Yet she affirmed God's goodness and protection and was glad for the visit of three friends who sang, read the Bible, and prayed with her.

Another is a younger woman who is a grandmother to three toddlers. She is dying, but living victoriously with pancreatic cancer. She is grateful for the time she has had to visit old friends, spend time with her husband, sons, and their families, and live to see the spring time. She speaks of the hospice where she will most likely spend her last days on earth and of heaven as a real and happy place which awaits her.

Background:

Please ask for and read the information contained in the “**Introduction**” article found at the beginning of this series (Bible Teaching #....) of Bible Study and Worship sessions. Whoever downloaded this session for you should have that material for you, as well.

Focusing on the Meaning:

Faith is a noun. We have faith. We often use the word “faith” synonymously with believe. But believe is a verb. It also often carries with it the idea of intellectual assent. We believe that a certain fact is true because of scientific evidence or personal experience. Faith, however, does not rest on scientific fact, but on acceptance of teachings born of an inner certainty that they are true. We do not put aside our beliefs or intellectual understandings, but go beyond them.

A number of years ago the book **Faith is a Verb** (Stokes, K. **Faith is a Verb**. Twenty-third Publications, 1989) explored the dynamic aspects of faith. “Faithing” or “to faith” might describe better the ongoing, growing aspect of faith which is based on a belief system, but which deepens as life experiences cause us to examine and live by the belief system. John has clearly delineated the belief system of the Christian in the opening verses of 1 John 5. These are – belief in Jesus as the Christ, love for God and one another, and obedience to the commands of God. This is the belief system which leads to the dynamic faith experience which enables to continue all of our lives experiencing God in His fullness.

We may feel that John is not introducing new material here. He is reviewing the teaching of previous chapters. John was deeply concerned for those who began the journey of faith but became sidetracked by persuasive people who taught that Jesus was only human or human at times in his ministry and divine at other points. Ephesians 4:14-15 speaks of believers who were once not clear and firm in their belief system and how growing in Christ changes that uncertainty. ***Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.***

1 John 5:1-2

John is always aware of and trying to communicate the great truth that the love of God and the love of man are inseparable parts of the same experience. Believing that Jesus is the Christ is the way by which we experience a new birth. That new birth comes from God. That is true of every believer. We are God’s children. We love our Father. If we love our Father, then it is natural that we love his other children – our siblings. It is true

that in human families love does not always exist between siblings. In 1 John 4, we considered the great sin of Cain against his own brother Abel. But the most natural and right thing is for siblings to care for one another. When there is a rupture in family relationships, the pain is often great for all concerned. For many siblings a close relationship often endures for all of life even when other relationships fail.

“Dwelling in God’s love is the habitat for which human beings were originally created and in Christ are being re-created” (**The New Interpreter’s Bible**, Volume 12, Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998, page 437).

1 John 5:3-4

Obedience is the only proof of love of our love for God. John has said this again and again in 1 John. We cannot prove love in any other way than by seeking to please Him and to bring Him joy.

And his commands are not burdensome is the amazing contradiction of the human perception of the Christian life. Non-Christians are sure that Christians have no enjoyment in life. To live pure lives in the sexual realm seems an intolerable sacrifice. To be honest in every business transaction seems a way to financial ruin. To share one’s possessions with others means a sacrifice of pleasure that most are not willing to make. To give a tithe of one’s income to the church and its ministries seems an impossible and unnecessary financial commitment. To give time and energy to the teaching and nurture of others is low on the priority list.

Of course, none of these things bring salvation. These are only various ways in which Christians may try to demonstrate their love for God. And these and other commitments we make are not heavy because every task of love we choose to make brings with it the power of God Himself to complete it.

Jesus spoke of the Scribes and Pharisees in this way: ***The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. So you must obey them and do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. They tie up heavy loads and put them on men’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them. Everything they do is done for men to see (Matthew 23:2-5a).***

Jesus taught: ***Come unto me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your soul. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light (Matthew 11:28-30).***

It is true that we have seen Christians burdened with the work of ministry. We may have experienced this ourselves. But this is a burden we have assumed ourselves; it is not one God has placed on us. We may not be willing to share leadership responsibilities with others; we may feel that we are the only ones who can teach

properly or prepare refreshments adequately or run the sound equipment. And we trudge along week after week and God's work becomes burdensome and we become cross. But that is not the intent and purpose of God for our lives.

We may ask how much power is available to us to do our tasks? John replies **for everyone who is born of God overcomes the world (1 John 5: 4a).**

1 John 5:5-12

Verse 5 asks **Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.** Here John uses the term Son of God while in verse one he used the term Jesus the Christ. "But the title 'Son of God' is more appropriate here because John is thinking of the power of God revealed in his Son, Jesus; only the person who recognizes that Jesus is the Son of God can believe that Jesus supplies divine power to overcome the world. The Son of God is the Saviour, but only because he shares the power of God which is greater than that of the devil. To believe anything less about Jesus is to believe in somebody who does not have the ability to save us from the power of the godless world" (Marshall, I. H. **The Epistles of John in The International Commentary on the New Testament.** Grand Rapids, Michigan, Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1978, page 231).

A national broadcasting company commented on a trilogy of books so graphically sexual that some public libraries have refused to place them on their shelves considering them inappropriate. Yet those libraries which do have them available have long waiting lists of women who want to check them out. These same women might have husbands addicted to pornography in pictorial form. The power of the godless world is strong in the homes of very ordinary people. Only God's power can keep us from evil. Jesus taught us to pray for physical needs such as daily bread and to be delivered from evil (Matthew 6:9-13).

Verse 6 is another definition of Jesus: the One who came by water and blood. "In all probability he is referring to the water of Jesus' baptism and the blood of his death" (Marshall, page 231). John is using both the fact of his baptism and the fact of his death to refute those who held that the heavenly Christ descended upon Jesus at his baptism, but withdrew from him before his death, so that it was only the earthly Jesus who died and not the heavenly Christ. Over against this heresy John emphasized that it was Jesus Christ – not simply a human Jesus – who experienced both baptism and crucifixion" (Marshall, page 232).

Verses 6-8 speak of the testimony of the Spirit, the water and the blood. The Spirit of God testifies to our heart of the truth of our belief. The baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3: 13-17; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:32-34) and His death on the cross are historical testimonies.

Verse 9 states **We accept man's testimony but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God which he has given about his Son.** "What is God's

testimony? It is that **he gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son**. John's final affirmation concerning Jesus as the Son of God is that **He who has the Son has life**. By Son he means Son of God. His sober conclusion is that life from God is mediated to men not through one who was not truly human or not divine, but through one who was both human and divine" (**The Broadman Bible Commentary**, Volume 12. Nashville: Broadman Press, page 22).

In verse 10 we are told that **anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart**. Faith is this knowing in our hearts. This does not mean that the Christian may not have doubts or wonder how to counter the intellectual arguments of people who try to persuade us that faith is not real. However, ultimately it is this knowing which keeps us on track. We have life because we know the Son.

Verse 11 transitions into the discussion of eternal life and the confidence we have in asking things of God.

1 John 5:13- 21

We know we have eternal life. That eternal life is in the future, but it is also in the present. One of the features of eternal life is a relationship with God which allows us to ask with confidence those things we desire the Father to give us. **And we know that he hears us – whatever we ask – we know that we have what we ask of him (verse 15)**.

Obviously, a larger study on prayer would deal with issues which we can raise when we read these words. But we can say that "prayer moulds the one who prays. It quiets impertinent self-assertion, timidity and apprehension, redirecting us toward alignment with God's will, confidence that God has heard us and knowledge that all we ask of him is ours. Prayer is conversation between God and humanity out of which God gives shape to the future" (**The New Interpreter's Bible**, Volume 12, page 445).

One of the things for which we are to pray is for the brother who has sinned. "Prayer is a force that promotes restorative life bestowed on us by a mercifully responsive God (**The New Interpreter's Bible**, Volume 12, page 444). We are wounded when a brother in Christ openly sins. We may find it difficult to forgive that sin. We see the rippling effects of that sin – on and on beyond the original pain. But John tells us **If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death, he should pray and God will give him life (verse 16)**. We are to pray that our brother is restored to his life in Christ and to his life in the body of Christ, the Church.

It is difficult to understand John's meaning when he speaks of the sin that leads to death in verses 16 and 17. Throughout the book of 1 John, the writer has dealt with those who have deliberately chosen to deny the reality of the incarnation – God in human form who lived, was crucified, buried, and resurrected for the sins of the world. "There are those who by their denial of the Son and their schism from the community have put themselves beyond the pale. They hold a view of God so utterly perverse that its

holders place themselves under conditions in which reconciliation is impossible” (**The New Interpreter’s Bible**, Volume 12, page 444).

“The meaning of the sin which does not lead to death is unclear, although the original recipients of this letter must have understood it in the context of their lives. There is a sin so serious and aggravating that it is beyond the reach even of prayer. Nevertheless, Christians are to pray for sinners and should continue to do so as long as it is in any way feasible” (**Disciple’s Study Bible**. Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers, 1988, page 1621).

Verses 18-20 can be summarized as follows:

- a. We know that the Son of God has come
- b. and has given us understanding
- c. so that we may know him who is true
- d. and we are in him who is true
- e. in his son Jesus Christ
- f. He is the true God and eternal life. (**The New Interpreter’s Bible**, Volume 12, page 446).

“Satan cannot bring eternal harm to God’s children. Jesus protects us from him. We are not part of the world Satan controls. Not even Satan can separate us from Christ. Only believers know the truth, for truth is not abstract knowledge. Truth is personal and is revealed only in the person of Jesus Christ” (**Disciple’s Study Bible**. Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers, 1988, page 1621).

These realities—Jesus is our Saviour; we have eternal life; Satan does not have dominion over us; we have power in prayer—are cornerstones of our faith. They give us victory as we face the difficulties and challenges of life.

Your Goal as the Leader of this Bible Study:

To help your students to know in their hearts the realities of the faith which make us able to overcome the world and to live victoriously.

For Personal Reflection:

What have I learned from this study?

What personal experience does this lesson bring to mind?

What is one action I will take this week to apply this Scripture passage to my life?

Bible Study Plan (Suggested time: 35 minutes)

Faith Is the Victory

Regroup the church after the Gathering Time and break by singing a chorus that young children can relate to—or another praise chorus if your congregation does not have children. Children who go to their own Bible teaching session should stay with the group until after this song. Have the preschoolers and children accompany the hymn with rhythm sticks, maracas, bells, etc.

Begin by helping the group locate the **Focal Text** in their Bibles. Also, share with them the **Main Idea** to be learned from the Scriptures, and the **Questions to be Explored** by the group.

Focal Text

1 John 5

Background

1 John 5

Main Idea

Faith in Jesus as the Son of God enables us to face life's challenges victoriously and with confidence.

Question to Explore

What do you know?

Teaching Aim

To help the church affirm or reaffirm their faith in Christ, who enables us to face life's challenges victoriously and with confidence.

Connect with Life:

Bible Study leader: Share the story you have thought about in preparation for this study which tells of someone living victoriously. Use the ones given in the text if necessary.

Guide the Study:

1 John 5:1-2

Have someone read Ephesians 4:14-15.

Comment: John is helping believers understand the basics of their faith so that they are not “tossed back and forth – blown here and there by every wind of teaching.”

Now add: We may know people who buy the latest book at the Christian bookstore and are interested in aspects of interpretation or opinion which lead to much argument, but have little to do with living the Christian life in an ordinary, everyday way.

Have someone read 1 John 5:1-2.

Ask: What are the basic beliefs in this passage that John wants his readers to understand? (belief in Jesus as the Christ, love for God and one another and obedience to the commands of God)

Contribute this: John teaches that we are God’s children; we love the Father. Does it stand to reason that we would love God’s other children – our own siblings? Allow time to discuss the way healthy families relate to one another.

1 John 5:3-4

Have someone read 1 John 5: 3-4.

Look for a response: Is obedience to God a burdensome task?

Have someone read Matthew 23:2-5a and Matthew 11:28-30.

Inquire: Do Christians sometimes make service to God a burden?

Also: How can we avoid that?

Consider: What does it mean to “overcome the world”? (To have strength for obeying God’s commands; to have strength to resist temptation; to not be discouraged by the sin around us, to enjoy eternal life – now and for the future)

1 John 5:5-12

Have someone read 1 John 5: 5-12.

Use the **Teacher Preparation** materials to discuss why John uses the words Son of God in verse 5.

Share: “But the title ‘Son of God’ is more appropriate here because John is thinking of the power of God revealed in his Son, Jesus; only the person who recognizes that Jesus is the Son of God can believe that Jesus supplies divine power to overcome the world. The Son of God is the Saviour, but only because he shares the power of God which is greater than that of the devil. To believe anything less about Jesus is to

believe in somebody who does not have the ability to save us from the power of the godless world” (Marshall, I. H. **The Epistles of John in The International Commentary on the New Testament.** Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1978, page 231).

Ask someone to reread verse 6.

Say: This is another definition of who Jesus is.

Now ask the group: What is the definition? (the One who came by water and blood).

Call for an answer: To what is John referring? (the baptism of Jesus and his death on the cross).

Say: John is refuting those who were teaching that Jesus was not human and divine.

Ask: Does this issue exist today? (There are those who agree that Jesus was a good teacher – but a human teacher, not the divine Son of God)

Invite three people to read about Jesus’ baptism in Matthew 3:13-17; Luke 3:21-22 and John 1:32-34.

Look for an answer: What evidence of God’s approval existed at Jesus’ baptism?

Have someone read verse 9 and comment that God’s own testimony is that He gave us eternal life and this life is in His Son.

Have someone read verse 10 and answer “How do we know that God is in us and with us? (We have this testimony in our hearts.)

Seek an answer: What does this mean?

1 John 5:13-21

Have someone read 1 John 5:13-21.

Discuss with the group the truth that eternal life is a reality in the present as well as in the future.

State: Prayer is one aspect of eternal life that we experience now.

Have a different person reread verse 15. (Remember that children and teens can read the scriptures).

Comment that we are to pray for a brother who has sinned.

Ask why that is sometimes difficult for us to do.

Open a brief discussion of the meaning of ***“a sin that leads to death”***. Admit that this is a difficult concept to understand.

Quote this: “There are those who by their denial of the Son and their schism from the community have put themselves beyond the pale. They hold a view of God so utterly perverse that its holders place themselves under conditions in which reconciliation is impossible” (**The New Interpreter’s Bible**, Volume 12, page 444).

Say: Since we don’t know who those people are, we should continue to pray for all people.

Have the summary of verses 18-20 written on a whiteboard or large piece of paper.

Discuss: The New Testament teaches the reality that Satan can not bring eternal harm to God’s children. Have someone read the great affirmation in Romans 8:35-39.

Encourage Application:

If you have two or more youth, this is the time to give them the **Youth!!! Take Ten** page and allow them to move away from the adults and apply the lesson by and for themselves.

Have the group read Romans 8:35-39 together.

Conclude with this thought: These realities—Jesus is our Saviour; we have eternal life; Satan does not have dominion over us; we have power in prayer—are cornerstones of our faith. They give us victory as we face the difficulties and challenges of life.

Have someone pray, thanking God for giving us His power to live in His will and for assuring us that we can overcome the temptations of Satan and any hold he has on our lives.

Take a five minute break to separate the Bible Study and Worship Time. Children may need to use the washroom again before worship.

Youth!!! Take Ten

Bible Study Application for Youth

You may wish to move away from the adults for the final five to ten minutes of the Bible study and help each other as youth to apply the lesson to your own needs.

Faith Is the Victory 1 John 5

A youth will lead the following activity and comments. No adults need to be present. If possible, teens should take turns in leading the application time.

A Terrible Thought—A Glorious Answer

Read Romans 8: 35-39. Discuss what things in life today would separate us from God. Can we have the assurance from 1 John as well as this passage in Romans that we can “overcome the world”?

Worship Time (Suggested time: 30 minutes)***Faith Is the Victory***
1 John 5**Beginning the Service:**

Choose to sing one or more of the following:

The Wonder of It All, *The Worship Hymnal* # 108; CCLI # 15733

The Love of God, *The Worship Hymnal* # 111, CCLI # 18448 Public Domain

In Moments Like These, *The Worship Hymnal* #451; CCLI # 10082

Offering:**Praying for the World:**

Oppressed, ostracised and occasionally seen as “unredeemable” by some, the Deaf of the world are one of the largest unreached people groups. At least 35 culturally Deaf people groups are some of the last to actually have opportunity to know the stories of Good News. It is not their inability to hear that distinguishes them as much as the language, culture and community they share. Many live in spiritual darkness, with little access to the Gospel even when churches surround their communities. However, they are often quite responsive to Bible stories. Pray that more foundational Bible stories will be made available in the national and local sign languages of Deaf communities.

Sharing Guide:

This sharing guide is written to assist the person who directs the worship time to reemphasize the teaching for the day and help guide the congregation to respond to God’s call and will for their lives in regard to the scripture studied. The leader may choose to follow the guide closely. Or, he or she may wish to only use it to give direction and a concept for preparing an original message. The leader is free to choose other ways to communicate and share the concepts presented here.

Prayer Moulds the One Who Prays

In discussing the teaching about prayer given in 1 John 5, **The New Interpreter's Bible** states:

But we can say that “prayer moulds the one who prays. It quiets impertinent self-assertion, timidity and apprehension, redirecting us toward alignment with God's will, confidence that God has heard us and knowledge that all we ask of him is ours. Prayer is conversation between God and humanity out of which God gives shape to the future” (**The New Interpreter's Bible**, Volume 12, page 445).

Prayer moulds the one who prays. As we pray, we should not understand prayer to be a list of things we want God to do for us. We should understand prayer as asking God to help us understand how he wants us to live for him. What are the things he wants us to be doing? How does he want to change and mould our character?

Prayer quiets impertinent self-assertion, timidity, and apprehension. Impertinent self-assertion is an interesting concept and we may easily identify with it. In fact, our very prayers may reflect our demands on God. We may have a long list of things we feel God should do on our behalf or even for the good of others. When those requests are not filled in the time and way that we ask, we feel that God has not answered our prayer. But God may be wanting to teach us to seek his plan for ourselves and for others for whom we pray. The impertinent self-assertion may be transformed into a humble and obedient spirit. 1 John teaches over and over again that our love for God and others can only be expressed by carrying out his commands.

Prayer quiets timidity and apprehension. Faced with a difficult task at work, prayer calms our heart and mind. Caught in the midst of traffic and late for an appointment, prayer puts our situation into perspective. In the midst of war and horror, Christians give testimony to the strength given to them by prayer.

Prayer redirects us toward alignment with God's will. Jesus taught us to pray **“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”**. The very act of prayer is an asking that God's kingdom be manifest on earth – that God's will be done. We cannot know what that will is unless we ask God to help us understand it. And understanding it, we can do it in his strength.

Prayer gives us confidence that God has heard us and knowledge that all we ask of him is ours.

1 John 5:14-15 teaches **“This is the confidence we have in approaching God; that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us –whatever we ask – we know that we have what we asked of him.”**

Jesus told us that **“...your Father knows what you need before you ask him.” (Matthew 6: 8b).**

The more time we spend in prayer the more confidence we will have that God hears us and that we are praying according to his will. We are moulded in conformity with his will and his best for our lives. Over time, our prayers will be less about our needs and wants and more about others – the brother who sinned, the friend who is ill, the child who is facing decisions, the friend who does not know Jesus as Saviour.

“Prayer is conversation between God and humanity out of which God gives shape to the future”.

We participate in the work of God in the world as we converse regularly with him.

Call to Commitment:

Pray together for needs spoken and unspoken. The lesson today emphasized praying for a brother who has sinned. Encourage participants to think of a brother who has seemed to walk away from God. Pray for that person.

Concluding the Service:

Sing one or both of the following:

Bow the Knee, *The Worship Hymnal* #505; CCLI Not available

Be Strong in the Lord, *The Worship Hymnal* # 504; CCLI #52105