

Lesson 8 / January 24, 2010

E-mail to God?!

for use as

STEP 1

Lesson 8 Focus:

Praying can help me
make wise choices.

Lesson 8 Bible Basis:

Mark 3:13-19a; Luke
6:12-16

This lesson will help students think about how, even with all the different ways we can communicate today, there's just one proven way of communicating with God.

Discuss:

- ▶ Let's say you want to get a message to a friend who lives in another town. What are some of the different ways you communicate with someone who is not with you? (If possible, make a list for all to see: text, e-mail, IM, landline telephone, cell phone, snail-mail letters, Skype, etc.)
- ▶ Which of those methods have you used in the past week?
- ▶ Are there any on the list that you haven't ever used? Why?
- ▶ When was the last time – if ever – you wrote a letter, put a stamp on it, and mailed it?
- ▶ Is an actual letter sent through the mail more special than an e-mail or text message? If so, what makes the difference?
- ▶ If someone wants to get in touch with you, which method from our list would you prefer? Would the method depend on what the person wanted to tell you? Explain your answers.

Can you imagine a time with no phones, no e-mail, or texting? Until the invention of the telegraph around 160 years ago, letters were the only way people could communicate with faraway friends and family.

Discuss

- ▶ Imagine you lived in New York in 1850, and you had an important message for family members who lived in London, England. How long do you think it would take for a letter to reach them? (It would probably take several weeks, because the only way to get the letter to London was by ship. If you lived somewhere far away from a sea port, it would take even longer because your letter would have to travel a long way just to get to a ship.)

Lesson 8
Memory Verse

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

—James 1:5

Just imagine. When wars such as the Revolutionary War were fought in America, people in far away countries wouldn't know a war was over until weeks after fighting stopped. They didn't have soldiers writing blogs to let others know almost instantly what was happening.

Even without all the wonderful technology we have today, there has always been one instant way to talk to God. Jesus knew the answer. Let's find out more now.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your *Upper Elementary Teacher's Guide*; your Step 4 appears below.)

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STEP 4

Lesson 8 Focus:

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Lesson 8 Bible Basis:

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6:12-16

Materials:

- strips of construction paper in various colors, or allow students to cut their own (approximately 1" by 4")
- glue or glue sticks
- pens, pencils, and/or markers

Discuss:

- ▶ **If you could pick one method of communication that we have today as a new form of prayer, what would it be? Why?**

It might surprise you to know that a lot of people actually think about how we can use technology to reach God. For example, if you search “e-mail to God,” you will find many different Websites that claim they can help you communicate with God. One site actually claims to be “God’s official Website.” According to the site’s FAQ page, one day a man had a message from God telling him to set up the Website. The man says at first he didn’t know why God wanted him to do it. If you read a little bit more, you’ll discover that the man set up the site as a way to make \$500,000 so that he could have money to sail around the world. People pay him \$50 and in exchange get a link on his page. To view the so-called “God’s official Website,” see:

<http://www.godserve.com>

- ▶ **Why do you think so many people would be interested in different ways to communicate with God?**

Modern technology really can’t help us pray. The Bible teaches us all we need to know. But sometimes we forget that we can pray at any time and in any place.

As a reminder to pray this week, we are going to make paper prayer chains. (You might wish to explain that people often form a prayer chain as well. If your congregation has one, consider having someone involved in it to spend a couple of moments with your class to tell them what their prayer chain does and how it works.)

As a class, have students come up with lists for the following: places to pray, when to pray, what we can praise and thank God for, what we can ask for, and people to pray for. (Make sure students know that they don’t have to share who

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they want to pray for with the class, if they aren't comfortable.) Have them write three to five answers for each category on the strips of paper, and then glue and link strips to make a chain. Ask them to hang the chain in a place where it will remind them of ways to pray more this week.

For more ideas about teaching kids to pray, go to:

purposedriven.com/article.do?method=articlePage&contentId=140077&pageNumber=1

Close with a prayer.

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