

Answered Prayers

Focus

In order for our requests to be granted, our prayers must be in line with what the Bible teaches.

Today's Tip

Prayer changes our hearts, increases our patience, compassion and understanding. Don't skip this. It is one of the most important parts of your weekly preparation.

Supplies Needed:

- Light colored construction paper
- Dark, bold markers
- Paper plates cut in half (1/2 per student)
- Pencils/Pens/Colored markers
- Stickers/Glitter/Glue



Welcome and Singing

- Welcome guests & take attendance.
- Make announcements.
- Sing songs relating to story topic.
- Take prayer requests and pray.



Intro to the Story

Our lesson today is about prayer. Ask students to raise their hands if they have sometimes asked God for "things." Ask them to leave their hands up if they received what they asked for at least part of the time.

Have students, who hands are still up, share an answer they received.



The Story/The Passage

Some people think that our verse today works like an ATM machine. You put in your request and out comes the answer! But in order for our requests to be granted, our prayers must be in line with what the Bible teaches us. **If our prayer requests are made according to God's will and are prayed in faith, believing, then God is happy to answer them.**

A good example of prayer, that is according to God's will, is when we pray for others to be saved. **2 Peter 3:9** tells us that God doesn't want anyone to perish, but rather everyone to receive salvation. Another example of prayer that is according to God's will is when we ask for our needs to be provided

(**Matthew 6:25-33**). The main thing we need to remember, for our prayers to be answered, is that we live close to Jesus (**John 15:7**). Several reasons prayers are not answered is because we ask selfishly for our pleasures (**James 4:3**), and because we have sin in our hearts that hasn't been confessed (**Psalms 66:18**).

A good illustration of answered prayer in the Bible is from **Acts 12:5-11**. This is the story of Peter's miraculous escape from prison. We know this miracle happened because God's people were praying (note verse 5). Sometimes, an emergency situation needs to be "flooded" with prayer, like this one and the one that follows

When the phone rang, Mom answered it. "Joseph Martin has had a heart attack," she said when she hung up. "He's in very serious condition, and all the church members are asked to pray for him."

"Does it help to have lots of people pray?" asked Aaron. "Or to pray a whole lot yourself?"

"Well, the Bible teaches we should pray – it brings results. Sometimes when many people pray, it is like a 'flood' of prayer, and many times miracles happen," said Dad. "Do you remember the story of Peter's deliverance from prison?" Aaron nodded. "That's a good example of when emergency circumstances call for emergency actions. The Christians spent the night in prayer."

"Yes," agreed Mom, "And we need to pray for Mr. Martin right now." Dad smiled at Aaron, "Let's pray together," said Dad, "and we can discuss this more later, if you wish."



Memory Verse

For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you." - Matthew 17:20b
And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."
- Matthew 21:22



Lesson Activity

Jesus said we shall ask and it shall be done if we obey two special commands. Use the chart to match the codes with the letters. Use the column of numbers going down first, then the column of numbers going across to find each letter. Write the letters in the blanks below the code chart.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
2	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
3	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
4	V	W	X	Y	Z		

I F Y O U A B I D E I N M E , A N D M Y
 22 16 44 31 37 11 12 22 14 15 22 27 26 15 11 27 14 26 44

W O R D S A B I D E I N Y O U A S K
 42 31 34 14 35 11 12 22 14 15 22 27 44 31 37 11 35 24

W H A T E V E R Y O U W I S H , A N D I T
 42 21 11 36 15 41 15 34 44 31 37 42 11 35 21 11 27 14 22 36

W I L L B E D O N E F O R Y O U . J O H N 15:7
 42 22 25 25 12 15 14 31 27 15 16 31 34 44 31 37 23 31 21 27

Now on the lines below, write the two special commands Jesus gave that we need to obey for our prayers to be answered.

1. **WE REMAIN IN JESUS.** _____
2. **HIS WORDS REMAIN IN US.** _____

Craft - Prayers That God Answers

BEFORE CLASS: Make a sample of this project. You will need to bring to class regular-size paper plates that are cut in half - one piece per student.

Give each student a sheet of light-colored construction paper. Holding the paper in the horizontal position, students should write with a dark marker in bold letters across the top, the title: **"PRAYERS THAT GOD ANSWERS."**

Lay the half paper plate on the construction paper to make a large arc under the heading they have written. Students should draw a line all the way around this arc to make a half circle. This will form the upper edge of the rainbow. Students should now draw six more arcs under the arc already drawn; making each arc about $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ of an inch under the one above it. They will need to do this

Grade 4 - Quarter 1 - Lesson 7

without a pattern, unless you create one! When they have finished, there should be seven arcs drawn on the paper, forming the six color-segments of the rainbow.

At the left side of the paper where the upper segment of the rainbow begins, students should begin writing the six items given below to receive answered prayer. They should write one item at the beginning of each rainbow segment in the order that follows. The scripture references should be written at the **right** end of each segment of the rainbow.

AT LEFT END OF RAINBOW

- are unselfish
- come from a pure heart
- are according to God's will
- are prayed in faith
- keep on asking
- we obey His commands

AT RIGHT END OF RAINBOW

- James 4:3
- Psalm 66:18
- 1 John 5:14
- Matthew 21:22
- Matthew 7:7
- 1 John 3:22

When all the words are written at both ends of the rainbow, students should color the segments of the rainbow using markers or crayons. The top segment is red, followed by orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. Students may add some decorations such as small drawings, stickers, or glitter if time permits.

