

*Nurturing Faith...
Every Day in Every Way*

May 17, 2015

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalm 1 (6)

1 John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19



I'm Praying for You Object: Use your own hands & a picture of praying hands.

What comes to your mind when you see someone with their hands together like this? How about when you see a picture like this? That's right, you immediately think of prayer, don't you? How often do you think we should pray? Once a day? Before meals? Before we go to bed at night? What do you think we should pray for?

The Bible doesn't tell us exactly when to pray, but it does teach us how to pray. One day, Jesus' disciples asked him to teach them how to pray. I am sure you know what he said. In fact, we can probably all say it by heart. "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." (Continue to the end.)

We usually call that "The Lord's Prayer," but it is really a model prayer that Jesus taught so that we would know how to pray to the Father. I like to think that the real "Lord's Prayer" is the prayer that Jesus prayed the night before he was crucified. Jesus knew that he would be returning to heaven and that his disciples would be left behind. He prayed that as they lived in the world, they would not become part of the world. He did not want them to become stained by the wickedness and evil that was in the world. He wanted them to remain faithful to God and to what they had learned while Jesus was with them on earth. He wanted them to know his love and to share that love with others.

Here are the things that Jesus prayed for his disciples:

- * That they would be one as he and the Father were one
- * That God would protect them from the evil one
- * That they would be made holy by the truth of God's Word

The prayer that Jesus prayed for his disciples is for us too. He said, "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message." That's you and me! We must live in this world, and Jesus prays that we might remain faithful to his teaching so that the world will know that God sent his Son and that God loves them.

Our Father, as we live in this world, help us to remain separate from the world. Help us to be faithful to your Word and, in so doing, to show your love to the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. I will not leave you orphaned, says the Lord. I am coming to you. Alleluia (John 14:18)

Word Search Puzzle

B L X K A Z F F A T H E R X P
 G L S S M Y O U R S E N J R E
 M O K E E C P T N D A B A P R
 I N C T D G W I E G A V E M X
 N G V M P O A Y T G X X W R E
 E E Y J N M E A N V D B V K P
 E R K K E B W I C C H O L Y L
 I C U R O H H O A C L R J X R
 S S E N T T P H R M E D T C W
 G L O R Y O T R Y D P P N O H
 P W A R N C I D O D U R T M L
 W O E A Y Y L Q A T I W A E Z
 V V W O Q R R B E V E B L Y D
 E T F E O S Y W I K I C S W V
 A T T W R J Y R G I X P T I X

POWER	GLORY	ACCEPTED	WORD	YOURS
EVERYTHING	KNOW	PRAY	MINE	GAVE
PROTECT	OBEYED	HOLY	NAME	SENT
LONGER	FATHER	COME	WORLD	REMAIN

THE LORD'S PRAYER FOR US: Give the children some words and phrases from the prayer that Jesus prayed for his disciples written on strips of various colors of construction paper. (PROTECTED FROM THE EVIL ONE, LET THEM BE ONE, IN THE WORLD BUT NOT OF THE WORLD, MADE HOLY BY THE TRUTH, YOUR WORD IS TRUTH, SENT INTO THE WORLD) At the top of a sheet of poster board, write JESUS PRAYS FOR HIS DISCIPLES. Let the children glue their strips on the poster board and hang it on the wall to remember Jesus' prayer for us.

POSTER WORLD AND CROSSES: Let the children (or the teacher before class time) draw a very LARGE WORLD on a full piece of poster board. Color the world as time allows and then give each child a paper cross to write their own name on and tape it somewhere on the world poster. Tell the children that there are children and grown ups ALL AROUND THE WORLD who are IN the World but not OF the World.

WORLD BIBLE BOOK MARKERS: Give the children supplies to cut out a book marker and add stickers or pictures of a world globe as well as drawing crosses and hearts, and let them write I WILL BE IN THE WORLD BUT NOT OF THE WORLD. Give the children a ribbon to glue to the edges of the book marker, if desired.

JESUS PRAYS FOR HIS DISCIPLES.

JOHN 17:6-19



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