

PrayKids!

ADVENTURES WITH JESUS IN PRAYER

The Word on...

Spending Time with Jesus

Sometimes people think that when they spend time with Jesus it has to be in church . . . or reading the Bible . . . or doing something super spiritual. Actually, spending time with Jesus just means that you hang out with Him. He's always with you anyway because He lives in your heart. But it's easy to forget He's there and even ignore Him. When you spend time with Him, you are letting Him know that you are ready to talk, or listen, or just be quiet together like you would with any other friend.

Jesus loves it when you spend time with Him. Any time, anywhere is okay with Him! ★

The BIG Dig

Pretend you just found out there's a priceless treasure buried in your backyard. Not only that, but you have all the tools you need to find it: There's a shovel for digging and an ice chest full of drinks and snacks so you won't be thirsty or hungry. Wouldn't you want to start digging right away?

Well, there may not be a treasure in your backyard. But there is a treasure in your heart that's more valuable than anything you could dig up in the yard. It's your relationship with Jesus! When you

ask Jesus into your heart, you begin a relationship with Him. That relationship means that He is not only your Savior, but your best friend as well. And as a best friend, He wants to spend time with you!

Think about how you treat a best friend. When you get exciting news, you just can't wait to share it with him or her. You want to know every little detail about your friend so you know him better than anyone else. If you don't

By
Sheila Harris

ILLUSTRATION BY ROBIN BRICKMAN



continued on page 2

continued from page 1

hear from your friend for a few days, you feel really lonesome.

Well, that's exactly what it can be like with Jesus!

Every time you **spend time with Jesus**, you find out more about the treasure of your relationship with Him. God has given you two super digging tools to help you in your discoveries: prayer and the Bible. When you spend time praying, you get to know Jesus better, just as you get to know your friends better when you spend time talking with them. When you hang out together, Jesus loves it if you tell Him your thoughts and feelings. But don't forget to leave some time for listening, because Jesus loves to speak back to you!

Then there's the Bible. Reading and studying the Bible is a great way to get to know Jesus, because it's a book about His personality. It's full of things Jesus wants you to know about Him

and things He wants to tell you. He often talks through the Bible and shows you that He's real. Psalm 19:10 says God's Word is "more precious than pure gold" and "sweeter than honey." Now there's a treasure worth digging for!

Have you ever noticed that the more time you spend with a friend, the more you start to think alike?

That will happen if you **spend time with Jesus**, too. You'll start to wonder what Jesus would do in a certain situation, and find yourself wanting to make the choice He would make. Little by little, you'll become more like Him in the way you think and act and live. This makes Jesus really happy, and it will satisfy you in a way that's like never being hungry or thirsty again.

Friendship with Jesus is a treasure that gets more valuable every day. The more you dig for it, the better it gets. So grab those tools and get digging! ★

—Sheila Harris is a pastor's wife and children's director at New Hope Church in San Diego, CA. She is the mother of four.

Friendship with Jesus is a treasure that gets more valuable every day.

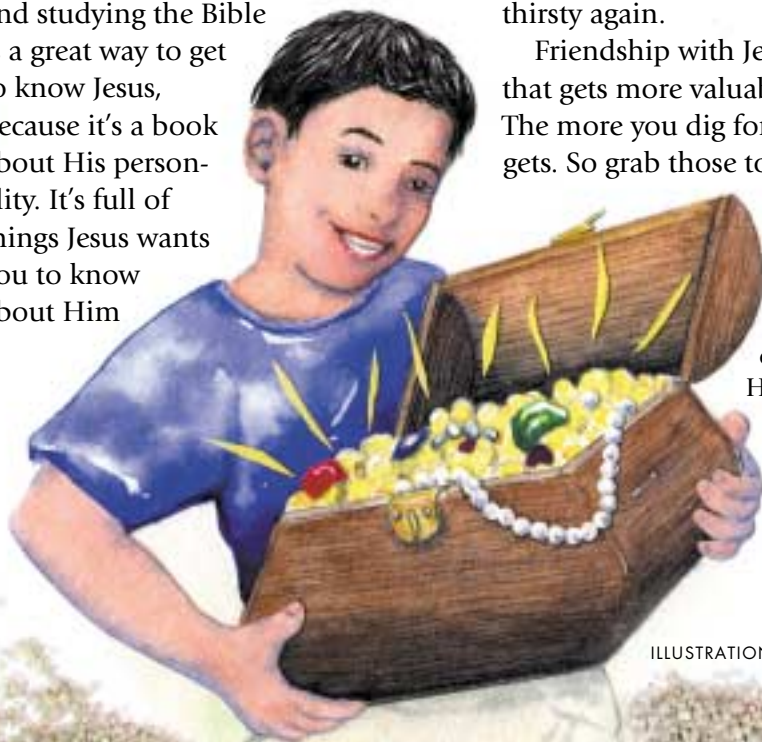


ILLUSTRATION BY ROBIN BRICKMAN

Dear Readers,

I like to spend time with my friends—especially my best friend Jesus. I used to **spend time with Jesus** only when I had a big problem. Then I discovered that if I **spent time with Him** every day, I was happier . . . and God seemed a lot closer when a big problem came up.

I think you'll find that when you start **spending more time with Jesus**, all of a sudden you'll want to **spend even more time with Him!** You don't even have to go anywhere special to do it. Wherever you are, there He is too!

Keep Praying!
Nancy Sutton
editor of
PrayKids!



PrayKids!

Email: praykids@navpress.com
Website: www.praykids.com

EDITOR: Nancy Sutton

DESIGNER: Bridget McNamara

EDITORIAL ADVISORY TEAM:
Cynthia Bezek, Lani Hinkle, Sandra Higley
Pray! magazine

Kim Butts
Harvest Prayer Ministries

Cheri Fuller
Families Pray USA

Members of the Children's Prayer
Mobilizers Network

© 2002 Pray!, 3820 N. 30th St.,
Colorado Springs, CO 80904.

For editorial inquiries write to: PrayKids!, P.O. Box 35004, Colorado Springs, CO 80935-3504. Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, New International Version®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers.

Mission Statement

The mission of PrayKids! is to teach, encourage, and equip children (ages 8-12) as they develop a deepening relationship with Christ through prayer, so that they might become more effective prayer warriors.



A fictional story based on Exodus 33:11,12-17; 34:30-35

Grandpa Moses and His MYSTERIOUS

By Joyce K. Ellis

Imagine being Moses' grandchildren: a boy we'll call Jeph, and his sister, Naarah (rhymes with Sarah). Think about what it might have been like for them when Grandpa



VEIL

*Moses came down from Mount Sinai after 40 days alone with God. His face glowed so brightly he had to cover it with a veil. Now, let's pretend we can overhear the conversation Moses might have had with his grandchildren outside his tent after he **spent time with God**.*

Naarah tried not to stare at her grandfather. She knew he could see her, even though she couldn't see his face. But the veil made her curious. "You said God let you see Him? What did He look like?" she asked.

Moses shook his head. "Words fail me."

"Oh, please try, Grandfather," Jeph begged.

Grandpa Moses scratched his head. "This morning I tried to write about it for Israel's history records, but . . . Here, let me show you."

Ducking inside his tent, Moses returned with a scroll and said to the children, "I don't mind telling you that leading all of Israel has been a difficult job. If I could not go to God and ask Him for His help, I couldn't do it." Then he began reading from his scroll: "I said to Jehovah, 'Lead these people . . . if you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with You.'"

Naarah and Jeph listened with excitement as their grandfather continued. "Jehovah said to me, 'My Presence will go with you and I will give you rest . . . I will do the very thing you have asked because I am pleased with you and I know you by name.'"

"Can you imagine?" Moses whispered to the kids. "Jehovah saying such a thing to *me!*"

"Awesome!" Jeph exclaimed.

"He speaks to me face to face, as a man talks with his friend!" Moses continued in wonder.

Jeph and Naarah sat silently as the words sank in.

Jeph glanced at his sister. "Naarah and I want to **spend time with God** just like you do Grandpa."

Naarah nodded. "Grandfather, what makes your face glow?"

"The more you **spend time with God**," Grandpa Moses said, "the more you become like Him. There is

so much to learn about Him! The Lord has shown Himself to me in clouds and fire and in lightning and trembling mountains. But mostly in quiet moments with Him."

Jeph cocked his head. "I think you're saying that if I want to become a man of God . . ."

". . . or woman of God . . ." Naarah added.

". . . we need to **spend time with Him**," Jeph continued. "We need to talk to Him."

"And listen?" Naarah asked.

Grandfather nodded. "Especially listen."

"And then obey what He says," Jeph added.

"Yes. The more time you spend with God, the better you know Him." Moses smiled. "And the better you know Him, the better you understand what pleases Him and how to obey Him."

Jeph picked up on the idea. "Yeah. It's like having a great best friend and wanting to do all the things that make him happy."

"Exactly," replied Grandpa Moses with twinkling eyes. "That's why my face shines, Naarah. I've just **spent time with God**, my best friend in the whole world. I've learned that He is pleased with me and wants to talk to me. I know that no matter how busy I get leading our people, nothing should ever keep me from **spending time with Him**. Now if you'll excuse me, I want to go talk to Him again." ★

—Joyce K. Ellis is the creator of *One-Minute Bible Devotions for Kids*.

See for YOURSELF

Look up these Scriptures to learn about some of the times Moses **spent time with God**.

- ✓ Exodus 3:2: "The LORD _____ to him in flames of fire from within a bush."
- ✓ Exodus 19:3: "Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD _____ to him from the mountain."
- ✓ Exodus 24:12: "The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and _____."
- ✓ Exodus 24:18: "He [Moses] stayed on the mountain for _____ days and _____ nights."
- ✓ Exodus 33:11: "The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his _____." ★





Let's Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem



You've probably heard a lot about Israel and the war that is going on there. Since Israel once again became a nation in 1948, it has been almost constantly threatened or at war with its Arab neighbors. Many world leaders, including a number of presidents of the United States, have tried to help these warring people find peace. But nothing seems to work. Why?



The hatred between the Jewish and Arab people goes back to the earliest Old Testament times. Two brothers, Isaac and Ishmael, who were sons of Abraham, hated each other (read Genesis 16; 21:1-26; 25:1-18). Ever since their feud started, their descen-

dants (relatives born after them) have fought each other. In fact, before Ishmael was even born, an angel of God predicted that "he will live in hostility toward all his brothers" (Genesis 16:12). The descendants of Ishmael are the Arab people and the descendants of Isaac are the Jewish people.

Another reason for the conflict in Israel is the spiritual importance of Jerusalem. The Bible calls Jerusalem God's holy city. Jerusalem is also home to important religious sites for many of the Arab people. The Bible says that before Jesus Christ returns to earth again, a lot of violence and fighting will take place in Israel and Jerusalem. That may be what is taking place there now.

The Bible does not tell us to take sides in the conflict, though most followers of Jesus have a deep love and respect for the Jews because they are God's chosen people. We are, however, told to "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem . . . [and] seek [its] prosperity" (Psalm 122:6-9). Why? Because if peace comes to Jerusalem, it will mean a better life for both Jews and Arabs, and God loves all people. So let's pray for the peace of Jerusalem! ★

—Jonathan Graf is a dad, and the editor of *Pray!* magazine.

SIX

COVER THE GLOBE

How to Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem

1. Lord, I pray that those who live in Jerusalem would turn away from doing evil. May they do good and really work at practicing peace (Psalm 34:14).

2. Father, help the people of Jerusalem make every effort to do what leads to peace and to do what benefits everyone inside her walls (Romans 14:19).

3. God, show the Jewish people ways to seek the peace and well-being of anyone who tries to overtake them so that they can live in peace too (Jeremiah 29:7).

4. Jesus, I pray that the non-Jewish people who live in Israel would be treated fairly and receive their inheritance of land just as Your Word says (Ezekiel 47:21-23).

5. Lord, draw all the residents of Jerusalem to faith in Your Son so that they will experience Your peace and their hearts will not be troubled or afraid (John 14:27; Romans 5:1).

Slice It Up



What can you do in 12 minutes? Eat a pizza? Read a chapter in a book? Why not **spend time with Jesus**? With your 12 minutes, you can spend one minute doing each of the things listed below. Try it. And after doing it a few times, you may choose to work up to two minutes or more on each item. So grab a watch or a timer and go for it.

1. Praise: begin with a prayer to tell God how wonderful He is (Psalm 9:1).
2. Waiting: be quiet and let God get your heart ready (Psalm 46:10).
3. Confession: tell God you are sorry for your sins (Psalm 139:23).



4. Scripture praying: pray God's words back to Him (Psalm 119:16,105).
5. Watching: ask God to open your eyes to see what God is doing around you (Colossians 4:2).
6. Intercession: pray for other people you know (1 Timothy 2:1-2).
7. Petition: tell God about your needs (Matthew 7:7).
8. Thanksgiving: thank God for all His blessings (1 Thessalonians 5:18).
9. Singing: worship God with songs (Psalm 100:2).
10. Meditation: think about God, the Bible, and what God has done (Joshua 1:8).
11. Listening: listen for God to speak to you (John 10:27).
12. Praise: end by telling God again how wonderful He is (Psalm 34:1). ★

—Adapted from *The Hour That Changes the World* by Dick Eastman

Picnic for Two

You can **spend time with Jesus** anywhere, but it's always fun to do something special together. Try taking a picnic with Him. Pack a lunch and bring along some things that will help you **spend time with Him**.

Make a special bucket to hold all your prayer things to take on the picnic—or anytime you want to have a special **time with Jesus**. Get a bucket from a craft or home improvement store. Decorate it with bright paints or permanent markers and pictures, designs, and Bible verses.

Then get your picnic ready, grab your bucket, and **spend time with Jesus!**

Here are some things to put in your bucket:

- Bible
- Pencil and small notebook (to write down what God says when He speaks to you)
- Walkman and some praise music
- Prayer journal and *PrayKids!*
- Prayer request list
- Sunday school paper
- Newspaper and world map (to pray for others)
- T.H.U.M.B. cards (to pray for unreached people groups; www.praymag.com)



Family Day with Jesus

There's no greater heritage you can leave your child than an understanding that Jesus is a living person with whom he or she can have relationship. A great way to do this is to plan a family retreat day periodically—a day set aside just to **spend time with Jesus**.

The object of the retreat is to celebrate Jesus, learn more about Him, and encourage you all to view **spending time with Him** as a fulfilling adventure.

Give the Day Priority

Plan far enough in advance so you can promote the day with joyful expectation. Take the day off work and mark it on your family calendar. Be as creative as you can—send invitations to each family member and enlist everyone in making plans for the day.

Find a Good Spot to Get Away

Rent a cabin, go camping, or find a secluded park in town. If none of these things are possible, consider house-swapping for a day with friends. Just make the experience significantly different from spending another day at home.

Set Ground Rules

No TV, no video games, no books other than the Bible or Bible stories/devotionals. If you are in a place that has a VCR or CD player, you might want to consider bringing a video that would encourage meditation or discussion or praise music.

Plan Your Agenda

Plan the day, but leave things flexible in case

FREE Leader's Guide for Teachers/Parents: We want you to be able to use *PrayKids!* with a group of kids. On our website you'll find **group discussion questions and activities for each article**. Download and copy the information from www.praykids.com.

WHERE TO GO FOR MORE HELP ON TEACHING YOUR KIDS TO PRAY:

www.praykids.com • www.cherifuller.com • www.harvestprayer.com
childrenspraynet.org • www.cgpm.org

Back issues of *PrayKids!* are available in packs of 10 for \$6.99. To order, call (800) 366-7788 or (719) 548-9222. Code #6258

Item #34

the Lord changes your plans! Set a place for Jesus at each meal to remind everyone of His presence. Make sure each activity centers around Him. Mix up quiet times with times that are more lively or require the family to get outdoors. Examples: Take a no-talking nature hike. Follow that up by having everyone journal or draw the things they learned about God while studying His creation on the hike. Bring or make praise instruments and celebrate Jesus with a rousing praise parade—followed by a quiet time in which each person goes off by himself to listen to what the Holy Spirit has to say about a passage of Scripture that Dad has read out loud.

Prayer Focus

Start and end your day with prayer. Set aside time to pray for each member of the family during the day. Have that family member sit in the center of a family circle. Let everyone lay hands on him or her and bless and pray for his or her needs.

Be Creative

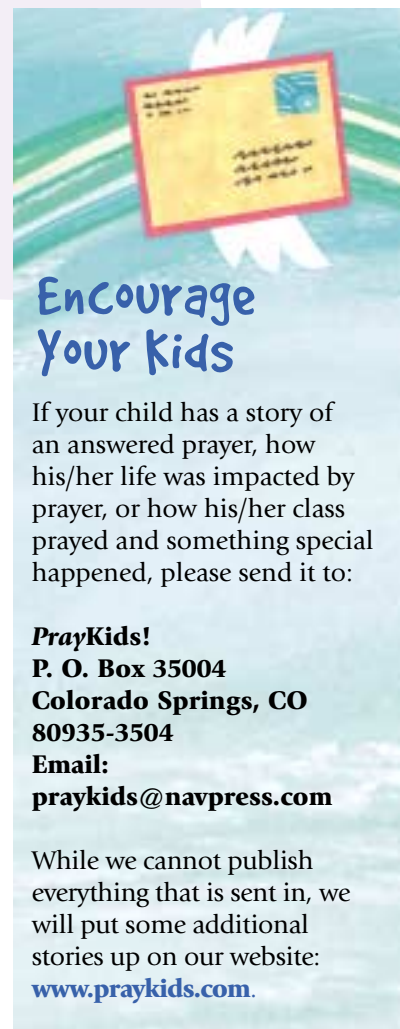
Above all, be creative! Find a way to turn every activity into an adventure with Jesus. For more ideas on creative ways to spend the day, along with a sample schedule, go to the leader's guide on our website: (www.praykids.com).

Encourage Your Kids

If your child has a story of an answered prayer, how his/her life was impacted by prayer, or how his/her class prayed and something special happened, please send it to:

PrayKids!
P. O. Box 35004
Colorado Springs, CO
80935-3504
Email:
praykids@navpress.com

While we cannot publish everything that is sent in, we will put some additional stories up on our website: www.praykids.com.



Kids Listen and God Answers Big!

Things happen when kids pray! Here's a true story about a group of kids who changed a bad situation with their prayers—and taught an adult a valuable lesson.

It was a few weeks before Easter at Pureheart Christian Fellowship, a small Arizona church that meets at a local high school. Many



new families had been invited to come for the church's Easter services.

Janet Chapman, an adult who attends the church, had been helping a group of 5- to 13-year-olds to do prayerwalks around the church neighborhood. "The kids would walk and pray around the school and neighborhood and ask God to show them what and how to pray," says Janet. "They would ask Jesus to work in people's lives and bring them to church where they could learn about Jesus."

Each Sunday, the kids got to pick when and where they would pray, since it was their ministry. Two Sundays before Easter, the kids said that they wanted to pray for the parking lot. Janet discouraged them, saying it was probably better to pray for people, not a parking lot.

But guess what happened? The very next Sunday, when everyone showed up for church, they found that the parking lot was completely ripped up! They were told that the parking lot was being redone and they would not be able to use it the next weekend—Easter Sunday. All those new people had been invited, and there would be no place for anyone to park.

Immediately, the kids went to work. About 12 of them prayerwalked around the parking lot—and this time Janet thought it was a *good* idea! They asked God to allow the work on the new parking lot to be finished early so that on Easter Sunday there would be a new parking lot for all the visitors.

When people arrived the next week for Easter services, the parking lot was completely done. God brought almost 100 visitors to church that day, and there was room enough for everyone to park in the brand new lot.

On that Easter Sunday, one of the younger prayerwalkers gasped when she walked into the auditorium and saw all the people. She said to her mom, "Look, Mom, God answered our prayers!" He did! In fact, not only was the parking lot done in time and lots of visitors came, but many of them now regularly attend the church.

God heard and answered these faithful kid prayer warriors! The kids learned that God talks to kids when they're listening and tells them what to pray—sometimes even about something that doesn't make sense, like a parking lot. And Janet learned that when God speaks to kids like that, adults should listen. Now, the prayerwalking group prays whatever the kids feel God wants them to pray . . . no questions asked! ★

—Story shared with *PrayKids!* by Janet Chapman, Glendale, AZ.

A Nudge from Jesus

When you really want to pray about something, you can search for verses that talk about how God feels about that situation and pray those verses to God.

But there's another way to use Scripture for prayer, and it often happens while you're **spending time with Jesus**. You might be reading along in the Bible and come across a verse that reminds you of your life or someone else's. You don't have to be reading in any specific place in the Bible. Jesus can speak to you through any verse.

Maybe you are reading Psalm 30. You come to verses 11 and 12: "You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing to you and not be silent."

Suddenly, Jesus gives you a nudge and you think of your friend, Billy, who has been really sad lately. So you pray, "Lord, turn Billy's sadness into happiness! Make him feel like dancing! Take away his sorrow and give him joy! Make his heart sing out loud!"

Jesus and you have just spent time together caring for Billy! Try it next time you are alone with Jesus! ★