

Unit Three

I Believe! Help Me to Believe More

Lesson 6

The Heart of the Matter

heart to Heart

“You who fashioned the countless lights of heaven...”

Here I Am, Lord, p. 21



Hello...God?

On a scale of 1 -10, with one being you're real close and 10 being “total strangers”, how would you rate your relationship with God? _____

How often do you think about God?

Every day _____

Rarely _____

On Sundays if I'm at Sunday School or church _____

Never _____

When do you feel closest to God?

At church _____

When I'm praying _____

In Sunday School _____

Christmas and Easter _____

When I read the Bible _____

Other _____



What are are ways you think would help you have a better relationship with God?

Check the ones that would help.

Read the Bible more _____

Attend church more often _____

Pray more often _____

Have serious Christian friends _____

Church services that meant more to me _____

Christian education at school _____

Lived in a world that was more God-focused _____

Spend more time helping others through church work _____

Other _____

Verse Master

“Come near to God and he will come near to you.”

James 4:8





Remember

Our relationship with God is the most important one in our lives and needs our time and loving attention.

When I Love Someone I....

Think of them often

How is my relationship with God similar?

Talking with Someone We Love: Prayer

One of the most important ways to be close to people we love is to spend time with them, talk with them. What do we call talking with God?

Prayer.

Now, the difficult part of prayer is that unlike two human beings talking, we're talking about human beings and God. If you remember, Adam and Eve were able to talk very freely and openly with God in the Garden of Eden and immediately understood his response. But what happened? Our sinful nature, our tendency to think we had all the answers, changed everything. Although we lost the gift of conversing with God directly, we have the ability to talk with him and listen for his responses – in how we feel, what we hear, what we begin to notice – in our lives.

Of course, some people continue to think of prayer as a shopping list to present to God – I want this, I want that. It happens all the time. Check this out:

Woman Says Prayer Helped Her Win Lottery

As far as Rachel Goozemian is concerned, luck has little to do with it. The 30-year-old flight attendant won \$100,000 in a New York lottery game, on top of \$50,000 she won the previous year the same way.

And she's not finished yet. Her goal is the \$1 million grand prize.

Goozemian believes prayer has paved her way to riches. "I pray to God to help me and he answers," she says.

1. How does Rachel's claim make you feel? If prayer works that way, why don't all lottery players pray and win? Do you think Rachel will win the million dollars?
2. Should people pray to get rich? To win sports events? To be successful? Explain.
3. What would you feel comfortable praying for? An A on a test? A lot of money? Winning a game? New clothes? A special Christmas present? Explain.
4. Read Isaiah 65:24. If God already knows what we're going to pray for, why is it necessary to pray?
5. Read Matthew 7: 7-8 and 21:22. If this is true, why don't all people who pray receive what they want? For help with the answer, read on.
6. Read Psalm 19: 14 and Philippians 4:6. Do these give us guidelines for how we pray?
7. Read Luke 22:42, and 1 John 5: 14. Is it always necessary to say "if it's God's will?"
8. Read 2 Corinthians 12: 8-10. How can God's grace help even when you want things to be different?