LESSON 18

THE FRIEND AT THE DOOR



Aim: **To teach the children that God wants us to bring all our requests and worries to him.**

Scripture Reading: **Luke 11:1-13**

Memory Verse: **John 1:13**

[C]hildren [of God are] born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Repeat the memory verse for Lesson 17.

Presenting the Lesson

Starting Point

What time do you go to bed at night? Most of us go to bed when darkness has fallen. By midnight we certainly are in bed, unless there's a celebration or some other special reason for staying up late.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. Jesus told a story about someone who received a visitor at midnight. The visitor had been travelling, so he probably hadn't eaten all day. He was hungry, but the house owner had no bread left to give his guest. What a terrible thing! A guest must not go to bed hungry! Therefore the man went to his friend's house to borrow three loaves of bread, even though it was very late (Lk 11:5-6).
2. **Describe what happened (11:7-8).**
   Note: It may be easier for the children to follow if you give the two main characters names. It is a lively story and also very short, and so would be a good one to act. **You could act the parts of the two main characters yourself if you wish. Keep this activity short enough so that you still have time for "Our Response to the Story" at the end of the lesson.**
   Show Picture 18. We see that the friend eventually had to get up and lend the man the bread in order to stop him knocking on the door. The man was not ashamed to keep on asking for what he needed, and his persistence was rewarded.

Our Response to the Story

Jesus often went off on his own to pray to God the Father. One day when he returned from his prayers his disciples asked him to teach them how to pray. In answer to their question Jesus told

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today's story (11:1-2a, 5a). An ordinary friend will help us when we ask, even if it is only because we keep on asking. Therefore, we can be absolutely certain of God's help, because he loves us far better than any other person could ever love us. God will give us the help we need, even if he seems to delay sometimes.

If a small child likes a particular food very much they will go on and on eating it. Someone has to stop them or they will make themselves sick. It is not always good for us to have what we ask for, when we ask for it. God knows what is good for us and when the time is right. Like a human parent, God gives his children good gifts only. Most of all God wants us to have his Spirit in our lives (11:11-13).

A spider takes a long time to spin its web. Sometimes the web breaks loose from where the spider attached it. Then the spider has to start again. Sometimes this happens several times, and each time the spider tries again. The spider never gives up. We should never give up on prayer.

Come let us think of some things we need to pray about. **Give the class time to respond, then say a short prayer.** I want you to keep praying for this during the week that lies ahead.

Instil the Memory Verse

Note: You may wish to look ahead to **Lesson 20** and prepare in advance the "seed beds" as suggested towards the end of that lesson.



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