

PARENTING | WEEK 4

*Thou art coming to a King,
Large petitions with thee bring;
For his grace and power are such,
None can ever ask too much.*

—JOHN NEWTON

S: Supplication (“please” prayers)

God loves to give good things to His children—things that are good for your soul, not just what you may want. It is easy to be selfish in prayer, but God tells us to pray for others as well. There are needs all around you. What are some you know of?

Do | This week, finish the ACTS model in your family prayer time by adding prayers of supplication to your prayers of adoration, confession, and thanksgiving. Try to add requests for others’ needs as well as your own needs. Read through the prayer story below with your children to help them see how God answers prayer.

Prayer focus

Pray for your College Park Church family. Check the Prayer Wall for current requests. Is there something your family can do to bless someone in the church family?

Read | Sometimes God answers, “yes”

Helen Roseveare, an English missionary doctor in Zaire, Africa attended a mother in labor one night. Dr. Roseveare was able to save the premature baby girl, but the mother died, leaving the baby and a crying two year old sister. Without an incubator, it would be difficult to keep the baby alive.

A helper went to fill up a hot water bottle to keep the baby warm. But the hot water bottle—the last they had—burst. There was no way to replace the hot water bottle. The helper was able to keep the

baby warm during the night by placing her as close to the fire in the fireplace and by sleeping between the baby and the drafty door.

The next day, Helen went to pray with the children from the orphanage. She told them about the little baby girl, the burst hot water bottle, and the crying sister. Ruth, a ten year old, prayed, "Please, God, send us a hot water bottle. It'll be no good tomorrow, God, as the baby will be dead, so please send it this afternoon. And while You are about it, would You please send a dolly for the little girl so she'll know You really love her?"

How could God answer this prayer? It seemed the only way would be to get a package from England, and in the four years she had been in Africa, Helen had never received a package from home. Besides, who would send a hot water bottle to a missionary living on the equator?

In the middle of the afternoon, a car pulled up to Helen's front door and someone dropped off a package. Helen sent for the orphanage children before she opened the package. Everyone was excited. What would be in the package? Helen lifted out bright colored shirts for the children and bandages for the leprosy patients. Out came a box of mixed raisins and saltanas. Then she pulled out a hot water bottle! Helen started to cry. She had doubted that God would send a hot water bottle. But Ruth jumped forward crying, "If God has sent the bottle, He must have sent the dolly, too!" She burrowed down to the bottom of the box and found a little, beautifully dressed doll! She asked Helen if she could give the little girl the doll so that she would know that Jesus loved her.

So the baby was warmed by the hot water bottle, the two year old received a special dolly, God answered the sincere, believing prayer of a ten-year-old girl, and a missionary doctor saw a miracle in a package that was sent five months earlier.

RESOURCES

If your family wants to continue learning about prayer, here are some resources to consider:

A Praying Life by Paul L. Miller

Lord, Teach Us To Pray: Devotional Guide by Sally Michael (Children Desiring God)