

Point of the day: God our Father wants to give us wonderful gifts.

Memory Verse: “how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! ”Matthew 7:9-11

In this short parable about an earthly and Heavenly Father, we see that God wants to give us wonderful gifts – if we just ask Him!

STORY (Matthew 7:9-11)

Begin by asking your child to ask you this simple question:

“Please can I have some biscuits?”

(Give a variety of answers: The answers are not always so simple, or what your child wants to hear. It could be, “Yes, I’ll bring some to you on a plate.” Or, “No, they’ll spoil your dinner.” Or, “Not now, but after you finish your homework”.)

One of the lessons Jesus teaches us is to ask for the things we desire, and to keep asking. God hears, and will give us things – if it is according to what He wants to bless us with.

Read this short parable:

“Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

Tell your child: God is not our “genie in the bottle.” He does not nod his head at our commands. We are his children, and he watches over us like children, because God is the good father. Just as it is not wise to give children everything they ask; God, whom is all-knowing (omniscient), is patient and wise as we seek him through prayer. For, God knows our needs before we come to him in prayer.

Also, we know God is good and loving. He is not going to answer our prayers poorly; he is going to richly answer our prayers. He may not answer prayer the way we want him to, but he will answer the prayer better than we ever thought, because HE knows everything! Jesus says that we, as people, have evil hearts—due to sin. He says that since we have evil hearts, then we do not give better gifts than God, whom is perfect and righteous.

Sometimes we are afraid to pray. We are afraid to pray for God's will for our lives in fear that God might send us to darkest Africa where there are bugs and mosquitoes. So we don't pray. We are afraid to pray for patience, because we've heard that when you ask for patience God will send all sorts of hardships upon you. And so on.

Don't be afraid, Jesus says. Just ask your Father for what you want and trust him to answer wisely with what is good for you. Trust him.

2 Questions....

- What do we call good gifts that come from God? (We call them blessings)
- What is the very best gift that God has given us? (God gave us the gift of Salvation through Jesus), which means that we can be saved from our sins and spend eternity in Heaven)

ACTIVITY

1. Inside the gifts- write down some blessings that you have received from God – try to think of ones that you've asked Him for. Thank Him for these gifts.
2. Write down some things that you are asking, or would like to ask God for.


