

Persistent Prayer

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1 **Lesson 12**
Focus:
Pray regularly.**Lesson 12**
Bible Basis:
Daniel 6**Lesson 12**
Memory Verse:
Devote yourselves to prayer,
being watchful and thankful.
—Colossians 4:2

Students will connect ideas about communication and prayer and discuss why God wants us to communicate with Him regularly.

Materials:

- Cell phone (as a visual aid)

Using your phone as a visual, talk through the following questions with your student:

- **What kinds of things can I do with my phone?** (Let your students give answers that pertain to smartphones as well as cell phones.)
- **What is the most important way a phone can help us?** (Communicate with other people.)
- **Who am I able to call on my phone? Are those phone calls easy or hard to make?** (Answers will vary.)
- **What if I wanted to call the president of the United States—would I be able to easily do that? Why not?** (No, his calls are screened—they don't give out his number; only important calls about government or his immediate family members can get through; he's too busy.)
- **What are some things that can get in the way of good communication?** (Answers will vary but may include: Busyness, distance, misunderstanding, hearing problems, speech problems, vocabulary levels, etc.)

While phones can help us to communicate with others, they can also serve as a distraction to communication. This can happen when we're on our phones while we're with people. Or, it can happen when we choose to only communicate pieces of ourselves on social media accounts, rather than being authentic. We can choose to use our tools of communication for better relationships and connection!

Communication is important in any relationship. Prayer is no different—it's communication with God. God wants us to talk with Him, and He wants to talk with us. In today's lesson, we'll meet a man who took prayer very seriously and was so committed to doing it that he ended up getting into big trouble! Let's find out what happened....

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

Persistent Prayer

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for use as
STEP 4 

Lesson 12**Focus:**

Pray regularly.

Lesson 12**Bible Basis:**

Daniel 6

Lesson 12**Memory Verse:**

Devote yourselves to prayer,
being watchful and thankful.
—Colossians 4:2

Materials:

- Paper (1 sheet per student)
- Pens/pencils (1 per student)

If your class is meeting online, invite students to bring papers and pens/pencils with them to class.

Our lesson today used Daniel to teach us about the importance of and the power of prayer. Daniel made prayer a part of his daily life, even when it was against the law to pray to God. No matter what might have been going on in his life, regardless of how big or little, prayer was the most important part of Daniel's daily routine. And when he faced huge, scary challenges—whether it was an angry king or a hungry lion—Daniel knew to turn to God first. Daniel talked with God constantly, and he relied on God to help him through the little and the big things that happened in his life.

Have a volunteer read the memory verse.

Prayer isn't meant to be something we do just once during the day and then cross off our list. God wants us to communicate with Him constantly throughout our day. This is a right we have in our country that Daniel did not have, and that's not something we should ever take for granted.

There is a well-known Sunday school song that you may have learned when you were little—the lyrics are: "Whisper a prayer in the morning, whisper a prayer at noon, whisper a prayer in the evening, to keep your heart in tune." That song was written as a simple reminder to always, always be praying and talking with Jesus.

Do you think you can make prayer a regular and consistent part of your day? One simple way to help us regularly pray is to pray for a different person every day.

Distribute papers and pens/pencils. (If your class is meeting online, invite students to have those items ready.) Have your students write the lesson's memory verse on the lines at the top of the paper. Allow students to write days of the week on their papers with enough space to write next to each day. Then, invite them to write specific people they can pray for next to each day of the week.

As you walk through each day in this upcoming week, try to keep in mind the idea of devoting yourself to prayer. Keep this paper in a place that will remind you to keep talking with God. Strive for more than just praying before meals and before you go to bed. Pray that God will bring communication with Him to your mind often as you work to follow Daniel's example of praying continually.

Conclude the class by giving students the opportunity to pray aloud. When students have finished praying, close by asking God to work in the hearts and minds of each student throughout the week by giving them a heart that desires to pray and talk with their heavenly Father.