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# Friend at Midnight



## Lesson Text

Luke 11:5-13

## Lesson Objectives

- The students will recognize God's desire to bless us and to meet our needs.
- The students will explain that God answers persistent and confident prayers.
- The students will pray persistently for specific friends whom they are inviting to the Great Banquet.

## Materials Needed

For each student:

- 1 #10 envelope, 4 1/8" X 9 1/2"
- pen or pencil

For the teacher:

- crayons and markers
- glue and scissors
- 1 copy of "Good News from the Kingdom"
- globe or map of the world
- extra Bibles
- 1 key for every 4-5 students
- goodie bag filled with a variety of items (gum, candy, erasers, pencils, stickers)
- Parable Poster (included with the unit)
- special teacher insert for Unit 16 Lesson 5—key for identifying "The Parable of the Friend at Midnight" on the Parable Poster

purple highlighter  
Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each student
- Page B, 1 copy for each student
- Page C, 1 copy for each student
- Page D, 1 copy for each student
- Pages E & F, 1 copy for every 4 to 5 students
- Page G, 1 copy for each student

## Lesson Plan

### Getting Ready

- Faithful Instruction
  - Teacher Focus
  - Teacher Tips
- Preclass Activity: Pack Your Bags
- Starting Up
  - Welcome and Singing
  - Opening Prayer
  - Victories
  - Good News from the Kingdom

### Getting into God's Word

- Story: "Let Me Ride!"
- Scripture Study
- Activity: Road Trip Game

### Getting It to Others

- Scripture Memory: Luke 11:9
- Weekly Challenge and Snack Time
- Conclusion

## Scripture Memory

So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

Luke 11:9





## Faithful Instruction

### Teacher Focus

Pray before preparing this lesson. Read and meditate on Luke 11:5-13 until you understand what Jesus taught in this parable. How persistent are you in your prayers? Are your prayers offered in full faith, knowing that God will answer? Write out a prayer list and persistently pray for each item every day. Pray specifically for each student in your class to have a friend with them next week. Come to class prepared to share with your students about your list and about how much you are praying for each of them.

### Teacher Tips

Use this week's lesson on prayer as an opportunity to inspire your students to be creative in how they pray. Suggest going on a prayer walk, writing a "Dear God" letter or praying with a friend.

Using the teacher insert, identify the location of this parable on the Parable Poster. During the Scripture Study portion of the class, the first group of students who use the poster will highlight the location of the parable being studied. A different color of highlighter will be used for each parable. The already highlighted poster will be saved and reused in subsequent years.

You will be needing to choose speakers for your next class. Check lesson six now to find out the specifics so you can ask the people now.

## Preclass Activity

### Pack Your Bags

The students will create and fill suitcases that will be used in the activity section of the lesson. Tell them that in the lesson today we are going to be talking about someone who took a journey to visit a friend.

#### Materials Used

For each student:

- 1 #10 envelope, 4 1/8" X 9 1/2"
- pen or pencil

For the teacher:

- crayons and markers
- glue
- scissors

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each student
- Page B, 1 copy for each student



#### Instructions

1. Give each student one #10 envelope and one copy of Reproducible Page A (Pack Your Bags).
2. Have the students cut out their suitcases and glue them to the envelopes. Have markers and crayons available so that they can color the suitcases.
3. After they have completed their suitcases, give each student a copy of Reproducible Page B (Packing List).
4. Have each student choose only eight items from the packing list that they think they would need on a trip.
5. Have the students cut only these items out and put them in their suitcases for the class activity after the lesson.
6. Tell the students to put their suitcases aside until later in class.



## Starting Up

### Welcome and Singing

Call the students together in a circle. Welcome everyone by name, being sure to recognize anyone who is visiting. Let them know how glad you are to see them and how much you looked forward to being with them. Sing a few great songs.

### Opening Prayer

Who would like to say a prayer to start today's time together? Let a few students lead the prayer. Encourage the students to mention missing students, special church activities, illnesses and to be especially thankful for the chance to be together.

### Victories

Take the time to have the students share about the challenges they were given at the end of last week's class. Did everyone complete their challenge? How did it go? What fears did you face as you met the challenge to put the lesson into practice? How did everyone do with having consistent quiet times? Who would like to share something they learned this week?

Praise and encourage all the students' efforts, especially noting any area of significant growth. Offer help and suggestions so they can have even more victories in the coming week.

### Good News from the Kingdom

#### Materials Used

For the teacher:

- 1 copy of "Good News from the Kingdom"
- globe or map of the world

#### Instructions

Now let's take a few minutes to share "Good News from the Kingdom." Be excited as you read about what is happening around the world. Have a globe or map ready, pointing out the location as you share. Remind your students that the kingdom of God is worldwide and that the victories of our brothers and sisters in other countries can inspire us and spur us on.





## Story

### “Let Me Ride!”

This story is about a little boy who is confident that his father will hear him and answer his request. The parallel is that God, our Father, will also hear us and answer our requests.

#### Materials Used

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, 1 copy for each student

#### Instructions

1. Distribute copies of Reproducible Page C (“Let Me Ride!”) to the students.
2. Ask the students to listen as you read the story.
3. Discuss how the boy was confident in his relationship with his father. Discuss how the students can be confident with God because he is listening for them as well.
4. Take a few minutes for the students to share their thoughts.

## Scripture Study

#### Materials Used

For the teacher:

- extra Bibles
- Parable Poster (included with the unit)
- special teacher insert for Unit 16 Lesson 5—key for identifying “The Parable of the Friend at Midnight” on the Parable Poster
- purple highlighter

Have the students take out their Bibles and turn to Luke 11:5-13. Ask for volunteers to read the passage aloud. Discuss:

- What was the man asking for? (three loaves of bread)
- Was it for himself or for the needs of someone else? (for a traveling guest)

Keep in mind that travelers during the first century couldn't just stop at a fast-food restaurant and grab a quick bite to eat. They relied on friends and family along the road to meet their needs. They also could not call ahead on a phone to let the people know when they would get there. In fact, they probably arrived sometimes totally unannounced.

- What motivated the man to go over to his neighbor's house to ask for food? (wanted to meet the needs of his traveling friend / hospitality was a very important quality to the Jewish people / the man would have felt very bad not to be able to feed a guest, even if he didn't know the guest was coming / thought his neighbor would help him)
- How did the neighbor react? (wasn't happy / wanted to stay in bed / didn't want to be bothered)

Also think about the scene within the neighbor's house: The houses were small. At night they would probably spread out a mat on the dirt floor for the whole family to sleep on. When the man knocked on the door, the family had been asleep for hours. They did not have electricity, so they would be sleeping in the dark. In order to see to get bread, the neighbor would have to light a lamp. All this would be going on as he stepped over a sleeping wife and sleeping children. And what if a young child or baby woke up and started crying? Then everybody (including the people next door) would be awake. It was just plain inconvenient!

- Why did the neighbor go ahead and give his friend the food? (Not because he was his friend—apparently that was not enough motivation. / He got up and gave it to him because the man would not quit asking him. / Apparently he reasoned that he might as well get up and get whatever the man wanted because he was not going to go away until he got it. / The neighbor would want peace restored to his sleeping family.)
- What if the man had been too scared to ask his friend for help because it was late at night? (He would not have been able to meet the needs of his traveling friend.)

The following are focus questions and are purposely open-ended to encourage discussion, not just between you and the students, but between your students and their peers.

- What did Jesus teach in this parable? (Make sure that the students understand that God wants to bless us, but we will not receive if we do not ask! God's character is loving and patient, but he wants a relationship with us that is interactive. Our prayers should be full of faith and persistent.)



- Have you ever asked your parents for something, but did not get what you wanted? How did you feel?
- Did you think that they did not love you? (If anyone answers "yes," ask in what other ways their parents show them love—feeding them / clothing them / paying the bills / driving them around).
- Have you ever asked God for something and he answered you differently than you expected? How did you feel toward God? (Sometimes when we ask God for something, even if we ask persistently, we may not get what we want. But God always blesses us by giving us what we need.)
- Does God always answer your prayers? (Yes, but sometimes he doesn't answer them in the way that we are expecting. / Sometimes he clearly says NO to us when we ask. That too is an answer.)
- Does God always answer our prayers immediately? (No—God wants us to be persistent and trusting.)

Go back over the parable and discuss what God taught about prayer. Emphasize that God wants to hear from us!

## Activity

### Road Trip Game

This game shows the students that when we travel, we have needs, and we must rely on others to help meet those needs. In the parable, the traveling guest had needs and the man he was visiting had needs. Because of persistence, these needs were met. Each team will work together to meet the members' needs.

#### Materials Used

For the teacher:

- 1 key for every 4-5 students
- goodie bag filled with a variety of items (gum, candy, erasers, pencils, stickers)

Reproducible Pages:

- Page D, 1 copy for each student
- Page E, 1 copy for every 4 to 5 students
- Page F, 1 copy for every 4 to 5 students

#### Preparation

1. Cut out enough "Money" (Reproducible Page D) for each student to have sixteen dollars.
2. Before class, tape together enough Road Trip Game boards (Reproducible Pages E and F) to give one to every 4 to 5 students.

#### Instructions

1. Divide the students into teams of four to five students, and tell them to take out their suitcases.
2. Give each team a game board and one key. Have each team member begin the game with sixteen dollars and their packed suitcase.
3. Explain to the class that all of the teams will be competing against one another. The goal of the game is for each team to work together to reach Grandma's house first.
4. Read the following out loud to the class:

Your family is going on a road trip to Grandma's house. Your fellow travelers include Mom, Dad, your baby sister and Rover, the family dog. You are already packed and ready to go. Using your key as your game piece, begin at "Home." The object of the game is to get to "Grandma's house" first. Use first names and go in alphabetical order to determine the order of turns. Every turn moves forward only one space unless otherwise indicated.

For each turn, read the activity you must perform. If you can do the activity based on the items you have in your suitcase, you may move on to the next square. If you don't have the items in your suitcase to complete the activity, you may borrow the item(s) from someone else on your team. If no one else has the item(s) use your money to buy the item(s) from someone on the other team (if they are willing to sell), or you can trade with someone on another team who also needs the item(s) that you have. If you cannot move forward, your team is stuck on the square unless the other team becomes willing to sell or trade. The first team to reach Grandma's house (or get closest to Grandma's house) is the winning team. After the game is over, you may use any leftover money to purchase treats from the goodie bag.



## Scripture Memory

So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

Luke 11:9

### Materials Used

Reproducible Pages:

- Page G, 1 copy for each student

### Instructions

1. Give each student a copy of Reproducible Page G (Scripture Memory).
2. Allow the students one minute to review the verse.
3. Have the students line up single file, leaving their papers at their desks.
4. Have the first student say the first word of the memory verse, the second student the second word and so on until the verse is recited.
5. After the verse has been recited, have the first student go to the end of the line.
6. The new line leader should begin with the first word of the memory verse and again the group should recite the verse with each student saying a single word of it as before.
7. If time, continue the process until all the students have had the opportunity to be the first student in the line.

## Weekly Challenge and Snack Time

If your students bring a snack, allow them to eat while you explain to them the challenge for the week.

Have the students sit together in their banquet planning committees. Help them finalize the plans for the party, which will take place next week. Tell the leaders of each committee to call their committee members during the week to remind them of their responsibilities.

Help your students make a prayer list of friends that they have invited to the Great Banquet. Pray as a class for each friend. Challenge your students to pray over their lists every day. Remind them that God blesses persistence. The students should also follow up and give directions or arrange rides with all the friends that they have invited to the banquet.

## Conclusion

End the class with a prayer.

## Weekly Challenge

Make a prayer list of those friends you have invited to the Great Banquet. Pray persistently and faithfully each day that every person you have invited will come next week.



# Friend at Midnight



## Lesson Text

Luke 11:5-13; Matthew 26:36-46

## Lesson Objectives

- The students will recognize that Jesus prayed and relied on God to meet his needs.
- The students will realize that God is always ready to listen to their needs and to bless their faith.
- The students will pray persistently for specific friends whom they are inviting to the Great Banquet.

## Materials Needed

For each student:

- 2 lengths craft twine, 24" each (or use heavy string) (different colors if desired)
- scissors
- NOTE: If you choose not to do the bracelet, materials to make decorations for the Great Banquet will be needed.
- pen or pencil
- 1 piece notebook paper

For the teacher:

- extra Bibles

Reproducible Pages:

- Page H, 1 copy for each student

## Lesson Plan

### Getting Ready

- Faithful Instruction
  - Teacher Focus
  - Teacher Tips
- Preclass Activity: Friendship Bracelet
- Starting Up
  - Welcome and Singing
  - Opening Prayer and Review
  - Great News Sharing

### Getting into God's Word

- Scripture Study
- Activity: Who's the Real Hero?

### Getting It to Others

- Scripture Memory: Luke 11:9
- Weekly Challenge and Snack Time
- Conclusion

## Scripture Memory

So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

Luke 11:9





## Faithful Instruction

### Teacher Focus

Read and meditate on Luke 11:5-13 until you understand the parable and the lesson that it holds. Read Matthew 26:36-46. Jesus is our example in how we should pray persistently and confidently. Think of one specific time when you had to persevere in your prayers and pray confidently. Write down that incident and what your specific emotions and thoughts were at the time.

In this class you will build on "The Parable of the Friend at Midnight" discussed in the Core Lesson and the concept of praying to God with confidence. Help the students to also see that God is more special than any physical heroes they may have because he wants to meet all their needs and to bless their lives.

### Teacher Tips

It is important for the students to come to the conclusion that they have the opportunity to have a personal relationship with God, something that they will probably never have with any of their celebrity heroes.

You and your assistants should practice making friendship bracelets before class, in order to be able to help your students during the activity. If you do not think your students will enjoy making the friendship bracelet, you could have them make decorations for the Great Banquet.

## Preclass Activity

### Friendship Bracelet

The students will create a friendship bracelet for someone they are inviting to the Great Banquet.

#### Materials Used

For each student:

- 2 lengths craft twine, 24" each (or use heavy string) (different colors if desired)
- scissors

Reproducible Pages:

- Page H, 1 copy for each student

#### Preparation

Set up several tables with a variety of craft twine and scissors.

#### Instructions

1. Hand out the instructions for making a friendship bracelet (Reproducible Page H) to each student.
2. Encourage your assistants to help the students as necessary.

NOTE: If you choose not to do the bracelet, you can bring materials for the students to make decorations for the Great Banquet.





## Starting Up

### Welcome and Singing

Call the students together in a circle. Welcome everyone by name, being sure to recognize anyone who is visiting. Let them know how glad you are to see them and how much you looked forward to being with them. Sing a few great songs.

### Opening Prayer and Review

- Open with one of the students praying for each student to be praying persistently for the success of the Great Banquet and for each student to have at least one friend attend.
- Have one student recite the memory verse for this lesson: Luke 11:9.
- Have a student briefly review the previous lesson (Core Lesson).

### Great News Sharing

Allow several minutes for the students to share great news about their lives. This could be about a family member who became a disciple, someone healed from an illness, someone studying the Bible, great grades, etc. Remind the students to be brief so as many as possible can share.





## Scripture Study

### Materials Used

For the teacher:

- extra Bibles

Have everyone sit in a circle. Ask

- Who is the first person that you go to when you need help?
- Why do you go to this person?

Have the students read Matthew 26:36-46 to themselves. After all the students have read and thought about the passage, read it out aloud to the class. Be sure that you read with emotion and heart. Ask

- What was Jesus asking of God? (for God's will to be done above his own / for strength)
- How many times did Jesus go to God? (three)
- How did he change each time? (grew more persistent / prayed harder)
- How is this related to "The Parable of the Friend at Midnight" from the Core Lesson? (Jesus was persistent in his prayer to God. / He knew that persistent and confident prayer would change him. / He knew that God would answer him.)

- Why do you think that God wants us to pray persistently to him? (He wants to bless us. / He wants us to change and grow. / He wants a relationship with us.)
- Was Jesus' prayer answered? (Yes—God gave Jesus the confidence to do his will.)
- What obstacles could have kept Jesus from going to God in prayer? (He was tired. / He could have been afraid of the answer. / He might have had people interrupting him.)
- What obstacles keep you from going to God in prayer?
- How can you imitate Jesus? (go to God in prayer / pray persistently and confidently / overcome obstacles that keep you from prayer)

As you persistently pray for the Great Banquet, God will help you to remember to talk to your friends. Make sure they are talking with their parents. Plan to pick them up if you possibly can. If you cannot, have your parent(s) call their parent(s) to give directions to the location.





## Activity

### Who's the Real Hero?

God was the one Jesus went to when he needed help. God was his hero. The students will complete a worksheet that will help them to understand that God's love and compassion for us make him greater than any worldly hero.

#### Materials Used

For each student:

- pen or pencil
- 1 piece notebook paper

#### Instructions

1. Have each student write down the name of his or her favorite sports hero, celebrity or actor in the left column, along with three characteristics describing that person.
2. Take the class outdoors. Have the students look up at the sky and think about nature. (If you are in a large city and are not able to get outdoors, an alternative idea would be to turn the lights down low and play a cassette with nature sounds or share pictures of the universe with the students.)

3. In the right-hand column, have the students write the word "God," along with three characteristics of God that they have recognized during their time outdoors.
4. Divide the class into groups of four to five and have each student share with their friends what they wrote down on the sheet.
5. After the groups are finished discussing the sheets, ask
  - Sports heroes and celebrities can be great people to imitate in some qualities they may have, but what would happen if you knocked on their doors at midnight? (Their bodyguards would throw you off of the property!)
  - What would happen if you went to God at midnight?

It is important to stress that your students can have a personal relationship with God and that God is there when they need him. God wants to give them what they ask for and he has the power to do it. Because of this, they can pray confidently to him, knowing he listens and cares.

o Celebrity	God
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
o	
o	



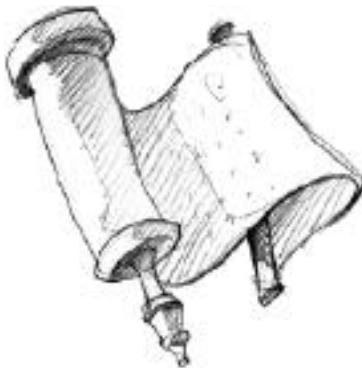
## Scripture Memory

So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

Luke 11:9

### Instructions

1. Divide the class into groups.
2. Have each group choose a style of music and put the memory verse to a song they compose in that style.
3. Have each group perform the song they wrote for the other groups.



## Weekly Challenge and Snack Time

If your students bring a snack, allow them to eat while you remind them of the challenge for the week.

The students were to pray every day for the friends they have invited to come to the Great Banquet. Discuss any obstacles they encountered in carrying out the challenge so far this week. Give ideas on how to overcome these obstacles. Encourage students who are having trouble praying to choose a prayer partner from their class. Suggest to the students that they give their friendship bracelet to someone from their prayer list (a friend who they want to come to the banquet). Remind them also to be keeping up with their daily quiet times.

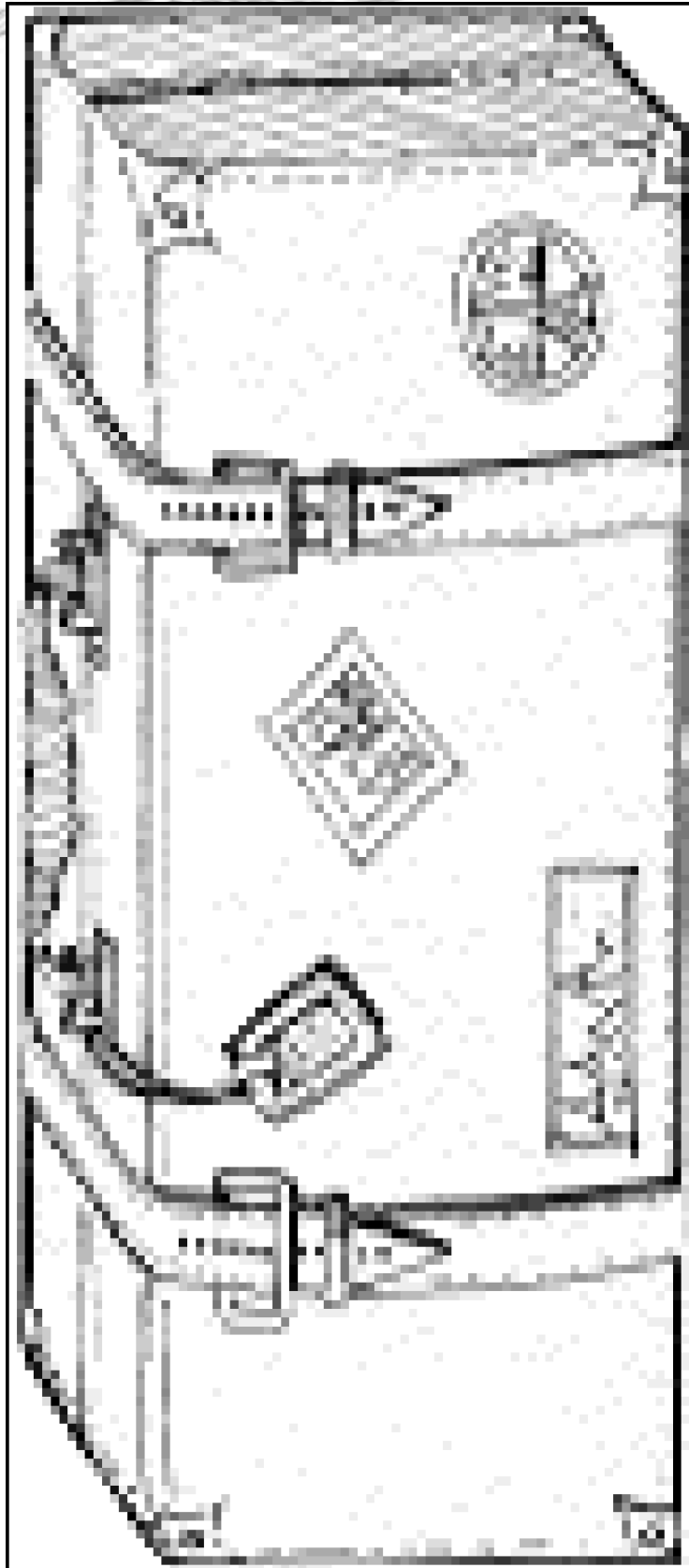
Be sure to encourage the students who did an outstanding job in class and praise any students who had a more successful time than in previous class periods.

## Conclusion

End the class with a prayer.

## Weekly Challenge

Make a prayer list of those friends you have invited to the Great Banquet. Pray persistently and faithfully each day that every person you have invited will come next week.



Core/Getting Ready/1  
copy for each student

FILM

Dog  
Leash

Diaper

Road  
Map

Basketball

Mosquito  
Repellent

Cooler

Toothbrush  
&  
Toothpaste

Pajamas

Clothes

Flashlight

Umbrella

Sunglasses

Bob's  
Burgers  
Coupon

First-Aid  
Kit

Video  
Game

journal

PAPER  
BAG

Cellular  
Phone

Paper  
Towels

Gallon  
of  
Water

Clothes

Comic  
Book

Shoes &  
Socks

Wristwatch

shampoo

Blowdryer

Lighter

Tool  
Kit

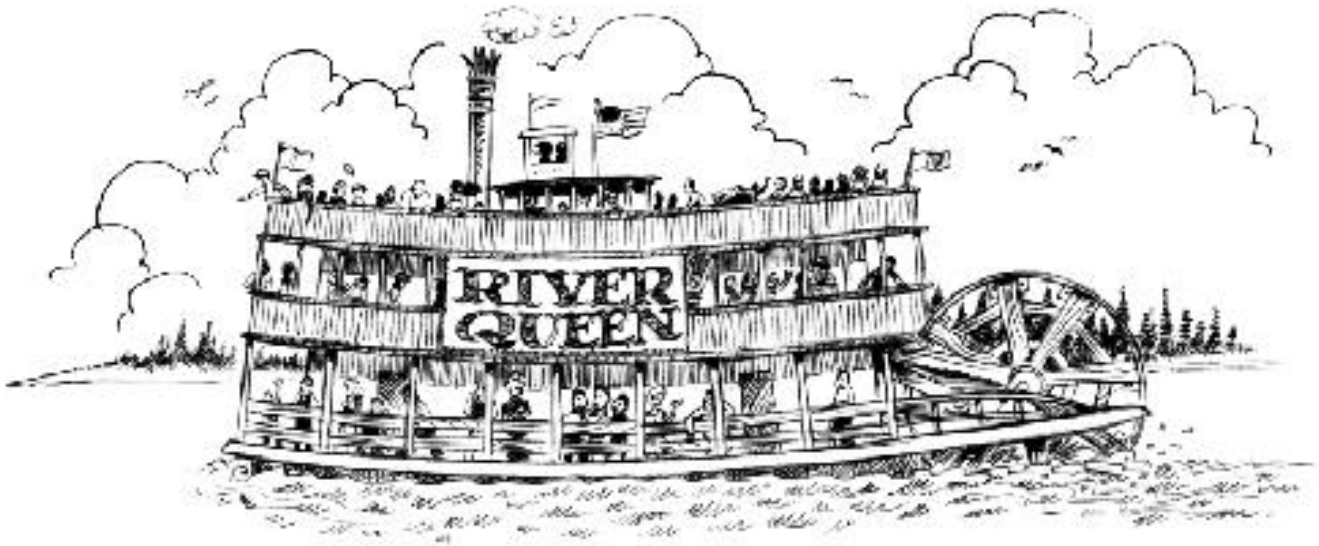
Toilet Paper



## Let Me Ride!

A young boy came down to a pier on the mighty Mississippi River where an old man was fishing. He began to ask the man a myriad of questions, and with patience, the old man answered him. Their conversation was interrupted, however, by the shrill whistle of the River Queen as she came paddling down river. Both the old man and boy stopped to stare in wonder as the gleaming ship splashed into the sunshine.

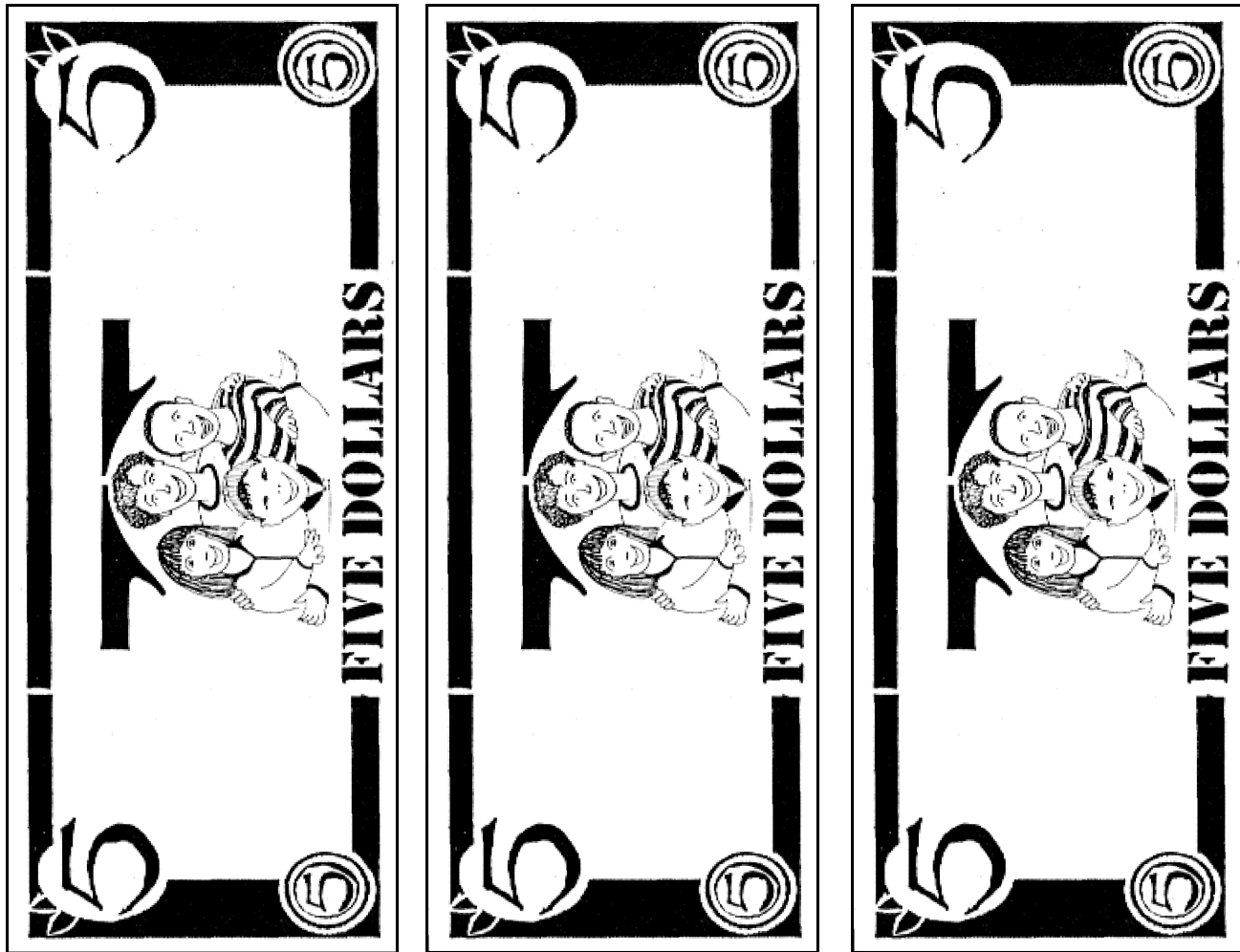
Above the noise of the paddle wheel, the boy began to call across the water, "Let me ride! Let me ride!" The old man tried to calm him, explaining that the River Queen didn't just stop anywhere and give rides to little boys. The boy cried all the louder, "Let me ride!" The old man stared in amazement as the great ship pulled toward shore and lowered a gangplank to the pier. In a flash the boy scampered onto the deck. As the gangplank was pulled aboard and the ship began to pull back into the mainstream, the boy called back to his newfound friend, "I knew this ship would stop for me, Mister. The captain is my father!"



God's Little Devotional Book for Moms (Tulsa, Oklahoma: Honor Books, Inc., 1995) p. 23.

Core/Getting into God's Word/1 copy for each student

Money



Road Trip Game

*Start here*  
*at your house*

You're already hungry and ask to stop at Bob's Burgers. Pull out your coupons or fork over \$5 for dinner.

**Bleah!!** **Gross!!**

Your little sister threw up her french fries all over you. If you had the paper bag you were safe. If not, lose a turn while you clean up the mess.

cut line

Before you can even get out of the house it starts to rain. You need an umbrella to get to the car or cough up \$5 for a cheap one.

Your little sister has already made a huge, stinky diaper that is smelling up the car. Use your diaper or pay \$3 for a clean one.

**Roar**

Everyone is back in the car and ready to go when your baby sister drops her bottle, and it causes the door to jam. You're fine if you have your tool kit. If not, pay \$7 for the road repairman.

After the mosquitos are gone and you're fine. If not, pay \$2 to get let him run free and someone

cut line

While the door is getting fixed, a giant alligator tries to eat you for dinner. If you have your first aid kit, you escape with a couple of scratches. If not, pay the doctor \$5 for your office visit.

Road Trip Game (continued)

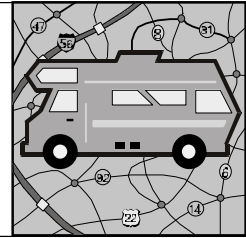
cut line

**REST**

The whole family takes a bathroom break at a rest stop but—SURPRISE—there is no toilet paper and no attendant! If you have toilet paper you're fine. If not, pay \$5. This is an emergency!

**STOP**

After getting back in the car, you suddenly realize that you are all lost. If you have your road map, you're set. If not, pay \$6 for a new one.



You're on the road again cruising to Grandma's. It's 2 AM and everyone but Dad (who's driving) is sleeping, when you're suddenly yanked out of sleep by an explosion. Of all the dumb luck, you blow out your front tire. If you remembered your flashlight, Dad is still talking to you. If you didn't, pay \$5 for a flashlight from another driver.



d Trip

While you're changing the tire with Dad, a swarm of mosquitos attack you for their midnight snack. If you have your mosquito repellent, you're fine. If not, sit out a turn, until the mosquitos have eaten their fill.



the tire is changed, Rover, the family a walk. If you have the dog leash, him out of the pound because you called animal control on him.

You're one mile from Grandma's when the radiator overheats. If you have your gallon of water, just fill and go. If not, pay the gas station \$2 for clean water and limp your way to Granny's.



cut line



Scripture Memory

So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.



Luke 11:9

### Weekly Challenge

Make a prayer list of those friends you have invited to the Great Banquet. Pray persistently and faithfully each day that every person you have invited will come next week.

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## Friendship Bracelet (Round Braid)

### Materials Used

- 2 lengths craft twine, 24" each (or use heavy string) (different colors if desired)
- scissors

### Instructions

1. Fold each 24" length of twine in half and loop the circles together. Tie the ends of each length of twine together, forming interlocking circles.
2. Have a friend hold one end and you hold the other. With the twine stretched out, begin twisting from the knotted ends. Twist the twines together until it is tightly twisted.
3. While still holding the knotted ends, grasp the twisted lacing at the center (where the two loops meet) and fold in half.
4. Holding the knotted ends together, release the center twine—twine will twist together, forming a twisted cord.
5. Smooth the twisted cord to release any extra tautness.
6. Measure the bracelet to fit wrist.
7. Tie a tight knot with the loose ends and trim the ends of the knot.
8. To fasten the bracelet, untwist slightly at the fold and slip the knot through the opening created.

