

7.2 How can we help Christian students with their problems?

Children and their families may have many problems in their lives that need God's help and intervention. Even though they are Christians, they can still have all kinds of problems. We want to pray for them, and also show them how they can pray for themselves and for one another about these specific problems.

PRAYER TIME FOLLOWING SUNDAY SCHOOL

During Sunday school, we do have a prayer time. However there is not time enough then to pray about every need of every child. Remember that after Sunday school is over, during the time one teacher is talking to those who responded to the invitation, we need to keep the other children occupied and away from the responders. This is why we said there should be two teachers or a teacher and a helper. One of the teachers can use this time to pray with the children about their problems. This prayer time will be a wonderful example of how to pray for one another. Even if the teacher is praying for a child, the others nearby can reach out and put their hands on him to show their agreement. Others farther away can reach out their hand toward the child being prayed for to add their Amen. The teacher can encourage small groups to pray for one another, or all the children to pray for someone at the same time. The child seeking prayer may kneel in the middle while others gather around him to intercede on his behalf.

Subjects of prayer might be children who are sick or weak in body, those who need food at home, those who seek help in school, etc.

DELIVERING CHILDREN FROM EVIL SPIRITS

It is not uncommon for children to come to Sunday school who know already that they have acquired occult powers, whether from their own involvement or that of others. Many children are bothered by bad dreams and recurring thoughts and compulsions. These things are all the work of evil spirits.

When we think of delivering children from evil spirits, it is important to know that the person who is seeking to deliver them truly knows and is following God. He should be a strong believer. Saved children can help in deliverance if they are walking faithfully with God. It can bring many more problems if the person seeking to deliver the child does not know Jesus or is not walking faithfully with Him, because the demons will know this (see Acts 19:13-16). In the beginning it is best that the teacher handle the deliverance. Later, he can ask God to show him one or more children who are strong enough to help.

Every believer has authority over evil spirits through the name and power of Jesus Christ (Luke 10:17-20). One must only command that spirit to leave and to go far away in the name of Jesus Christ. Often, spirits will leave quietly without any manifestation at all. The person will come to realize afterwards that the spirits have gone, because they will no longer harass him as they had been doing. Other times, deliverance will require long periods of prayer and fasting, and repeated commands to leave. Spirits leaving or manifesting may throw a person down on the ground or cause him to shriek loudly, or even make him act and sound like an animal, but God does not get honor from this. Many times they will be quiet and stop their "showing off" if a Christian commands them to stop it and be quiet. It is not necessary to shout or talk loudly to evil spirits. You can speak to them in a normal voice. They are not impressed with loudness, and it will not help them leave any sooner. It is not loudness or mean faces or stomping your feet that makes them leave, but a simple command from a person who knows and is following Jesus. That person acts in Jesus' strength and authority, and the demons recognize that and must obey it.

PRAYER IN THE CHILDREN'S HOMES

Another time you can pray for the children is when visiting their homes. If the church has appointed you or approved you to be a Sunday school teacher, you have become like a pastor to the children in your class. You must of course always act under the authority of the pastor and other leaders God has put into authority in your church, but you are still like a pastor to the children under your teaching. You are like a helper to your pastor and to your church for the children. A teacher should be automatically authorized to visit the children and their families, to pray for them, and when they seek such help, to pray for deliverance. In all the teacher does in the home, he should always seek permission of the family. If the father is present, he should seek his permission as head of the family. If the father is not there, he should ask the mother's permission to pray, teach, or visit. Very few families will refuse

this help. If the parents are believers, they can add their Amen to the teacher’s prayer, or put their hands on the child for whom the teacher is praying, to show their agreement.

LET’S REVIEW

What are some problems we can pray with the children about?

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While the teacher is praying for a child, what can the others do to show their agreement?

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Who has authority to command evil spirits to leave?

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How should a believer speak to an evil spirit to command it to leave?

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How does an evil spirit leave a person?

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What are some good times to pray with the children about their problems?

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