



Week of Apr 16 - a

Scripture: Mt 6:1-4

Main Idea: Jesus teaches on the topic of giving to the needy. He corrects the problem of how some in their day were giving with a false motive, to be seen and praised. He teaches instead, that our giving should be humble and quiet, not for show, but to bless the needy and honor God.

Questions

Preschool: How could you quietly help someone in need?

Grade school: If you see someone at school that needs something to eat for lunch, and you share your lunch. How do you think it would make them feel to stand up and shout to everyone “hey, I just gave ½ my lunch to them?” Jesus doesn’t want you to shout it to everyone when you do something nice, God will know.

Teen: What are some ways you can help the “needy” at school or in our community? Does “needy” only mean financially, or could there be other ways to be “needy.” What would some of those ways be? Why do the motives of your giving matter?

Adult: Have you ever been the recipient of a gift that was so precious, but no one knew it had even taken place? Do you remember the gift or the giver most? Jesus was pretty blunt when he said some have their reward, just by seeking honor. It has been said that the best servant is the one who is never noticed. How can you cultivate that attitude of being a servant and not caring if our best work is ever acknowledged?

PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAY:

For God to help us think about those less fortunate and be generous and ready and willing to help the poor

April Memory Verse:

Psalm 56:3 (ESV)

³ When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.



Week of **Apr 16 - b**

Scripture: Mt 6:5-8

Main Idea: Jesus teaches that when we pray, we don't need to do it in a flashy or eloquent way trying to impress people. We also don't need to think that a prayer might not be answered because we didn't pray long enough. Instead, he teaches us to be humble, sincere and genuine in our prayer life.

Questions

Preschool: Will God only answer your prayers if you pray for a long time?

Grade school: Jesus wants you to pray like you mean it, not like you are trying to fill in a time slot, like, "okay, tonight I'm going to pray for 30 minutes!" If you are asked to pray before a class, make it sincere, don't try to impress the teacher or other kids with all the big words you might hear listening to others pray. Pray from your heart.

Teen: They are praying for man's approval, and God says they have their reward in full. What is their reward? Praying with sincerity, from the heart, brings a reward from God. Think about the difference between man's reward and God's reward. Which would you rather have? Why?

Adult: Why do you suppose that God wants us to pray if he already knows what we need? Do you ever feel that your prayers are a want list? Have you tried to pray a full prayer where you asked for nothing, and spent the whole time in praise to the Father? In addition to the Psalms, you can find examples where Solomon, the prophets and others prayed heartfelt prayers of thanks and praise to God. Maybe you can try it this week.

PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAY:
For God to help us pray more genuine heartfelt prayers

April Memory Verse:
Psalm 56:3 (ESV)
³ When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.