

THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON

DATE: March 3, 2019

SUBJECT: THE LORD'S PRAYER—A Model: (5) Not Being Brought into Temptation, but Being Delivered from Evil (2 of 5)—Pride

SCRIPTURES: Matthew 6:13a; Luke 11:4b; Proverbs 16:18; Proverbs 16:5a; Daniel 4:4-37; Jeremiah 13:1-18

AIM: For the children to recognize some of the ways Satan tempts us and to help them learn to how to resist him and his temptations. (The focus this week will be on pride.)

SUGGESTED MEMORY VERSES TO CHOOSE FROM: Matthew 6:13a (And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.); Proverbs 16:18 (Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.); Proverbs 16:5a (Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to Jehovah;...); 1 Peter 5:5b (...God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.); Daniel 4:37 b,d (...the King of the heavens,...He is able to abase those who walk in pride.)

SUGGESTED SONGS: 174 (When Ugly Satan); 173 (To The Foe My Woe Is Always No); 146 (I Want The Lord To Have The First Place In My Heart); 10 (Inside Me); 9317 *Bible Story Songs Daniel Song 17* (On Top of My Palace); *New song* (Don't Be Proud)

CRAFT IDEAS: Print out Proverbs 16:18 and have children color or decorate to make a frame-able quote.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1RiyX4F81vTwXsvfb688bGqNFzC1-FfmK>

BACKGROUND: In the model of prayer the Lord gave us, Matthew 6:13a says, **And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.** Last week we saw that this evil one is the enemy, Satan, who tries to damage us through outward things like junk food, video games, etc. [If appropriate for the children, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, etc. can also be mentioned] and inward things (vanity, vain imaginations, negative thoughts about others, TV, etc.). Satan's main purpose is to make us useless to God. In the next four lessons, we want to see other ways in which Satan tempts us—through pride, greed, jealousy, and disobedience and rebellion. This week we will talk about how Satan tempts us through pride.

CONTENT: In the Bible, Satan is called “the tempter” (Matt. 4:3; 1 Thess. 3:5). Tempt means to persuade, lure, or entice to do wrong. In the garden of Eden, Satan came as the serpent to tempt Eve (Gen. 3:1-6; 1 Tim. 2:14). In the New Testament, he came to tempt the Lord Jesus in the wilderness (Matt. 4:1). Today, he is still the tempter and now he comes to tempt us. We should not be ignorant of Satan's devices (2 Cor. 2:11); we should be aware of some major areas in which he tempts us.

I. To be proud, high-minded, or boastful. What is pride? It is to have an excessively high opinion of oneself. It can make us conceited, haughty and even arrogant. Satan was filled with pride because God made him more beautiful than the other angels. He eventually wanted to become equal with God (Isa. 14:12-14). He often tempts us to be proud by making us think that we are somebody high and big and that we know a lot. When our parents or teachers try to help us, we may answer, “I already know!” Sometimes, when others praise us—even a little—we become so proud of ourselves! Other times, we may have a haughty attitude and look down on those whom we think are not as smart, capable, good looking, popular, etc., as we think we are. Or, we may be boasters, bragging to others about our various accomplishments.

A. Proverbs 16:18 says, “Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.” Pride was the cause of Satan's downfall. He tempts us to be proud because he also wants us to fall. Here are stories of some who suffered because of their pride.

Nebuchadnezzar from Daniel 4:4-37. Nebuchadnezzar was the great and powerful king of Babylon. There in Babylon, the testimony of some young captives (Daniel and his three friends) was so strong that eventually

King Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged the Lord as the God of gods, and the Lord of kings, and he blessed and praised Him (Dan. 2:47; 3:28-29; 4:2-3). Later on, however, Nebuchadnezzar got very proud of who he was and of all he had accomplished. The Lord warned him to change his ways and even gave him time to repent. But one day, he was walking upon the roof of the royal palace in Babylon and said, “Is this not Babylon the great, which I have built up as a royal house by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?” Before he even finished speaking, the Lord judged him for his pride—his kingdom was taken away from him and he became insane for seven periods of time (this may be seven years). At the end of those days, Nebuchadnezzar recognized again that God was the Lord; his reasoning returned and he was restored to his kingdom.

The following story supports the point from the Bible, but it may be helpful to note to the children that this is not a story from the Bible.

Optional Story of a Flying Turtle. Once there was a turtle who wanted to fly like an eagle because he saw that the eagle could soar very high above everything on the earth. One day, the turtle got an idea. He begged the eagle to take him up to the sky—each of them would bite the ends of a stick. The eagle complied. When they were up in the sky, people marveled at the sight and wondered who had come up with such a bright idea! The turtle was so proud when he heard the praise. When he could no longer resist the temptation of bragging, he opened his mouth and shouted, “It was me!” He fell off the stick and he was no more!

B. Proverbs 16:5a says, “Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to Jehovah...” The following story shows how ugly pride is in the eyes of the Lord.

The spoiled girdle from Jeremiah 13:1-18. At one point in the history of the children of Israel, the people refused to listen to the Lord’s word; they were very stubborn and also worshipped idols (vs. 10). Even though they were in such a poor condition, they were very proud. The Lord wanted to let them know how He felt about their pride. So He told Jeremiah, one of His prophets, to buy a linen girdle and wear it. Later, He told him to take the girdle and hide it by the river Euphrates, in a cleft of a rock. At the end of many days, Jehovah told him to retrieve it. When Jeremiah retrieved it, it was spoiled and good for nothing. Jehovah told Jeremiah, “Even so I will destroy the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem.” He wanted His people to listen and repent, “Hear and give ear and do not be proud...” (vs. 15a). Their pride really saddened Him: “...My soul will weep in secret places for your pride...” (vs. 17m). Eventually, the children of Israel were judged by the Lord because they did not listen and repent. [**Illustration:** After telling this story, show the children a damp, filthy rag with holes in it. Tell them that this is how the Lord views pride. Prepare such a rag prior to teaching this lesson.]

Note to teachers: It is not meant that all the details of the Scripture portions be given to the children. The portions are included to emphasize the matter of pride and can be told in a brief way as summarized above.

SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM: *Please pray and fellowship over which applications to cover. Covering one or two applications may be sufficient depending on the age group.*

We have to realize that pride is within each one of us. Satan knows this and tempts us, even targeting this particular area with the intent to damage us and cause us to sin. Once we recognize his tactics, we can learn to resist him. We can resist Satan’s temptation to be proud by *learning to be humble*, by *learning to help others do well*, and by *learning to give the thanks, the praise, and the glory to the Lord*.

- Even if we are good at something, we should be humble. If we always depend on the Lord by praying to Him and asking Him for His help in everything we do, it will help us to be humble.
- However the Lord has graced us, it is His intention that if we do something well, we should help others also do well. Some examples: we may be good at *memorizing our verses*. If so, the Lord would want us to help others learn their memory verses well also. *Schoolwork*—if we do well and get good grades, we should help

others do well and get good grades also. We can help younger siblings or friends to study before a test. *Sports*—if we can play well, we can help and teach others to play well also. (Furthermore, we should learn good sportsmanship. If we happen to lose, we need to learn to accept defeat humbly and with a good attitude, etc.)

- If others praise for us for doing well at something, or being capable at something, we need to tell them that it is the Lord who has helped us do well, or be capable, etc. We should learn to always give the thanks, the praise, and the glory to the Lord. This is a big safeguard against pride. We always need to remember to thank the Lord and praise Him for His help, mercy, and grace to us!

Adapted from the Church in New York City Children's Meeting Lessons: 8/1/82; 2/28/87; 9/23/90; 8/30/98; 9/1/02; 3/9/08; 3/03/14