

Jenaministries – Part 2 – Bible Study Worksheet

A) Living Right - Worksheet

Read: Part 2 #5) Can You Pray Wrong?

Part 2 #6) Do You Show Favoritism?

Part 2 #9) Is Your Tongue a Weapon?

1. How would you describe your prayer life? Does God usually answer your prayer requests? Do you think your prayer life can be improved? How?

2. What does God say about favoritism? Have you ever experienced favoritism in your life? How did it make you feel?

3. How do you speak to people when you're angry or frustrated? Do you sometimes say hurtful words? Do you ask God to help you with that?

4. The Lord wants us to treat people the way we want to be treated. List areas in your way of treating people that Jesus could help you improve.

5. Can You Pray Wrong?

Does God answer your prayers the way you want Him to? Has anyone ever told you that you pray wrong? Praying is just talking to God, so how can you do that wrong?

But the Bible does tell us we can pray wrong, especially if we only pray for ourselves and our own desires and needs.

We should not always come to God with just our list. I know that's not easy. It's comes naturally to pray for stuff we want and need.

But we should pray with good motives. We should pray that God's will be done in our situations. Not to pray only for ourselves and for our own pleasure. See (**Scripture 1. Wrong Motives - James 4:2-3**). This scripture explains that we ask but don't receive because we ask with wrong motives, that we may spend what we get on our pleasures.

Asking for the Lord's will to be done during a stressful situation brings peace in our hearts and helps us get through any trial or storm we face.

In every situation, we should try to ask God for wisdom of what His will is in that situation. God tells us in scripture (**Scripture 2. If You Lack Wisdom - James 1:5**) that God gives wisdom to those who ask Him for it.

We can also ask God for wisdom of what we should pray for. Sometimes when you ask God to pray for things that He wants you to pray for can change the way you pray. Certainly not every time, but Jesus knows when and how to touch our hearts with perfect timing.

Personal example – A friend requested prayer for his young adult son. His son just found out he had cancer. Later, when I started to pray for his son, I thought I heard the Lord say, "Don't pray for him". I thought maybe it was my imagination, but when I started praying again, the same thing happened. So, I did not pray for my friend's son. The next time I saw my friend, he told me that his son was lying and was just trying to hurt his dad. He did not have cancer.

Also, If we're trusting God, we won't be as worried or anxious when bad situations come our way. See (**Scripture 3. Do Not Be Anxious - Philippians 4:6-7**). This scripture tells us not to worry or be anxious about anything, and to pray our petitions with thanksgiving.

Jesus himself taught us how to pray. (**Scripture 4. This is How You Should Pray - Matthew 6:9-13**). First recognize God as God and that He is your loving father. I try to always start prayers with giving thanks. When we thank God for all the good stuff in our lives, we are recognizing that everything comes from Him and that He is God and a good father.

Next Jesus taught us to ask for His will to be done in our lives. Then once you are in the mind frame of recognizing God as God and a loving father, and wanting His will to be done through you, then you ask for things on your list.

So bottom line, we shouldn't make our prayers about me, me, me – rather about God, God, God. Praying isn't all about getting stuff we want or think we need. It's about getting closer to God and living for Jesus.

jenaministries – Part 2 5. Can You Pray Wrong?

Scripture 1. Wrong Motives

James 4:2-3 You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

Scripture 2. If You Lack Wisdom

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Scripture 3. Do Not Be Anxious

Philippians 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Scripture 4. This is How You Should Pray

Matthew 6:9-13 "This, then, is how you should pray: " 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. '

6. Do You Show Favoritism?

Favoritism – a very ugly thing. It destroys families. It breaks hearts and causes horrible conflicts.

So much pain comes from favoritism. It not only hurts the ones not favored, but can hurt the ones favored as well.

Look what happened when Israel showed favoritism to his son Joseph. It caused so much pain in the family that Joseph's brothers wanted to kill him, but ended up selling their own brother as a slave! (**Scriptures 1. Joseph Sold as a Slave - Genesis 37:3-28**).

The Lord instructs us not to show favoritism (**Scriptures 2. Do Not Show Favoritism**). In our church, we should not treat those with wealth better than those without. Scriptures even say that if you show favoritism, you sin. So not only are you hurting people and causing pain and conflict, but you are actually sinning against God.

God does not show favoritism (Thank you Jesus!). His wonderful salvation and Holy Spirit are for everyone who reaches for it (**Scriptures 3. God Does Not Show Favoritism**). It doesn't matter how you have lived your life, or what you have done. Nor your race, sex, age, or bloodline. Jesus loves us all.

Wounds from favoritism run deep. As a child, I experienced an extreme case of favoritism and I was definitely not the favorite. Growing up seeing one of your siblings get almost all the love and attention is seriously hurtful. It's like the parents saying, I don't care about or love you, I only love that child, and you are insignificant and unimportant. I still have issues over that today. For me, it's not something you can just get over. It stays with you. Certain things can happen that brings all this to memory and then go through it all over again.

I am so appreciative that Jesus doesn't show favoritism. God's love is one thing no one can take away from us. He will never fail us or leave us.

Of course, we get along with different people at different levels, and some kids are easier than others. And we tend to be closer to certain family members than others. But still, we should be courteous and kind to everyone. We should treat all our children the same and show love and respect to them all.

Especially if you are a born again Christian, you absolutely should not be showing favoritism. The Bible makes it very clear; God does not want us to show favoritism in any situation. It can be hard. Temptation to show favoritism can be strong, but we need to rise above that and never show favoritism in any part of our lives.

jenaministries – Part 2 6. Do You Show Favoritism?

Scripture 1. Joseph Sold as a Slave

Genesis 37:3-28 Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it."

His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.

Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."

When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, "What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?" His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

Now his brothers had gone to graze their father's flocks near Shechem, and Israel said to Joseph, "As you know, your brothers are grazing the flocks near Shechem. Come, I am going to send you to them." "Very well," he replied.

So he said to him, "Go and see if all is well with your brothers and with the flocks, and bring word back to me." Then he sent him off from the Valley of Hebron.

When Joseph arrived at Shechem, a man found him wandering around in the fields and asked him, "What are you looking for?" He replied, "I'm looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are grazing their flocks?"

"They have moved on from here," the man answered. "I heard them say, 'Let's go to Dothan.'"

So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan. But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him.

"Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other. "Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams."

When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. "Let's not take his life," he said. "Don't shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the wilderness, but don't lay a hand on him." Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father.

So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the ornate robe he was wearing—and they took him and threw him into the cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it.

As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt.

Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed. So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.

jenaministries – Part 2 6. Do You Show Favoritism?

Scripture 2. Do Not Show Favoritism

James 2:1 My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism.

James 2:9 But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.

1 Timothy 5:21 I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism.

Exodus 23:3 And do not show favoritism to a poor person in a lawsuit.

Scripture 3. God Does Not Show Favoritism

Acts 10:34-35 Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.

Colossians 3:25 Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism.

Romans 2:11 For God does not show favoritism.

Ephesians 6:9 And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.

9. Is Your Tongue a Weapon?

Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me. Such an untrue saying. Words can hurt deeply. The tongue can be a powerful weapon.

People can have a good heart and really care for others, but still cause a lot of grief with their tongue. It doesn't matter if they do all kinds of good works; if they can't control what they say, trouble will surely come their way and someone will get hurt.

Not to say we should never speak up when necessary. Jesus spoke very harshly about the Pharisees and the teachers of the law. But He spoke as a teacher and out of love (**Scriptures 1. – Jesus Spoke Harshly**).

There are times when it is proper to say something that may not be well received. Setting boundaries sometimes hurts people's feelings, but we must do it. You may be accused of not forgiving or not being a good Christian when you set boundaries, but don't listen to that. Let Jesus lead you when setting the needed boundaries in your relationships.

Also, we are taught in the Bible that we should keep each other in check. If someone is doing something that is separating them from God, we should speak up (**Scriptures 2. – Keep Each Other in Check**).

The tongue is spoken of many times in the Holy Bible (**Scriptures 3 – The Tongue**). James explains that the tongue is like the rudder of a boat. Even though the rudder is a small part of the boat, it controls which way the boat will go. Such is the tongue. It is a small part of our body, but can cause so much grief and trouble.

The Bible also talks about deceit and lying. That may be the worst thing that can come out of our mouths. Criticism and hurtful words are bad enough, but deceit is totally unacceptable. Once I know a person is prone to lying, I will never believe a word that person says again. Dishonesty brings distrust.

I used to be pretty outspoken and angry all the time. But since I've come to know Jesus, I've gotten better. The Lord has helped me be more patient and to see things differently. He has also helped me with setting boundaries and not allowing others to cause harm.

If people get angry at you for being too outspoken, let Jesus help you with that. I know it's not easy to change the way you talk, but with God's help, you can do it! Living a Christian life changes the way you think, which in turn changes the way you express your thoughts.

jenaministries – Part 2 - 9. Is Your Tongue a Weapon?

Scriptures 1. Jesus Spoke Harshly

Matthew 23:1-4 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: “The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.

Matthew 23:13-33 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are.

“Woe to you, blind guides! You say, ‘If anyone swears by the temple, it means nothing; but anyone who swears by the gold of the temple is bound by that oath.’ You blind fools! Which is greater: the gold, or the temple that makes the gold sacred? You also say, ‘If anyone swears by the altar, it means nothing; but anyone who swears by the gift on the altar is bound by that oath.’ You blind men! Which is greater: the gift, or the altar that makes the gift sacred? Therefore, anyone who swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. And anyone who swears by the temple swears by it and by the one who dwells in it. And anyone who swears by heaven swears by God’s throne and by the one who sits on it.

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You build tombs for the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous. And you say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’ So you testify against yourselves that you are the descendants of those who murdered the prophets. Go ahead, then, and complete what your ancestors started!

“You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell?”

Luke 16:14 The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. He said to them, “You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God’s sight.”

jenaministries – Part 2 - 9. Is Your Tongue a Weapon?

Scriptures 2. Keep Each Other in Check

Matthew 18:15-18 "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. "Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

Scriptures 3. The Tongue

Proverbs 15:1-4 A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of wise adorns knowledge, but the mouth of the fool gushes folly. The eyes of the LORD are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good. The soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit.

Psalms 50:19 You use your mouth for evil and harness your tongue to deceit.

Psalms 64:3 They sharpen their tongues like swords and aim cruel words like deadly arrows.

Psalms 37:30 The mouths of the righteous utter wisdom, and their tongues speak what is just.

James 1:26 Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.

James 3:4-12 Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. Can both fresh water and saltwater flow from the same spring? My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

1 Peter 3:9-10 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech.