

PERSISTENT PRAYER

June 22, 2024

Bible Readings

Take a few minutes to read the Bible verses listed and ask the Holy Spirit to lead you in how this verse applies to you this week.

Luke 18:1-8, Matthew 26:39-44, Matthew 11:28

Memory Verse

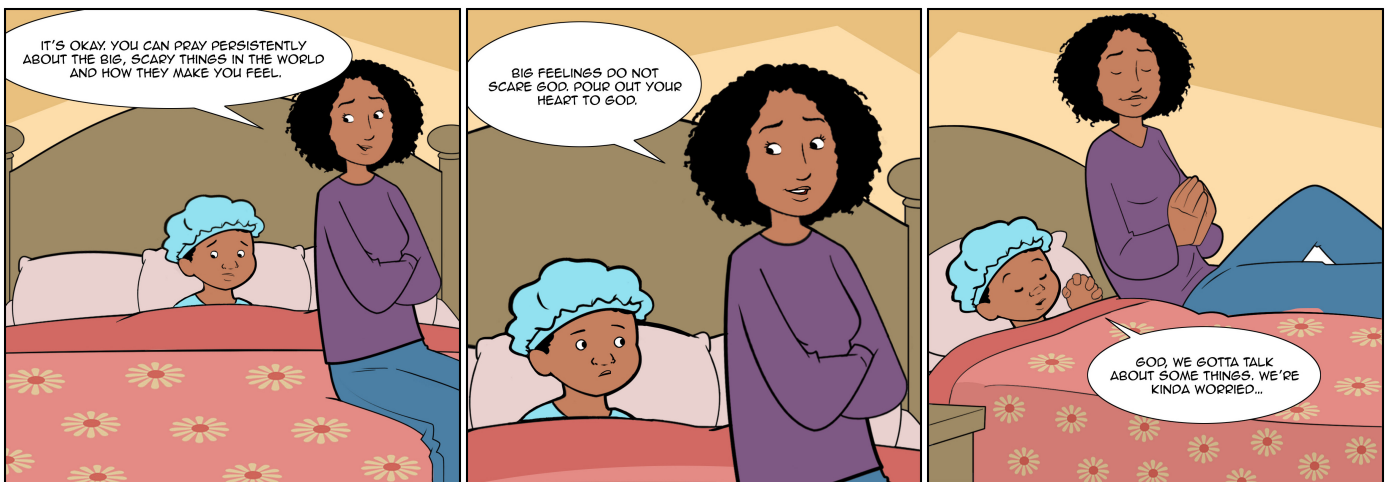
Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. (NIV)

Matthew 7:7-8



CASEY'S DAY

written by Ron Vandenburg
illustrated by Chad Thompson



What would you do if you fell off your bike and got hurt? You'd call someone like a parent, teacher, or friend, right? Would you call only once? No, you'd probably keep calling, trusting that someone would come. What about an inside hurt, like sadness, anger, or fear? Who would you talk to when those emotions show up? Of course, you can call on the same trusted people in your life for these kinds of pain, but could you also call on God for help?

Absolutely! God wants you to talk to him about your big feelings all the time. Just like the widow in Jesus' story who kept asking the judge for fairness, Jesus wants you to pray without giving up, and unlike the judge who made the widow wait, Jesus said that God would "surely hurry and help" us (Luke 18:8). What's more is that Jesus himself felt big feelings and cried out in the Garden of Gethsemane. He persistently prayed about the hardship ahead while trusting his Father's will. The Bible tells us he prayed the same prayer three times.

And his Heavenly Father answered by giving him the inner strength and peace to do God's will here on earth, as it is in heaven.

Like Jesus, you can pray persistently about the big, scary things in the world and how they make you feel. Big feelings do not scare God. He welcomes you to talk to him about them and to keep talking about them. He wants you to trust him.

Prayer

Lord, I praise you because you are fair and just. Sometimes, I think I should carry all my heavy feelings alone rather than trust others and you. I am sorry about that. Thank you, Jesus, for understanding what human emotions feel like. Please help me to keep calling you and trusting that you will do your will here on earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus' name, Amen.

written by Amanda Smith

<https://kidscorner.net/devotions/persistent-prayer>

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