

# To Whom Shall We Pray?

## Bible Lesson: Matthew 6:5-9

### NEW WORDS

inner room	altar
consumed	beloved
Elijah	prophets of Baal
Mt. Carmel	trench
drenched	tenderly



Do you have a best friend? Someone you love being with and to whom you tell your thoughts and your secrets? Someone you just can't wait to talk with when you do well on a test or when you have exciting news to share? Your best friend might be someone you know from school or from your neighborhood. Or it might be your sister or brother or your mom or dad.

There is someone else who is your best friend. Do you know who that is? It is God. Even though you cannot see God, He is with you always, and He is your closest friend. He wants to hear about all that happens to you each day and about everything that is important to you.

Matthew 6:6 says, "But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret." Jesus

teaches that you are to pray to God and to God alone.

Why is God the only one to whom you should pray? God is the only true God. He is the only One who knows your thoughts, hears your prayers, and enjoys your praise! He wants you to come with joy and confidence to Him just as you would come to your best friend. There is no one else who loves you as much as God does. There is no one else who is more concerned about your needs.

In the Old Testament, *Elijah* and the *prophets of Baal* met together on *Mt. Carmel* to determine whose god was the true God. The prophets who believed Baal was the true god built an altar, placed an ox upon it, and called upon

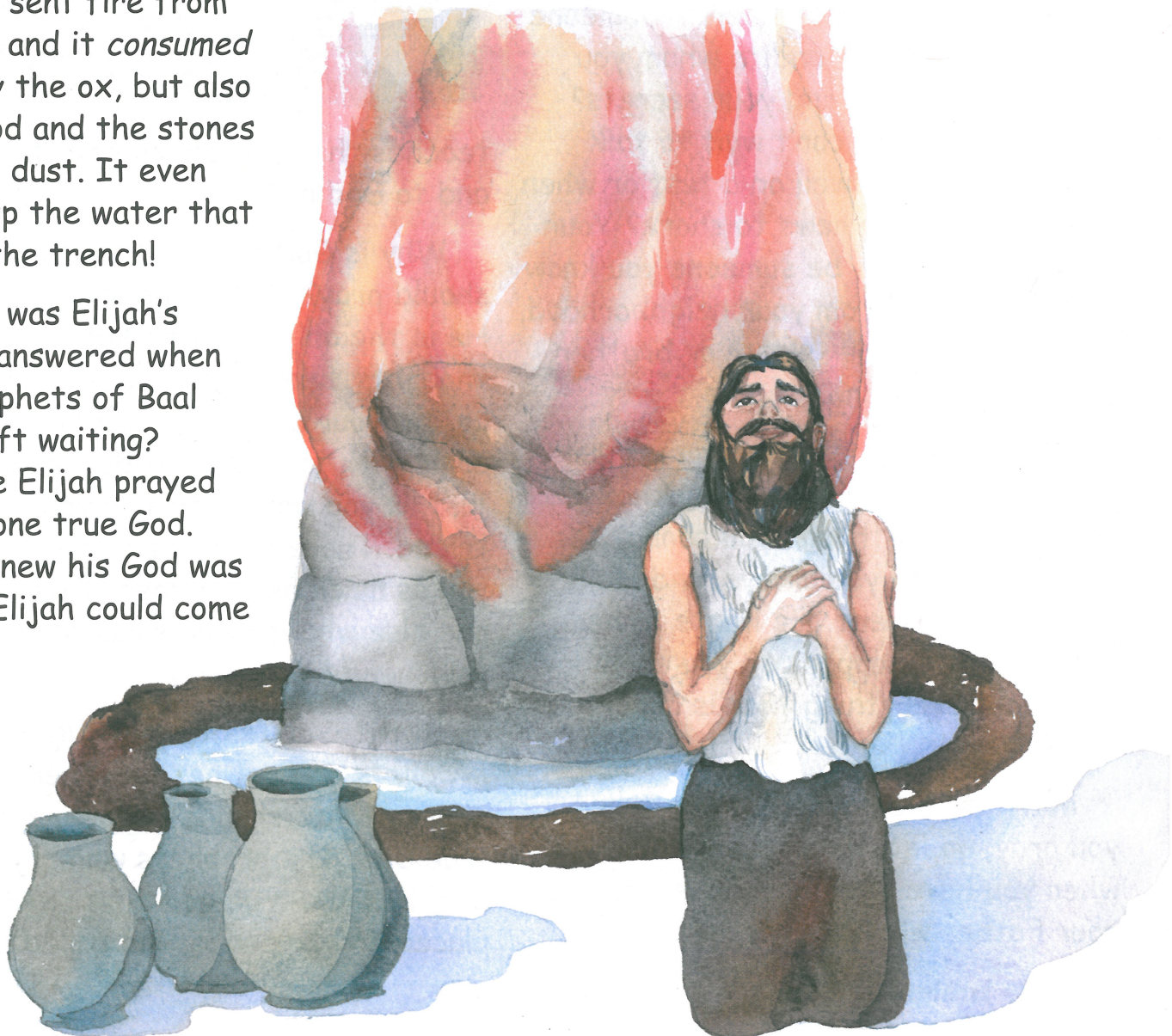
their god to send fire from heaven to burn up the *altar*. They prayed and pleaded and called out in a loud voice to their god for hours. But there was no voice, no answer, nothing. Finally, they had to give up.

Then it was Elijah's turn. He built an altar of stone, dug a *trench* around it, and arranged the wood and the ox upon it. Then he *drenched* the altar with water. Not just once, but three times! The trench was filled with water. And then Elijah prayed. Do you remember what happened? Elijah's God answered him! He sent fire from heaven, and it *consumed* not only the ox, but also the wood and the stones and the dust. It even licked up the water that was in the trench!

Why was Elijah's prayer answered when the prophets of Baal were left waiting? Because Elijah prayed to the one true God. Elijah knew his God was there. Elijah could come

confidently and cheerfully to God, knowing God would always listen and answer with love.

Do you remember the first commandment? It says, "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me." Elijah knew this meant he was to pray to no one else but the one true and living God. It was God who was concerned about Elijah's need, and it was God alone who could answer that need. There is no other God who knows what is best for you. There is no other God who will answer in love.



## Memory Verse

But you, when you pray, go into your *inner room*,  
and when you have shut your door, pray to your  
Father who is in secret. *Matthew 6:6*

**Enrichment Memory Verse:** *Jeremiah 10:10*

1. Read Matthew 6:5. Look up the word *hypocrite* in a dictionary. Write the definition below. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. WHERE does the hypocrite like to pray? \_\_\_\_\_  
WHY? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Look at the lesson for today. Circle in colored pencil to WHOM we should pray. Write the answer. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Look at Matthew 6:6 and list the instructions for prayer in this verse.  
a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_ c. \_\_\_\_\_
5. In Matthew 6:8, WHAT does God know? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Read Matthew 7:9-11. Think about how a good father wants to give his son the things he needs and asks for. God is our Heavenly Father. Look at verse 11 and write down what our Heavenly Father wants to give us when we pray.  
\_\_\_\_\_



**A  
P  
P  
L  
Y**

### WHY is God the only one to whom we should pray?

- ★ Thank God for always listening to your prayers.
- ★ Thank Him for answering your prayers in love.
- ★ Take time to pray to God every day.

## The Introduction: Our Father, who art in heaven.

What does this mean? God thereby tenderly encourages us to believe that He is truly our Father, and that we are truly His children, so that we may boldly and confidently come to Him in prayer, even as beloved children come to their dear father.

Finish the equation for each math problem.

**A**  $15 + 3 =$

**I**  $53 - 11 =$

**R**  $12 \times 2 =$

**C**  $10 + 20 + 10 =$

**N**  $36 + 17 =$

**S**  $28 + 22 =$

**E**  $7 \times 3 =$

**O**  $14 + 7 + 6 =$

**T**  $11 + 3 + 14 =$

**F**  $21 - 5 =$

**P**  $53 - 17 =$

**U**  $65 - 4 =$

**H**  $6 + 2 + 3 =$

**Y**  $31 + 15 =$

**W**  $17 + 15 =$

Fill in the blanks with the correct letter from the answers above.

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_    \_\_\_ \_\_\_    \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_

36 24 18 46    28 27    46 27 61 24

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_    \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_    \_\_\_ \_\_\_

16 18 28 11 21 24    32 11 27    42 50

\_\_\_ \_\_\_    \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_

42 53    50 21 40 24 21 28

List some places where you can go to pray.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_