

Prayer Stoppers and Starters

CiP Family Call – April 20, 2024

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|  | WELCOME Let's Get Together | | Notes: |
|  | PRAISE & WORSHIP Let's Sing and Dance |  I'm Sorry, Lord.mp3 | |
|  | INTRODUCTORY QUESTION Let's Talk | What is something that you treasure or cherish? | |
|  | BIBLICAL STORY Let's Listen to God's Word | STORY: Psalm 66:18 and others KEY VERSE: 1 John 1:9 | Sample script → |
|  | LISTENING PRAYER Let's Talk with God | What is God telling you about: Himself, yourself, others, and what to do? | Ask God to show you your "prayer stoppers." |
|  | JOURNALING Let's Write and Draw |  Ruth Fazal Listening Track.mp3 | |
|  | SHARING Let's Listen to Each Other | | |
|  | PRAYING Let's Pray for Each Other | | |
|  | WRAP UP | Sample script → | |
|  | LISTENING TO GOD ALL WEEK LONG | | |
|  | PRAISE & WORSHIP Let's Sing and Dance Again |  I'm Sorry, Lord.mp3 | |
|  | DISMISSAL & BLESSING | I bless you to ask for and receive God's forgiveness. | |



BIBLICAL STORY – Let’s Listen to God’s Word

This lesson talks about how cherishing sin stops our prayers and confession “unstops” prayer. What does it mean to confess our sins?

BIBLICAL STORY: Psalm 66:18 and others

KEY VERSE: 1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

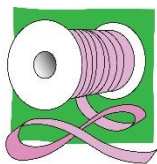
Last week, we talked about being God’s friends and the importance of prayer. Today we will talk about something that might stop our prayers. I’d like to begin by asking you a question... (Incorporate your family or group’s answers to the Introductory Question – for example,) Benjamin treasures a picture of his grandfather, and Kimberly treasures her children. These are things that are important to us, and we hold on to them. In our passage today, we will see that there is something that God does not want us to hold on to (treasure/cherish).

*King David wrote in **Psalm 66:18** – “If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.” Sins are like “prayer stoppers” that God wants us to turn away from (repent). Today we will look at some prayer stoppers that God speaks to us about in the Bible.*

Continue to share passages about “Prayer Stoppers,” including:

- Lying – “...each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body” (**Ephesians 4:25**, also see **Colossians 3:9 NLT**).
- Bullying – “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs...” (**Ephesians 4:29**).
- Staying angry – “Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice” (**Ephesians 4:31**, also see **Matthew 5:22**).
- Coveting – “You shall not covet...anything that belongs to your neighbor” (**Exodus 20:17**).
- Stealing – “You shall not steal” (**Exodus 20:15**, see also **Ephesians 4:28**).
- Gossiping (**Leviticus 19:16a NLT**) and pride/boasting (**Romans 12:16**).

*We have looked at some prayer stoppers; now let’s look at what will “unstop” our prayers: the prayer of confession. “If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (**1 John 1:9**). To confess means to admit what we did wrong and ask God to forgive us and help us live differently.*



WRAP UP

*Today we learned about many “prayer stoppers” – sins that God wants us to let go of. When we notice that we have a prayer stopper such as lying, hating someone, stealing, etc., we can confess our sins and ask God to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (**1 John 1:9**).*

Continue to summarize how God has spoken during the meeting by highlighting a couple of journal pages.

Additional Scriptures:

- **Psalm 139:23-24** – “Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”
- **Romans 7:18-25a** – “I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do... So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!”

“I’m Sorry, Lord” Lyrics:

Today while I was fighting with my brother
I wasn’t really thinking about You
But now I am thinking about You
And I just want to say ...I’m sorry, Lord

Today while I was telling a lie
I wasn’t really thinking about You
But now I’m thinking about You
And I just want to say...I’m sorry, Lord

Today while I was cheating on a test
I wasn’t really thinking about You
But now I’m thinking about You
And I just want to say...I’m sorry, Lord
Because I love you, Lord

I love you, Lord
I love you, Lord
I love you, Lord
I love you, Lord
I love you, Lord