



Unit 4, Lesson 16

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY: SEEK THE KINGDOM

MATTHEW 6:25-34;
7:7-14

THE STORY HOME

Relax. Don't worry about how long you'll live or getting the best things in life. Life brings problems, but fretting only hurts us and has no influence on God to move faster or change His good plan for us. Matthew 6:25-34 is one of two similar stories today where Jesus emphasizes the importance of caring for our souls as the cure for stewing about problems. That's why Jesus says to seek first the kingdom of God. Matthew 7:7-14 is the second passage. Here Jesus teaches that prayer is the chosen way to talk with God and ask for what we need. Pray and pray often is Jesus' advice.

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- I wonder about the people hearing Jesus teach. What do you think they worried about?
- How would you explain what prayer is to someone who does not pray?
- When you feel worried, where or when can you pray to God?
- How does Jesus tell us we should treat others? What does prayer have to do with our treatment of others?

TOGETHER HOME

Play a lively game of hide and seek. Write Sunday's Bible story references, Matthew 6:25-34, and 7:7-14 on a piece of paper. Hide the paper in one room and invite your children to seek it out. Announce that whoever finds it first gets to recap the Bible story and hide it again. Use this teaching moment to talk about the importance of seeking God's help and comfort in all of life's circumstances.

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

A crown cut-out could represent the kingdom of God. In this last week for the memory verse, "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets," (Matthew 7:12), urge your children to take turns writing a section of this verse on the crown. Post the crown with the memory verse on your refrigerator so every family member sees it as a daily reminder.

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NT Unit 4, Lesson 16, Take-home