

Sunday School Lesson

January 18, 2026

Prayer and Humility

**Genesis 18:25-27; Luke 18:9-14;
1 John 5:14-15**

Instructor: Ralph Gordon

PREVIOUS
Sunday School Live Lesson

January 11, 2026

Repentance and Faith

Luke 15:11-24; Acts 2:38-39

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Instructor: Michael McCants

NEXT Sunday School Live Lesson

January 25, 2026

Call and Growth

**Matthew 4:18-20; 16:16-18; John
21:15-18; 2 Peter 3:14-15, 18**

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Instructor: Ralph Gordon

TODAY'S Sunday School Lesson

January 18, 2026

Prayer and Humility

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**Genesis 18:25-27; Luke 18:9-14;
1 John 5:14-15**

Instructor: Ralph Gordon

Question for Us Today

January 18, 2026

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How do *you* pray to the Lord?

Sunday School Lesson Objective

January 18, 2026

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To understand and internalize God's messages for us today through these passages of Scripture, regarding prayer.

Sunday School Lesson Segments – 1

January 18, 2026

1. Bibliography

2. Points of Information: Genesis; Luke;
John

Sunday School Lesson Segments - 2

January 18, 2026

3. Lesson Context

4. Lesson Text

5. Remember These Things

Bibliography - 1

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Points of Information – Genesis

Genesis, the first Book in our Bible, is a collection of beginnings: Creation, Humankind, the Nation of Israel, and the stories of the patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, plus Joseph).

Points of Information – Genesis

16 Chapters 37 through 50 of the Book of Genesis focus primarily on Joseph and his plight: from a pit to Potiphar's house to prison and to a palace.

The stories of Joseph and his family, descendants of Jacob/Israel, are epic.

Points of Information – Luke

The Gospel according to Luke is one of the three Synoptic Gospels – along with Mark and Matthew.

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Luke, a Gentile physician (Colossians 4:14), also wrote the Book of the Acts of the Apostles.

Points of Information – Luke

Luke was a co-traveler, dear friend and ministerial colleague with the Apostle Paul.

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Luke wrote prominently about a number of women: Mary (mother of Jesus), Elisabeth (mother of John the Baptizer), Lydia, Priscilla, Candace, and others.

Points of Information – John

John the Disciple, the younger son of Zebedee and Salome and brother of James, was a fisherman by profession. Matthew 4:21; Mark 1:19; Luke 5:9,10.

19

John ministered extensively with Peter. Acts 3:1-11; 4:19-20; 8:14-17; Galatians 2:9.

Points of Information – John

John was the only one of the Twelve Disciples present at the Crucifixion.

John 19:25-27.

20

At the Cross, Jesus entrusted care of His mother (Mary) to this Disciple.

John 19:26-27.

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Lesson Context – Genesis

Earlier in the 18th Chapter of Genesis, Abraham has hosted Divine visitors from the Lord.

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Lesson Context – Genesis

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In this intercessory prayer, Abraham boldly negotiated with God on behalf of Sodom, which the Lord planned to destroy for its wickedness – along with Gomorrah.

Genesis 18:25 [NIV]

Far be it from you to do such a thing – to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?

Genesis 18:26 [NIV]

The LORD said, “If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

Genesis 18:27 [NIV]

Then Abraham spoke up again: “Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes,

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Lesson Context – Luke

Here, Jesus used parables to teach His Disciples, Pharisees, and others.

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Lesson Context – Luke

This segment is directed at those whom we might call “holier than thou.”

Luke 18:9 [NIV]

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable:

Luke 18:10 [NIV]

“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

Luke 18:11 [NIV]

The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God I thank You that I am not like other people – robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like the tax collector.

Luke 18:12 [NIV]

I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

Luke 18:13 [NIV]

“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to Heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’”

Luke 18:14 [NIV]

“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

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Lesson Context – 1 John

John the Disciple confidently spoke truth.

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Lesson Context – 1 John

John was now elderly and mature in his faith. He spoke to others in the faith as “my dear children.” [1 John 2:1]

1 John 5:14 [NIV]

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

1 John 5:15 [NIV]

And if we know that He hears us –
whatever we ask – we know that we
have what we asked of Him.

Remember these things:

Let us continue to pray with a purpose,
pray with humility, and pray with
confidence.