

22. The disciples picked up **seven** **twelve** baskets of scraps afterwards.

Underline all that Jesus did before He fed the people.

23. He thanked God for the food.

He gave them chairs to sit on.

He gave each disciple one loaf of bread and one fish.

He felt sorry for them.



13

The Knocking at Midnight

Bang, bang, bang, bang.

The man woke up from a deep sleep. What was that?

Bang, bang, bang, bang.

Someone was knocking at the door. Who would be knocking at their door at midnight?

Bang, bang, bang, bang.

“Who is it? What do you want?”

“I need something. Let me in.”

Then the man recognized the voice of one of his friends. “What do you want? Don’t you know it’s midnight?”

“I need some bread. A friend of mine has come from a long distance. I

have nothing to feed him. Please lend me three loaves.”

How irritating! What did the man mean waking him up at midnight to borrow something! “Don’t bother me. My door is shut. My children are asleep. I can’t do anything for you.”

In those days many houses had only one room. At night the family slept on mats on the floor. If the man did what his friend wanted, he would need to get up and be careful not to step on any of the children. Then he’d have to find the bread, unbar the door, then lock it again.



The light and noise would surely awaken his wife and children, if the banging hadn't already wakened them. All because someone ran out of bread. No indeed! He would not stir up his whole family just because a friend needed something.

But then he thought, *The man really does have a problem. He will not leave until I give him what he wants. Because he keeps insisting, I may as*

well get up and give him what he asked for. So that's what he did.

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That was the scene Jesus described to His disciples one day. One of them had said, "Lord, teach us to pray like John the Baptist taught his disciples."

The prayer Jesus taught the disciples is what we call the Lord's Prayer.

*Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.*

Thy kingdom come.

*Thy will be done in earth,
as it is in heaven.*

Give us this day our daily bread.

*And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.*

*And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:*

*For thine is the kingdom, and
the power, and the glory,
for ever. Amen.*

Jesus said only part of the prayer that day. He taught them the whole prayer at another time. But now He asked the disciples what they would do if a friend woke them up knocking on the door at midnight, begging for

three loaves of bread. He pointed out that the man in the house gave the bread only because his friend kept insisting. He did not give it because he was his friend.

Then Jesus asked three questions: "If a son asks for a piece of bread, will his father give him a stone? If he asks for a fish, will he give him a snake? If the child asks for an egg, will the father give him a scorpion?"

The Master did not wait for His disciples to answer those questions. He went on, "You fathers would not do anything like that. You give good things to your children. So does God. If you need something, ask God for it, and He will give it to you."

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Then Jesus pointed out a very important part of the Lord's Prayer. It was, "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." He said, "If you

don't forgive people for the wrongs they do against you, God won't forgive your sins either. He will forgive you just as much as you forgive other people."

This was not the only time Jesus said that to His disciples. He said the same thing when Peter asked if he should forgive his brother as many as seven times.

That day when Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He gave them a glimpse of God. They saw their heavenly Father as one who loved them more than an earthly father ever could. They saw Him as one who gave only good gifts to His children. They learned that God wanted them to come to Him and ask for what they needed.

God never sleeps, so their asking would not irritate Him as it had the man who was awakened by the knocking at midnight.

From the Story

Underline the answers.

1. The man who was knocking wanted to borrow some **eggs, bread, fish.**
2. The knocking man got bread because he **kept insisting, had a good friend, baked it himself.**

