

Pray



**Middle School & High School
Sunday School Lesson
November 1, 2020**



Mission Mandate

Unit 3 Aim:

Every believer's mission is to make disciples. With that mandate comes the authority to carry it out, no matter one's age, social status, or skill set. Missions reflects our relationship with God. If we are reaching toward God, we are also reaching for others.



Lesson 1 - Pray

Lesson 2 - Give

Lesson 3 - Prepare

Lesson 4 - Go



PRAY

We can always make a difference in the world because we can always pray.

Scripture

Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

(Matthew 18:19)



Discussion

1. What does prayer mean to you?
2. What are some situations in the world that make you feel hopeless?
3. If you could do anything about those situations, what would you do?
4. You may not be able to do anything, but God can. What is stopping you from asking Him.



Reaching Others



- How far do we have to travel to touch someone's heart?
- We all have experienced being in church, listening to a song on the radio, reading a book, or talking with a loved one when tears begin to well up in our eyes and our hearts are gripped by the words.
- *Do you recall when someone or something touched your hearts?*
 - If it was a person, did that person need to be physically standing next to you to touch your heart?
 - Instead of using his or her hands, what did the person use?
 - How did that make you feel?
- **We can touch others in the kingdom of God in many ways.** We can communicate God's love by our presence, by our words, or by our prayers when we cannot be present.

Your Value

- You may think no one notices you or you do not possess the talent, money, or skills needed to make a difference. That is not the case.
- **You are fearfully and wonderfully made and are very important in the kingdom of God.**
- **You are:**
 - loved by God,
 - crafted by His hand, and
 - called to a purpose.



No Substitute for You



You are needed.

A man was on the beach tossing starfish back into the ocean, one at a time. A boy, witnessing this, informed the man that his efforts were futile—he could not possibly make a difference. The man picked up a starfish and smiled at the boy as he tossed it into the ocean. “Well,” the man said, “I made a difference for that one.”

You are one of a kind.

- Some things only you can do.
- Some places only you can go.
- Some people only you can touch.

You can change the world.

- When you inhale oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide, you change the atmosphere of the world around you.
- Just as breathing changes the physical world, breathing a simple prayer can change the spiritual world.

What God Can Do Through You

- God can do amazing things through you.
- The Bible says the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is living inside us (Romans 8:10–11).
- You may feel like you are nothing, but the God who is everything can do something through you.
- **When we doubt ourselves, we are really doubting God and His ability to move and change lives.**



Caring for Others

- Whose problems are we supposed to be concerned about?
- “Mind your own business” is a popular phrase, but as Christians, we are called to do more than mind our own business. We are to care for the needs of others.

Read Philippians 2:3–4.

- What are some things we might be doing out of selfishness or self-centeredness?
- How are we supposed to think about one another?
- Aside from looking out for our own needs, which comes naturally to most of us, what are we supposed to be doing?
- What are some ways you could look out for the needs of others in the coming week?





Standing in the Gap



In Ezekiel 22:30 the Lord was looking for someone to “stand in the gap.” He was looking for someone to intervene for His people and step in so He would not destroy them, but He found no one.

- What do you think Ezekiel 22:30 is saying about the power of prayer?
- What happens to a nation when no one is willing to stand in the gap for it?

The Lord listens when we pray for others. He hears us when we call His name on their behalf. Others benefit when we give our best in prayer.

Read Deuteronomy 9:25–29.

- Who is talking in this passage?
 - What is Moses saying on behalf of his people?
- Moses took the time to pray for people who were not praying for themselves.
 - Praying is what leaders do; they pray for those for whom they are responsible.
 - What was the result of Moses standing in the gap?



God's Responses When We Pray for Others

When we take the time to pray for others, God listens and blesses them because of our commitment to Him and our prayer life.

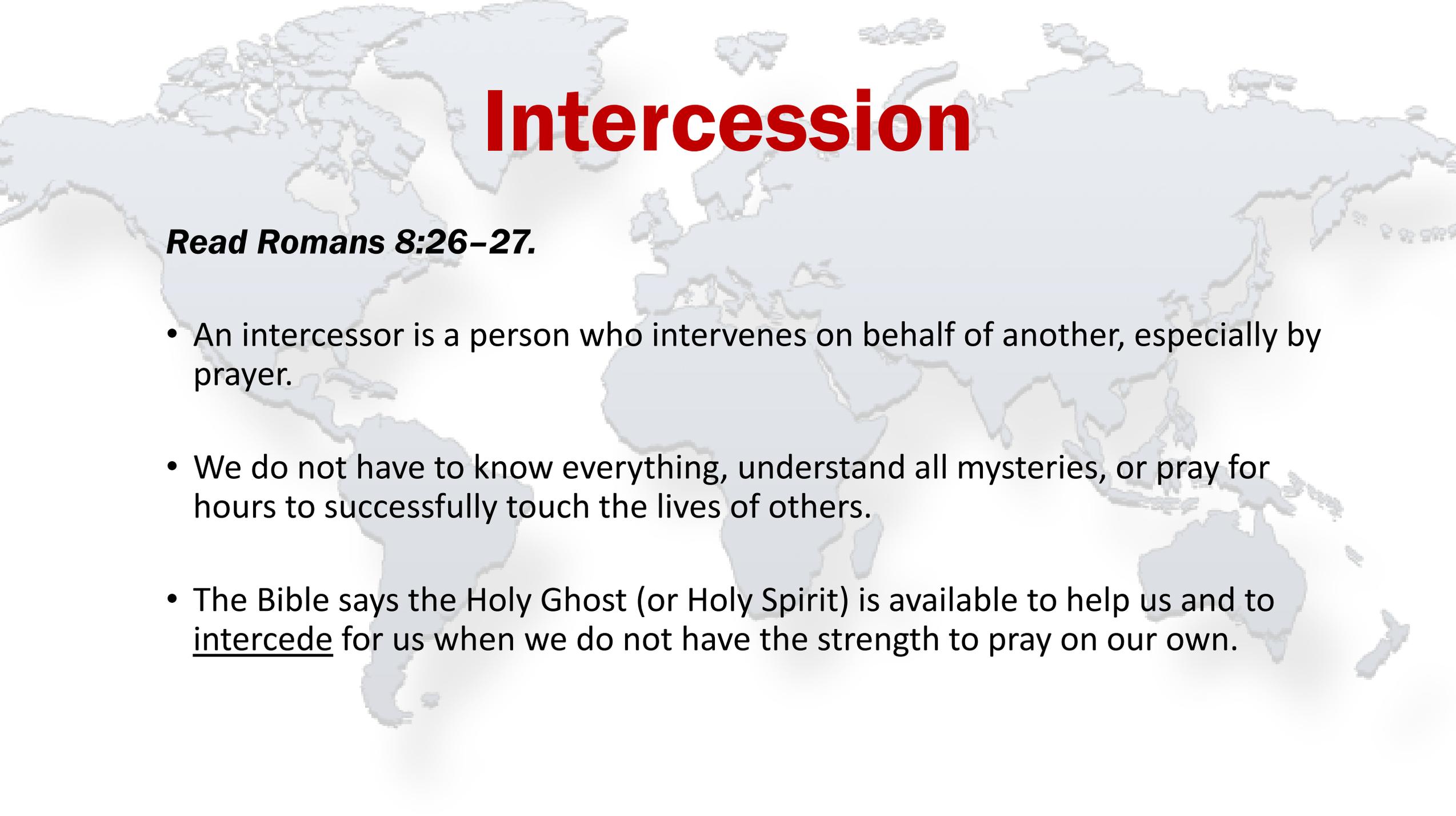
Read Job 42:10.

- What did the Lord do for Job's friends because Job prayed for them?
- Job's friends had not been very encouraging to him.
 - We do not pray for others because they have been good to us.
 - We do not pray for others because they deserve it.
- **We pray for others because God has loved us with an everlasting love, and He showers us with mercy and forgiveness.**
 - God has given us gifts we cannot afford.
 - God has offered us grace we cannot earn.
 - God has granted us eternal life instead of the death we deserve.

Read Numbers 6:24–26.

- Ask the Lord to be gracious to others, even if you might not want to be gracious to them.
- Ask the Lord to bless others, prosper the work of their hands, and keep them out of harm's way.
- Ask the Lord to show others the fullness of His glory, extend to them the greatness of His grace, and make His face shine upon them.





Intercession

Read Romans 8:26–27.

- An intercessor is a person who intervenes on behalf of another, especially by prayer.
- We do not have to know everything, understand all mysteries, or pray for hours to successfully touch the lives of others.
- The Bible says the Holy Ghost (or Holy Spirit) is available to help us and to intercede for us when we do not have the strength to pray on our own.



Prayer

Prayer changes things. God moves through our prayers to impact others and to impact our lives in incredible ways. Think of a time when you prayed, and God moved in the situation. What did you pray? What happened?

When we look at examples of prayer throughout the Bible, we discover that prayer changes more than things: It changes people as well. Prayer can change someone's situation, but it can also dramatically alter the individual for whom we are praying. Just as important, is the impact prayer has on us. Seeing the power of the Spirit moving through us to impact others leaves a lasting impression. If we are genuinely praying, it will change us. **Make prayer part of your daily routine.** Don't just pray; pray deeply; and pray kingdom prayers. As you do, you will be changed, and so will those around you.

We can always make a difference in the world because we can always pray!