

— **BILLY the Kid** —

When a kid starts to pray, God answers his prayers in unexpected and sometimes terrifying ways, teaching him that God hears his prayers and knows what is best for his life.

Actors: Billy, Fred, Dad, Mom, Kid 1, pack of wild kids

Props: Paper bag with \$\$\$ signs written on it, box of toys to spill offstage

Fred: Hey Billy.

Billy: Hey Fred.

Fred: Hey, We've been learning a lot about prayer these past few days, haven't we?

Billy: Yeah, a lot.

Fred: I've been trying to pray more every day. How about you?

Billy: Um, not too much.

Fred: Well, don't you have any prayer requests you'd like to ask God for?

Billy: Um, I don't really know what to ask for?

Fred: You can ask for anything. God just wants to hear from you and answer your prayers.

Billy: Yeah, right. Maybe I'll think of some things and pray about them today.

Fred: Alright, see you later then. *<exits>*

Billy: Yeah, see you later. *<pause>* Okay, I'll try to say a prayer. *<folds hands and prays>*
Dear God, could you please, please, please make me rich! Give me a huge pile of money so I can buy a new bicycle and lots of other cool stuff that I want. Amen.

Dad: *<enters>* Hi Billy.

Billy: Hi dad.

Dad: Hey, I want you to mow the lawn today.

Billy: Right now?

Dad: Yes, right now.

Billy: So dad, what's in it for me?

Dad: Here, you can have this. *<hands him a bag of cash>*

Billy: Wow, how much money is in there?

Dad: Hmm, about ten bucks.

Billy: What, only ten?

Dad: Yeah, it's all pennies. I'm getting rid of my coin collection from when I was a boy.

Billy: *<glumly>* And it's all mine now, great.

Dad: Yeah, it's a pretty big pile of cash. Pretty impressive, eh?

Billy: Yeah, impressive dad, really impressive.

Dad: Okay then, you get to moving that lawn, alright?

Billy: Sure Dad.

Dad: Good boy! *<exits>*

Billy: Okay, see you later dad. *<folds hands and prays>* Dear God, I have one more request. Could you please, please, please give me a girlfriend. I really need a girlfriend. I can't stand being the only single 7th grader at school anymore. Amen.

Mom: *<enters>* Hi Billy.

Billy: Hi mom.

Mom: Hey sweetie, I was thinking, why don't we spend some time together today?

Billy: You mean, just you and me mom?

Mom: Yeah, lets do something together, something fun!

Billy: Like what?

Mom: Oh, I don't know. *<thinks>* How about this, let's go shopping!

Billy: Shopping? For what?

Mom: Oh I don't know. We'll start at the mall, and then just follow the sale signs. It'll be fun!

Billy: Okay mom, if you say so.

Mom: Great, I'll be ready to go in about an hour.

Billy: Okay, that gives me just enough time to mow the lawn.

Mom: Sounds good. See you in a bit sweetie! *<exits>*

Billy: Okay, see you later mom. *<folds hands and prays>* Dear God, I have just one more request. Could you please, please, please make me more popular. No, not popular, super-popular, how about the most popular kid at school! Amen.

Kid 1: *<enters and points>* Hey! There's Billy! Let's get him!

Kids: *<enter>* Yeah! *<kids run to Billy and try to climb on him>*

Billy: Hey kids, calm down. It's just me Billy.

Kids: *<jumping around excitedly>* Play with us Billy! Please, please, please play with us!

Billy: Play what?

Kid 1: *<steps forward commandingly>* I've got an idea!

Kids: What?

Kid 1: Let's play "Catch the Billy!"

Kids: Yeah!

Kid 1: *<loudly>* On your marks, get set, go!

Billy: Yikes! *<Billy runs offstage terrified>*

Kids: *<kids chase him and cheer>* Yeah! *<the sound of toys banging and crashing is heard>*

Billy: *<re-enters and prays>* Dear God, I have just one more request, and this is totally my last request. Could you please, please, please not give me anything else. I know you love me, but this is getting ridiculous! You're killing me, God, killing me! Amen!

Fred: *<enters>* Hey Billy.

Billy: Hey Fred.

Fred: I heard you praying that prayer. What's that all about?

Billy: Let me tell you. I did some serious praying today, but when I asked for stuff, I think God completely ignored my prayers, and did the opposite, just to torture me!

Fred: How so?

Billy: Well, first I asked God to give me some money, and then suddenly my dad comes by and tells me to mow the lawn. Then I asked God for a girlfriend, and my mom suddenly shows up and decides to take me shopping with her. Then I asked God to make me popular, and guess what, a pack of wild kids suddenly saw me and chased me!

Fred: Wow, that's really weird.

Billy: Yeah, I know. God's not answering my prayers at all. I think God is just pulling jokes on

me, just for the fun of it. But it's not fun at all. It's driving me crazy!

Fred: Billy, I don't think God is ignoring your prayers.

Billy: You don't?

Fred: No, God hears your prayers alright. God is just giving you what's best for you, what you need right now, but not always exactly what you ask for.

Billy: Really?

Fred: Yeah, like when you asked for that money, but instead, you got a job from your dad, so you could earn it and learn the value of hard work.

Billy: Oh.

Fred: And when you asked for a girlfriend, well, Billy, how old are you anyway?

Billy: 11

Fred: Well, God knows you don't need a girlfriend right now. But you do need to spend quality time with your family, including your mom.

Billy: Oh.

Fred: And when God sent that pack of wild kids your way, I think God was telling you that you can be a good role model for them.

Billy: Oh.

Fred: So Billy, keep on praying, and let God answer your prayers as he sees fit.

Billy: Okay.

Fred: Well I have to take off. See you later. <exits>

Billy: Yeah, see you later. <prays> Thanks God for answering my prayers. Please, continue to give me what you know is best for me, but please, please, no more wild screaming kids, at least not for a few days. Amen. <exits>

Scripture: Matthew 6:11 "Give us this day our daily bread." Philippians 4:6 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Message: Jesus teaches his disciples to pray about their daily needs and concerns, and to trust in God to take care of them. Prayer isn't a license to get everything we've ever wanted. Prayer is a way of personally aligning ourselves with the holy nature and perfect will of God. We pray in faith knowing that God loves us like a Father and will provide what is best for us, even if it doesn't make complete sense to us at the time.

Questions: What do you pray most about? How can you show others that you trust God to take care of you? What does prayer do to the person praying? How can you expand your prayers to include broader concerns, deeper conviction, and more people in need?

Prayer: Gracious God, give us faith to pray for our daily bread, the needs of others, and the concerns of the broader world around us. Help us trust in your love and grace to take care of us. And give us a bigger and bolder vision of your will for us and our lives. Amen.

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