

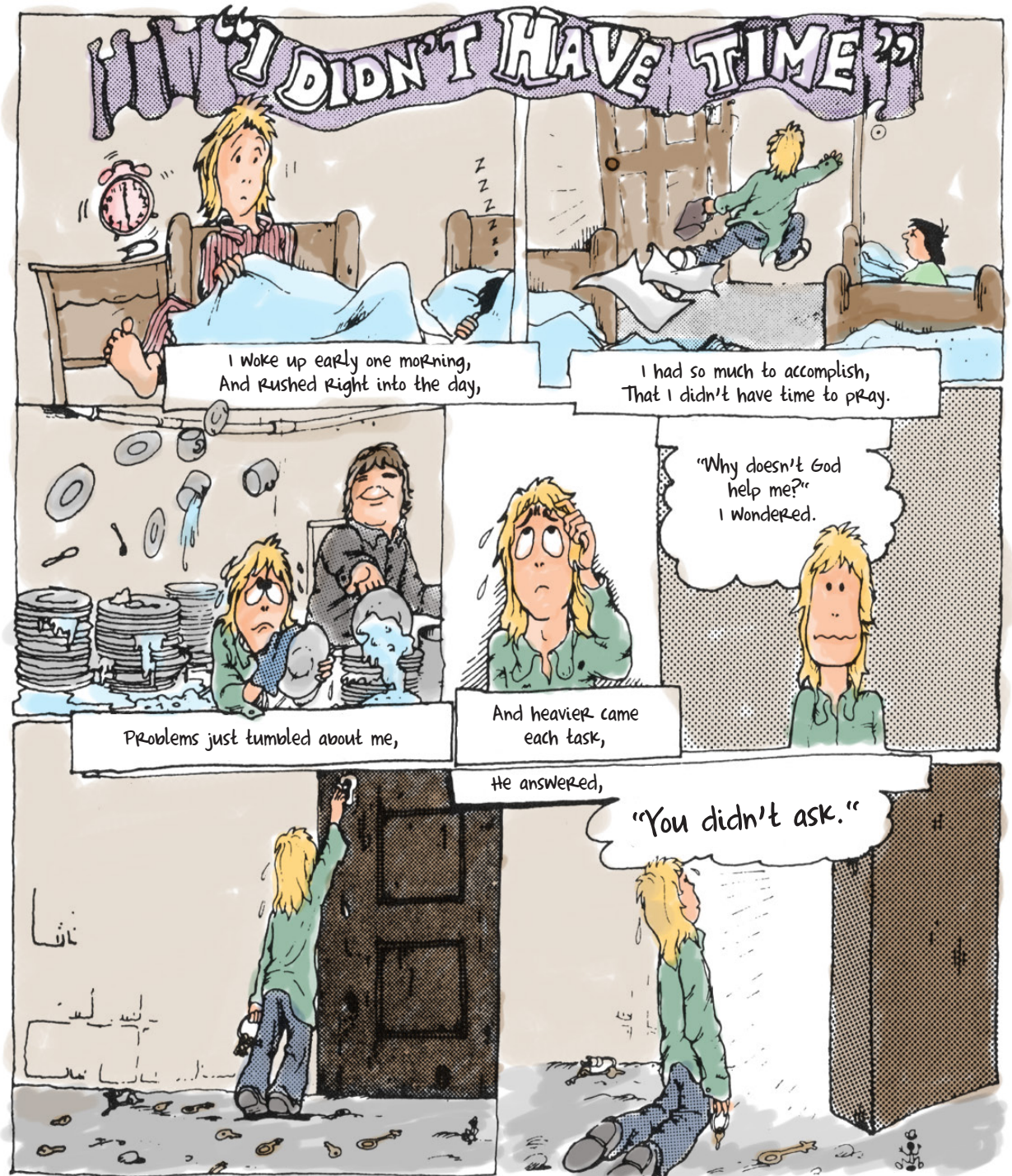
ON THE PATH OF PRAYER

PRAYER IS A KEY COMPONENT IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. IT IS OUR MAIN MEANS OF COMMUNICATION WITH HIM.

- WE CAN SPEAK WITH HIM, PRAISE, WORSHIP, AND ADORE HIM, THANK HIM FOR ALL HE'S DONE AND CONTINUES TO DO FOR US.
- WE CAN BRING OUR REQUESTS TO HIM AND ASK FOR HIS HELP.
- WE CAN TELL HIM HOW MUCH WE APPRECIATE THE BEAUTIFUL THINGS HE'S CREATED, AND THANK HIM FOR THE MULTITUDE OF BLESSINGS WE EACH HAVE.
- WHEN WE'VE DONE WRONG AND HAVE SINNED, WE CAN CONFESS, ASK FOR, AND RECEIVE HIS FORGIVENESS.
- WE CAN SPEAK WITH HIM WHEN WE'RE JOYFUL OR SAD, IN GOOD HEALTH OR BAD.

WE HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ONE WHO NOT ONLY CREATED US, BUT WHO LOVES US DEEPLY AND WANTS TO PARTICIPATE IN EVERY ASPECT OF OUR LIVES.

PRAYER IS THE MAIN WAY WE COMMUNICATE WITH GOD. IT IS OUR MEANS OF INVITING HIM TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR DAILY LIVES, OF ASKING HIM TO BE DIRECTLY AND INTIMATELY INVOLVED WITH THE THINGS THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO US. WHEN WE COME BEFORE HIM IN PRAYER, WE ARE ASKING HIM TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN OUR LIVES OR IN THE LIVES OF THOSE WE ARE PRAYING FOR.



PRAYER IS SOMETHING WE NEED TO CULTIVATE, INVEST TIME IN, AND PRACTICE AS A DISCIPLINE (ACTIVITY). COMMUNICATING WITH GOD IN PRAYER IS A MEANS OF DRAWING CLOSER TO HIM, OF DEEPENING OUR RELATIONSHIP, AND IN THE PROCESS, IT HELPS US TO BECOME MORE GODLY, MORE LIKE JESUS.

PRAYER ISN'T MEANT TO BE A ONE-WAY CONVERSATION, WITH US SPEAKING AND EXPECTING GOD TO DO ALL THE LISTENING. IN TIMES OF PRAYER WE SHOULD ALSO OPEN OURSELVES UP TO HEAR WHAT GOD WANTS TO SAY TO US, THROUGH THE BIBLE, THROUGH WHAT GODLY TEACHERS ARE SAYING, THROUGH GETTING QUIET BEFORE HIM AND OPENING OUR HEARTS TO HEAR HIS VOICE.

PRAYER IS OUR MEANS OF COMMUNICATING WITH GOD, OF COMING INTO AND REMAINING IN HIS PRESENCE. AS HIS CHILDREN, WE CAN ASK HIM ANYTHING, WE CAN TRUST HIM WITH EVERYTHING. WE CAN FEEL HIS LOVE FOR US, HIS ASSURANCE, HIS CARE. IN OUR TIME OF COMMUNICATING WITH HIM WE LEARN FROM HIM, AND IN TIME WE BECOME MORE LIKE HIM.

IF WE TRULY DESIRE TO BECOME MORE LIKE JESUS, WE MUST WALK WITH HIM ON THE PATH OF PRAYER.¹

Footnotes:

¹ Peter Amsterdam. "The Spiritual Disciplines: Prayer." *Directors' Corner*. February 4, 2014, directors.tfonline.com/post/spiritual-disciplines-prayer/.

² Author unknown. "The Difference."

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