

Treasures of the Kingdom

Casting Up a Highway for the Children of This Generation

Two Ways of Asking



So who got what they were asking for?

Think About It: The **KEY** to Asking

Have you ever been told “Stop asking!” when someone was tired of your questions? Probably so. Is asking bad? No. Learning to ask is important. And so is learning when not to ask—or to ask in a different way.

Think about a time when someone answered your question, or gave you what you were asking for. Did you feel cared about and loved by them? Do you want that to happen again? I do, too! And guess what? Jesus tells us to ask God for things, so we can realize how much He wants to help us and provide for all our needs. That is why He says, “Ask, and it will be given to you.” (Matthew 7:7)

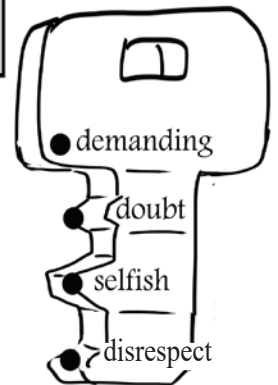
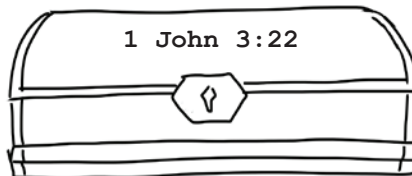
Do you have a lot of things you need? I do. But often we don’t know how to get them. Now imagine that Jesus has a big treasure chest with all that we will ever need. It is locked. How are you going to get it open? Yes, you need a key. And asking is like turning the key in the lock. You turn it and the lid opens so you can get inside!

Wait a moment. Will every key fit that lock? No, you need the right one. That is why we need to learn how to ask, or we will just get more and more frustrated because nothing we say or do is working. The “asking key” that brings answers is a very special key. Do you know that not very many people know what it looks like? That’s why I tried to show it to you on the front cover, with some of the wrong keys right beside it. Can you tell the difference between them?

Look at the comparison between these two keys. Match each attitude on the keys to the picture of the boy that showed that attitude from the story. Now look up the Bible reference on the chest and see which key will open it up!



How are Jerry and Matt asking?



God's Word in My Life: *Seeking Wisdom*

"Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her. Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace." (Proverbs 3:13-17)



Here it says that wisdom and understanding are better than anything you can think of in the whole wide world. Imagine the thing you wanted most.... God says that having wisdom, understanding, and discretion is better than even that!



"Get wisdom... forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee. Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her. She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee. Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many. I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths. Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life." (Proverbs 4:5-13) God again says here that wisdom and understanding will deliver you and she shall be a crown of glory to you.



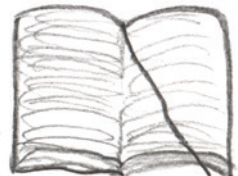
In these last few months God has taught me to heed instructions and listen. I like to talk and so God is teaching me to be discreet. When my brother was saying something that happened to him, and the story seemed lop-sided to me, I wanted to correct him. At that point I heard a little voice whisper to me, "You don't have to correct what he's saying. It doesn't really matter that much." I'm learning to pay attention to that voice and not talk when I don't need to.



In 1 Kings God asked Solomon what he wanted and he answered, saying, "wisdom." And God said that because he did not ask for riches or glory and fame, God gave him wisdom and also riches and glory. He was known to be the wisest man at his time. God is the one who gives us understanding, wisdom, and knowledge. So seek God on your own and ask Him and He will give you the desires of your heart.



I want to close with the following words: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God... and it shall be given him." (James 1:5)



EXERCISE



Ready to run and jump? It is too cold and wet to be outside, so let's do some exercises! First stand tall and reach for the ceiling. Now bend over and touch your toes. Ceiling, toes. Ceiling, toes. Now we will roll our shoulders—up, down. Up, down. Up, down. Side stretches next. Bend over to the left, now to the right. Left, right!

You look silly! you say. Maybe so, but aren't you glad we can bend and move? One more stretch, so pay attention. First lunge forward on one leg, then the other. Now it is time for jumping jacks! Arms and legs out, then in. Out, in, Out, in! Keep it up! Let's count to fifty. One, two, three... huff, puff, huff, puff.

I can't do any more. I'm tired! you say. Of course you are tired. Don't stop now!

This is exercise and we can't give up. Thirty-one, thirty-two. You-can-do-it. You-can-do-it! Out, in, out in! Forty-seven, forty-eight, forty-nine, fifty!

We made it! Good job. That was hard work, wasn't it? It made me hot! you say, flopping into a chair. Exercise gets our blood pumping and warms us up. Do you know what else it does? It makes us stronger, you say. That's right, because our muscles only grow when we give them work to do.

Exercise is important. If we give up when we get a little tired, we will stay weak. And that's the same way with our mind and attitudes. Do you always feel like practicing your math facts or studying your spelling? No, but Mom makes me do them. Of course, because you have to stretch yourself to learn. And you have to stretch yourself to make right choices each day. Do you know that doing right is an exercise, too? It isn't easy and often we have to make ourselves do something when we feel like giving up.

Paul loved Jesus and wanted to tell others about Him. But other people didn't like what Paul said and tried to get him in trouble. They beat him and called him names, but he didn't fight back. Instead he prayed for them and kept telling them about God's love. How could he be good when others were so mean and unfair? One day he told his secret. "I always exercise myself," he said, "to have a clear conscience before God and others." A clear conscience means that you know that you did the right thing, even when it wasn't easy. That's the best kind of exercise, for it makes us stronger inside. Do you want to be strong? It is work, but it is worth it.



What do these children need to **exercise** themselves to do? Circle the answer.



Joe is angry. His brother cracked the wheel on their favorite truck. He needs to _____ his brother.



- hit
- forgive
- scold

Emma is upset because Mom says it's too late to start a craft project. She should _____.



- beg mom
- complain
- count her blessings

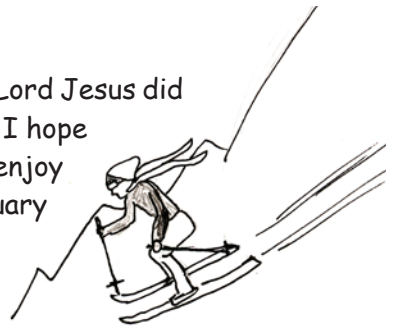
Rachel forgot to feed the cats. It is dark and she doesn't want to go outside. She should _____.

- be brave and do it
- cry
- lie



Ski Accident

Last January, my Lord Jesus did something amazing in my life; giving me a testimony that I hope really encourages others. My brother, Dad and I really enjoy skiing and snowboarding in the wintertime, and on January 3rd, just like any other day we were skiing it up, having a great time. That is, until I had an accident. I won't go into all the details, but I was taken down the mountain in an ambulance and stayed at the hospital most of the day with a bad concussion among other injuries. I praise the Lord for protecting me from further, life-threatening injury. His angels were guarding me, and I cannot praise and thank Him enough.



The days and weeks after my accident were very hard; my head hurt all the time, and my face where I was hit didn't look very pretty. My family was so sweet and caring; helping me with everything. My Dad even took time off of his work to be with me while I recovered. My extended family and friends were so sweet to me; blessing me with cards, presents, and even personalized videos! I am so thankful for all the support and love people gave me, it made me feel so special! I praise the Lord for everything He did for me during that time and for how He healed me rather quickly. Also for everything He does in my life! For without Him, I am nothing at all.

What this experience has taught me is that our lives are in the Lord's hands, we cannot control them. Yes, we can do many necessary things to prevent bad things from happening, but in the end it is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Who keeps us safe, looking down on us from Heaven and caring for us. I hope I've encouraged anyone out there reading this that has gone through, or is going through a traumatic event in their lives. Trust the Lord, He will never leave you nor forsake you. God bless you all!

—Olivia, age 16



Buried Treasures

I HOPE WE CAN PRINT
YOUR STORY
NEXT!

Do you have an experience to tell?
I will send an email notice* before the
next issue. I hope to hear from you!

*email us if you aren't included

God
is ready
to help us in
our troubles—
in accidents,
with chores to
do and when we
aren't feeling well.
How has He helped you?

Love
Courage
Gentleness
Trust
Kindness
Faith

Behaving

I'm happy that I have behaved so that I don't have to do hard jobs at the farm. I'm not screaming and hitting and being nasty. When Mama says to find a book, I try to look very hard. When I have a job to do, I do it quickly and with a cheerful attitude. Like when I made ketchup. When Papa said to sit down at the table, I did. I am glad that I can be with my family. —Emily, age 5



Embarrassed in the Night

AS TOLD BY JUDITH'S MAMA



Judith had a cold. Not just the sniffly kind, but the kind that makes you cough and hurts your throat really badly. It was time for bed, and Mama set up Judith on the couch with pillows under her regular pillow. After a hug and kissy, Judith asked Mama to pray her throat would not hurt like the night before. Mama did. And Judith fell into a deep sleep. In the middle of

the night Judith's mom heard someone coughing and crying. It was Judith. "Mama," she sobbed brokenly, "what's wrong? I thought we prayed that my throat wouldn't hurt!?" Mama felt indignant at the devil's tricks. She explained that sometimes we have to pray that God will move the devil out of the way so we can enjoy God answering our prayers. Judith and Mama prayed that way. Judith went back to sleep. There was no more crying that night. Judith was radiant at the breakfast table. Her special story spilled out, beginning with, "I was embarrassed in the middle of the night...."

The devil loves to embarrass us with unanswered prayers, but a prayer of simple faith can make him run away.



Work and Play

I helped our family clean up the yard. We worked really hard so we could play. We cleaned up trash and put it in the trailer. Then we drove our lawnmower tractor with the trailer to the garbage can. Then we put it in the garbage can.

—André, age 4



Patience

Meekness

Truth


Goodness

Peace

Joy

Slip and Slide!

One Time God helped me do The yummy, yummy eggs. Another Time, me and my sister, Lillian, made breakfast. I was The guard To make sure Mama, Evangeline, and baby Esperanza Valerie didn't see. My mama was SO HAPPY! In The evening we GOT To slip and slide on The soaped-up kitchen floor. IT was fun!

-Judith, age 6 



Praise from India


Thank you for praying for the lost souls in India. I would like to share a praise report.

In January we shared the gospel in five Indian villages. Some people listened. Others thought that Jesus Christ is not a God for India, but only for Americans, so they didn't need to listen. We told them that Jesus Christ is not America's God, but the Savior of the world. Sometimes our preaching teams are attacked or yelled at. We look to the Lord to be with us and keep us safe from harm.

We also conducted a kids camp for around 75 children. We shared Bible stories, memorized Bible verses, and read missionary biographies to them. To encourage them, we gave out prizes. At our youth camp, we did a study on Joseph's life and youth, with the topic on "Victory over Sin." 25 youth attended.

Later we visited some remote villages where they have no proper roads and no education. It seemed like we were able to personally touch the souls there. As we tried to explain the gospel to them, some asked if Jesus was a political leader, and if we were voting for him. We said that He is the God who created the whole universe! He loves us even though we all have lived in rebellion. He came to save sinners, and to give them eternal life. Some villagers seemed to understand, while others felt they already had their gods and didn't need

another one. Some were afraid that if they embraced Christ, their god of devils would be angry. We had prayer and left the villages.

Please pray for the Christians here who are persecuted by the RSS Hindu groups. Also for the new believers, as they need Bibles in both English and in their own Telugu language. —Pastor Paramjyothi 



Love
Courage
Gentleness
Trust
Kindness
Faith

Patience
Meekness
Truth
Goodness
Peace
Joy

Do you know that God cares?

Whether our needs are big or small, God wants us to talk to Him and ask for His help. When good things happen, it pleases God that we are thankful. Let's remember to pray for each other!

A Place for Prayer

REQUESTS AND THANKSGIVINGS

Me and my mom are looking for a male dog to breed our female. We want to sell the puppies. We want a English Springer Spaniel. I like hunting. These dogs are good for hunting and are cute, too. Please pray that we can find one for a good price! —Elisei, age 11



We were earning treat stars and I was sick. I wanted to earn some stars so I could have a treat, too! So I put some elastic in the sleeves of a dress. And I earned 3 stars! And that meant I finished my dress! And I wore it. Because I was dizzy and my head hurt, Mama gave me an extra star. My treat was some sugar-free chocolate! —Lillian, age 9

Please pray for my Grandmother as she is recovering from an accident she had in December. Please pray she will have comfort and peace, and that she will know that the Lord is with her. Thank you so much, she says she really appreciates all the prayers!

I want to thank the Lord for inspiring me in my writings. Most of the time I sit down at the computer and do not know what to write about, but when I ask the Lord for inspiration, He really helps me to create things I never knew I had the capabilities to do! I am beyond thankful to Him for giving me a passion and talent for writing! —Olivia Bell, 16

I am thankful that God helped me when I got really angry. I was able to calm down and change my behavior and forgive the person I was angry at. —AutumnGrace, age 15



Happy Days

God helped me set the table with a good attitude. And I had a smile on my face. And I put everything on! And the other day God helped me feed the cats. And I put my arm around baby so she wouldn't roll off the couch.

—Evangeline, age 3



Father & The Cow

A TRUE STORY

PART ONE

Dorothea watched from the house as the stranger led away Meg, their big Swiss cow. “Meg is our nicest cow,” she muttered to herself. “Why didn’t Father sell Susie instead? She always stomps and makes the most noise!” Mother was sitting near-

by at her spinning wheel, but she didn’t say anything. Dorothea knew she shouldn’t complain, but the anger inside just had to come out. “I don’t like it!”

Big brother Albert wasn’t pleased either. “Do you know

how much money Father got from the cow?” he asked, bursting through the door. “Enough to pay for coal for the whole winter, and the grocery bill besides!” Mother looked up from her spinning and smiled, but they all knew it wasn’t good news. Father was going away on a trip and he was taking all that money with him. Trina and Valerie, who were busy carding wool for Mother, looked at each other. “I say that’s awfully selfish!” Albert said, for all of them. But Mother didn’t agree.

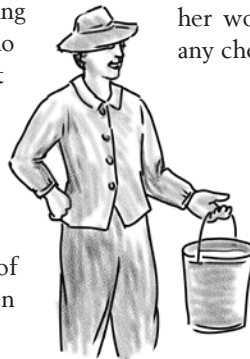
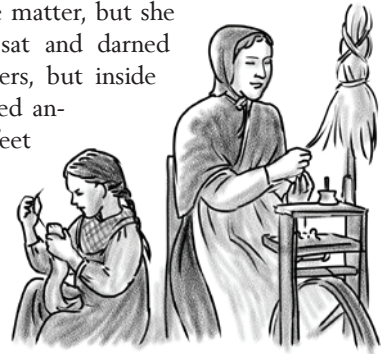
“Children, don’t fret about what your earthly Father does. Your heavenly Father knows all about it and He will surely take care of our needs,” she said in her soft quiet voice. Then she went back to her spinning.

Dorothea knew that was suppose to be the end of the matter, but she wasn’t happy. She sat and darned socks for her brothers, but inside her thoughts stomped angrily like Susie’s feet when she didn’t want to be milked. How could Mother be so peaceful when she knew they didn’t have any money to live on? Father didn’t

care. Often he would take the last farthing in the house and go to the tavern to drink. And when he was drunk, he was always more rude and impatient than usual. Sometimes he would throw things and scream at them. Dorothea was afraid of Father when he was drunk. Now he was taking a trip “abroad,” he had told them. Dorothea didn’t know where “abroad” was, but she hoped it was far away from their little Swiss town. It would be better at home without Father. Her oldest sister, Lisa, was working out now. She always brought home a handful of coins every Saturday. Without Father around to waste it, they could use it to buy bread and coal. Maybe even some meat. It had been a long time since Dorothea had tasted any meat, and she licked her lips just thinking about it.

The sound of coal being poured into the hopper made Dorothea look up. Albert and David were starting on the evening chores. Lisa would be home soon, and then it would be time for supper. Trina must have thought the same thing. “I’ll stoke up the fire and heat the soup,” she said, setting down her work. “Dori, check and see if we have any cheese left to go with our bread.”

Dorothea was glad to put down her darning and run to the cellar. She had almost forgotten about Father and the cow, until she met David bringing in the milk.



"With only one cow now, it doesn't take long," he said, with a little laugh. "At least Susie didn't kick the pail over tonight. As Mother says, there is always something to be thankful for!" Dorothea tried to smile, but she could only think of the little bit of cheese left in the crock and how they wouldn't be making more for awhile. Not with only one cow.

Lisa was rosy-faced and a bit excited when she got home late. "I met up with the clergyman today," she told Mother, as she took off her coat and began to warm her fingers by the stove. She looked around the small cozy room where they were all gathered to eat. "Father's out, I guess?"

"Yes, dear," Mother said, quietly.

"Hasn't been seen since he sold Meg," Albert muttered, around a bite of bread. "Probably out drinking again."

"Well," continued Lisa, hardly paying attention. "I don't know how the clergyman found out, but he was quite upset about Father."

"You mean, Father going away?" David asked.

"No, Father leaving us without any money," Lisa said. "He said it was neglect and cruelty and should be reported."

"How did he find that out?" Trina asked. She stopped ladling out the soup and stared at her oldest sister. "You didn't tell him, did you?" Dorothea felt a cold prickle go up her back.

"Of course not!" Lisa replied, and she looked tenderly at Mother. "I don't know how he knew, but I told him that you never talk badly about Father and I wouldn't either. As you always say, I told him that God will work everything out for our good. So we don't need to be troubled by what our earthly father does, but receive everything from our heavenly Father. I told him that even if God allows us to not have a house to stay in, He will take care of us. Like you have told us so often, 'As long as you pray, then you will never need to beg.'"

Mother nodded and smiled at Lisa with shining eyes. Dorothea snuggled in between them and leaned her head on Mother's strong shoulder.

"What did the clergyman say then?" asked David, putting some more coal into the fire.

"He told me he couldn't agree. He said that God let Napoleon do many things that were not right, and it would likely turn out very badly for us if we didn't do something. Then he asked me, 'Who can your mother rely on for help?'"



Dorothea looked up at Mother's kind, patient face. She knew the answer even before Lisa spoke. "I said, 'Mother always relies on God alone. She never tells us how God will take care of things, but she always knows He will.'"

"He probably wasn't convinced," said Alfred.

"No, because after that he talked about needing to use our reason, because God gave us minds to think."

Dorothea felt Mother's deep sigh. "Oh children," she said, earnestly, "follow my example. Don't turn to people for help, but to God. The person who trusts in human reasoning and leans on the support of people, instead of on God, will be unhappy."

"You are right, Mother," admitted Trina, looking into the empty soup pot. "All afternoon I was trying to think about what to do to help with the bills, and it gave me a headache. The Bible says nothing about trying to solve our problems, and it really is a waste of time."

"That's what I tried tell him," Lisa said. "I said that the Bible promises us, 'He that believes on God will not be put to shame.'"

"It also says, 'Casting all your care upon Him, because He cares for you,'" quoted Valerie thoughtfully.



"That is right," said Mother, stroking Dorothea's hair. "With your father leaving and only one milk cow to provide for us, it is not time to worry. If we look to God in confidence, trusting Him to take care of us, we will surely get help just at the right time."

Dorothea's eyes start to shut. She felt safe and sleepy. She was glad when David carried her off to bed.

It was only a few days later that Alfred burst through the door with a message for Mother. Dorothea was helping Trina chop vegetables, but she stopped to listen. "Mr. Farner is outside in his carriage. He says he wants to speak with you about something. I think it is important!" Mother

put on her shawl and hurried outside without saying a word.

Dorothea was curious. She stood at the window with her sisters and watched Alfred and Mother standing by the carriage. What could their rich neighbor want?

Sometimes he hired the boys for work, or bought some of their spinning. "Maybe God sent Mr. Farner over because we need the money," Valerie whispered. "Let's see what Alfred says - he looks excited about something," said Trina, hurrying to open the door.

"You'll never guess what Mr. Farner said!" Alfred grinned at his sisters. He hadn't been so happy since Meg was sold, so Dorothea knew it must be good news. "Tell us!" she said, impatiently. "Mr. Farner is loaning us enough money to buy a new cow!" he announced. "When he heard that we only had Susie left, he knew we would need another cow to pay the bills while Father was away."

"That's wonderful!" Trina exclaimed. "I wonder where we'll find a cow?"

"Oh, the dairyman has connections," Alfred said, confidently. "Mother is going to ask him

tonight if he knows of good milker for sale."

And so it was that Dorothea stood at the window the very next evening and watched David and Alfred bring home their new cow. "She's brown, Mother," she called excitedly, when they led her by the house. "She looks like Meg, but she has smaller horns. Can I run out and watch them milk her?"



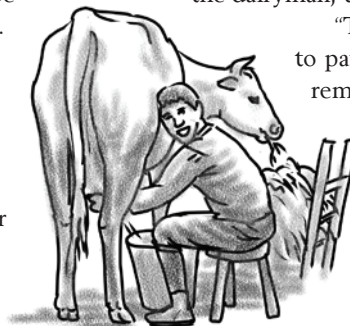
"Let's go together," Mother said, rising from her work. "I'm a bit excited myself! Isn't our heavenly Father so good to provide for us?" Dorothea skipped ahead and opened the barn door for Mother. The cow turned her dark eyes to look at them and then started peacefully chewing on hay as Alfred sat down to milk.

"The man said she's gentle, and she came home easily enough," David said, patting her smooth side. "It looks like she'll make a perfect replacement for Meg. What shall we call her, Mother?"

"How about 'Blessing'?" Mother asked, smiling down at Dorothea. "It was a blessing for Mr. Farner to loan us the money, and a blessing to have such a fine cow to provide for our needs."

"Look how much milk she gave tonight!" Alfred said, holding up the brimming pail of milk. "We'll be able to make cheese and butter and sell lots to the dairyman, too!"

"The money will first go to pay off Mr. Farner," Mother reminded him. "But I'm sure that God will provide for all our needs, too. For we know that 'the blessing of the Lord maketh rich, and He addeth no sorrow with it.'"



Treasures of the Kingdom

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Dear Reader,

Though we've been late in getting another issue together, we are thankful that God is never too busy or late to meet our needs. All we need to do is ask—in the way He will be sure to answer!

How has God answered you? Do you have something to share or questions to ask? We are glad to receive your letters and emails.

We are a God-fearing family that includes Rick and Krista Erickson, and their daughters: Laura, Kara, and Amanda. The publishing of *Treasures of the Kingdom* is mainly done by Laura and Amanda, as we look to the Lord to provide content and direction.

The paper is freely sent to those that request it. You will be kept on our mailing list unless you request otherwise. If the Lord leads you to send anything, please note that since we are not a business we cannot cash checks made out to *Treasures of the Kingdom*.

In the King's service,
The Editors



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SEND TO:

*How many cows can you find?
There should be 49 including this one:*



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