

A little boy was overheard praying: "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."

Kids pray in simple language. They are direct and to the point. They have a good sense of a relationship with God. They trust. They're not afraid.

In the Gospel Jesus is praying. He is grateful to God for blessings received. He is thankful for God's generosity. God has handed over everything to Jesus. Jesus is full of the love God has for Him.

Then Jesus invites all who labor and are burdened to come to Him. That's all of us. We can share our burdens with God. When we do, we are praying.

What are some useful reminders for us when we pray?

Keep it simple. Use our ordinary language. Be direct. Trust God with whatever we feel, think or desire. Pray whenever we want through the day.

One particular four-year-old prayed: "And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

Like Jesus we can praise God; we can thank God; we can ask God for needs, wants, and all kinds of longings. In addition, we can ask for mercy, forgiveness and healing. God wants relationship with us. Jesus has shown us the way. We have an open invitation to connect with God. At any time we can share what is on our mind; we can express what is in our heart; we can inform God what is in our soul.

Little Caitlin struggled valiantly to say the entire Our Father on her own. Her Mother listened as Caitlin enunciated each word right up the end of the prayer: "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from E-mail."

Like people, prayers come in all kinds. With God, all prayers are welcome. God is waiting and listening. God cares. May we fill the week with our own ordinary prayers.