

Lord, Listen to My Supplication

A prayer service to be used with Chapter 6: A New Direction for the Journey: The Monarchy.

Leader: Our Scripture passage today speaks questions that we often feel in our hearts. If God is beyond all and above everything, does he really hear our prayers? The writer takes a position of trust that God truly dwells in the temple, and in his heart – listening intently to our petitions. Today we will offer up our own petitions to the Lord.

Reader 1: A Reading from the First Book of Kings (1 Kg 8:27-30),

Is God indeed to dwell on earth? If the heavens and the highest heavens cannot contain you, how much less this house which I have built! Regard kindly the prayer and petition of your servant, Lord, my God, and listen to the cry of supplication which I, your servant, utter before you this day. May your eyes be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, my name shall be there; listen to the prayer your servant makes toward this place. Listen to the petition of your servant and your people Israel which they offer toward this place. Listen, from the place of your enthronement, heaven, listen and forgive.
The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: In a mysterious way God desires and works through our prayers and petitions. As the reading says, “Listen, from the place of your enthronement, heaven, listen and forgive.” For our good, and the good of others, God wants us to intercede for our needs and those of others. We will now have a time to share petitions with others. I ask that you offer at least one petition for yourself, and one for someone else.

(The leader should now allow the students to go around the room or circle and share prayer petitions with each other. The leader should lead this time by offering his/her own petitions in the following format.)

Leader: Lord, I pray today for... (personal petition). And I also pray for the needs of... (petition for another person/situation).

(Allow students to share)

All: Lord, we ask you to hear our prayers. May your eyes be open night and day toward us.