

## **Olivia:**

I've been praying a lot recently for my Grandma. She got sick and has cancer. I've been praying because I want Grandma to be out of the hospital and feeling better. I'm praying for my Grandpa too to help him feel better and have strength. And I prayed for the nurses at the hospital because Grandma is stubborn.

God is helping me when I pray because God shows up for us. I keep praying because I can trust God, even if my prayers don't get answered right away. You can trust God too because God is always there even if your prayers don't get answered right away either.

I picked this story about Joseph and the dreams because God helps Joseph through a really hard time too. Joseph got thrown in jail even though he didn't do anything wrong and no person could help him out of it. But Joseph prayed to God for help and God gave him help by interpreting the dreams. Those dreams were kind of weird and stood out to me in this story.

The skinny cows eating the fat cows, and the weak corn taking over the healthy corn is not what makes sense.

So God didn't give Joseph the easy way, but God did help him by interpreting the dreams. It took a while for the cupbearer to remember Joseph and how he interpreted his dreams - Joseph was stuck in jail for like 2 years! But Joseph kept praying and trusting that God would help him, and God did! Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dreams and that helped his life a whole lot! Joseph ended up being in charge of the whole country right after getting out of jail, and helping lots and lots of people get food when there was famine in Egypt.

Even in rough times, we should still pray to God. We can trust God because God is always there for us. Our prayers don't always get

answered right away, but God helps us especially when we pray. God helped Joseph when he prayed, God helps me when I pray, and God will help you when you pray too.

**Nadia:**

I've been praying a lot lately too. I prayed when Grandma got cancer because I felt sad and scared. I prayed that Grandma and Grandpa would get better.

I pray for other things when I'm sad or mad. I pray when I'm having a hard time, that we might feel loved and have strong relationships with friends and other people. School is really hard sometimes. And sometimes it's hard when it feels like God isn't listening to our prayers. But I keep praying because I know God will help me. I feel like we can trust God. And I think more kids would be kind to one another if we prayed more. Praying helps our hearts be open and bigger, and praying makes me feel comforted too.

I picked this story about Peter walking on the water because he was having a hard time and felt afraid, but focusing on Jesus helped him a lot. It stood out to me that Peter actually walked on the water. I tried walking on water and I can't do it, it didn't work. Jesus let Peter walk to Him on the water, but when he took his eyes off he started sinking. When Peter looked at Jesus again then he started walking on the water again. Peter was only able to do this big thing because of Jesus.

With God we can feel comforted. Even when Peter was afraid, focusing on Jesus and walking towards him helped him. Peter didn't trust that Jesus was really Jesus at first but then he was comforted when Jesus helped him walk on the water and get safely into the boat. We can feel comforted and do big things when we trust God and pray.

Praying is important because we can trust God and God will help us out. Even when it feels like no one really understands, I know God will help me. I hope that we can all pray more and find happiness. Our hearts will be open and bigger if we pray more.

**Olivia:**

Something that I read in the Spark Bible sounds like a good idea for us to do to help find happiness. It says, "Smile at five people. If they smile back, then you have ten smiles." So let's smile at each other. And help each other when we need help with praying and trusting God.

**Nadia:**

Even if it feels like God doesn't listen right away, we can trust God because God provided for Joseph, Peter, and Jesus. God provides for all of us. And I hope we can find happiness in prayer and trusting in God. Thanks be to God, Amen.