

 Bible Study Lesson: A Prayer for Purity and Guidance – 01/15/2026

 Focus Scripture (NIV – Psalm 141)

Psalm 141 - A psalm of David.

¹I call to you, Lord, come quickly to me;
 hear me when I call to you.

²May my prayer be set before you like incense;
 may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.

³Set a guard over my mouth, Lord;
 keep watch over the door of my lips.

⁴Do not let my heart be drawn to what is evil
 so that I take part in wicked deeds
along with those who are evildoers;
 do not let me eat their delicacies.

⁵Let a righteous man strike me—that is a kindness;
 let him rebuke me—that is oil on my head.

My head will not refuse it,
 for my prayer will still be against the deeds of evildoers.

⁶Their rulers will be thrown down from the cliffs,
 and the wicked will learn that my words were well spoken.

⁷They will say, “As one plows and breaks up the earth,
 so our bones have been scattered at the mouth of the grave.”

⁸But my eyes are fixed on you, Sovereign Lord;
 in you I take refuge—do not give me over to death.

⁹Keep me safe from the traps set by evildoers,
 from the snares they have laid for me.

¹⁰Let the wicked fall into their own nets,
 while I pass by in safety.

 Lesson Objectives

- Recognize prayer as a continual offering to God.
- Understand the importance of guarding our words and hearts against evil.
- Reflect on the value of righteous correction and humility.
- Learn to fix our eyes on God for refuge and safety.

- Prepare hearts for Sunday School lessons on Genesis 18:25–27, Luke 18:9–14, and 1 John 5:14–15 by connecting prayer, humility, and trust in God’s justice.

Verse Breakdown and Insights

- Verses 1–2: Prayer is pictured as incense and sacrifice—an offering pleasing to God.
- Verse 3: A plea for God to guard our speech, reminding us of the power of words.
- Verse 4: A request for purity of heart, resisting temptation and the lure of evil.
- Verse 5: Righteous correction is a blessing; humility accepts rebuke as kindness.
- Verses 6–7: The fate of the wicked contrasts with the steadfastness of the righteous.
- Verse 8: Fixing our eyes on God brings refuge and hope.
- Verses 9–10: God protects His people from traps and snares, ensuring safety in His care.

Discussion Questions

1. How does the imagery of prayer as incense and sacrifice deepen our understanding of prayer?
2. Why is it important to ask God to guard our words?
3. What does verse 5 teach us about humility and correction?
4. How can we keep our hearts from being drawn to evil in daily life?
5. What does it mean to fix our eyes on God in times of trouble?

Memory Verse

Psalm 141:3 (NIV): ³Set a guard over my mouth, Lord;
keep watch over the door of my lips.

Why This Lesson Prepares Us for Genesis 18:25–27, Luke 18:9–14, and 1 John 5:14–15

- Genesis 18:25–27 highlights God’s justice and Abraham’s humility in prayer. Psalm 141 teaches us to approach God with reverence and dependence.
- Luke 18:9–14 (Pharisee and Tax Collector) emphasizes humility in prayer. Psalm 141 models humility by asking for correction and protection from sin.
- 1 John 5:14–15 assures us that God hears our prayers when we ask according to His will. Psalm 141 shows prayer as a continual offering, aligning our hearts with God’s will.

- Together, these passages prepare us to pray humbly, trust God's justice, and rely on His faithfulness.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You for hearing our prayers and receiving them as incense before You. Guard our words, purify our hearts, and help us to accept correction with humility. Keep us safe from the snares of evil and fix our eyes on You as our refuge. Prepare us to walk humbly before You, trusting Your justice and rejoicing in Your faithfulness. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Bible Study Worksheet: Psalm 141 (NIV)

Lesson Objectives

1. Recognize _____ as a continual offering to God.
2. Understand the importance of guarding our _____ and _____ against evil.
3. Reflect on the value of righteous _____ and humility.

Verse Breakdown

- Verses 1–2: Prayer is pictured as _____ and _____—an offering pleasing to God.
- Verse 3: A plea for God to guard our _____.
- Verse 4: A request for purity of _____, resisting temptation.
- Verse 5: Righteous correction is a _____; humility accepts rebuke as _____.
- Verse 8: Fixing our _____ on God brings refuge and hope.
- Verses 9–10: God protects His people from _____ and snares.

Discussion Questions

1. How does the imagery of prayer as _____ and sacrifice deepen our understanding of prayer?
2. Why is it important to ask God to guard our _____?
3. What does verse 5 teach us about _____ and correction?

Memory Verse

Fill in the blanks:

“Set a _____ over my mouth, Lord; keep _____ over the door of my _____. ” (Psalm 141:3)

Connection to Genesis, Luke, and 1 John

- Genesis 18: Abraham shows _____ in prayer before God’s justice.
- Luke 18: The tax collector prays with _____, unlike the Pharisee.
- 1 John 5: God hears our _____ when we ask according to His _____.
- Psalm 141: Prayer is an offering, marked by _____ and dependence.