



# Roadblocks To Answered Prayer

**MEMORY VERSE:** **James 4:6**, *“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (NKJV)*

**TAKE HOME POINT:** What we say and do will affect our prayers.

## ▶ TO THE TEACHER:

There are four things we say or do that will hinder our prayers.

1. Pride
2. Unforgiveness
3. Our words
4. Vain repetitions

We can pray all of the right words, but there are other things that affect our prayers. Here are some of the roadblocks to answered prayers.

**Pride:** Pride is a roadblock. If you think that you are better than other people, it will hinder your prayers. If you pray for lost people like, “Lord, save that kid at school, if you can. I’m glad that I’m not like him.” Well, Father God is not even listening.

**Unforgiveness:** Jesus not only died for your sins, He died for those that sinned against you. If you have unforgiveness in your heart, then God says He can’t forgive your sins. (Mark 11:26)

**Words:** The words you speak after you pray can destroy your prayers. There is always a period of time between your prayer and the answer. Instead of saying, “I don’t think that God heard my prayer” say, “thank you Father for hearing my prayer.” (Mark 11:23)

**Vain Repetitions:** Prayer is of the heart. Just saying the same words, or the same prayer over and over, will not work if they are not words from your heart.



# Roadblocks To Answered Prayer

## LARGE GROUP SCHEDULE

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Lead Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

WHO	LESSON OUTLINE	WHAT
_____	1. Participation Awards	
_____	2. Praise & Worship	
_____	3. Announcements	
_____	4. Offering	
_____	5. Motion Comic:	Adventures of the Masked Hero #12
_____	6. Bottom Line:	What we say and do will affect our prayers.
_____	7. Memory Verse:	James 4:6, "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (NKJV)
_____	8. Drama:	Detective Drake: "The Investigation"
_____	9. Object Lesson:	Watch Out For Roadblocks
_____	10. Short Film:	"The Amazing Race"
_____	11. Inter-Active Lesson:	Think Before You Speak
_____	12. Digital Review Questions	

MOTION COMIC

# The Adventures of the Masked Hero

## Episode #12

▶ TO THE TEACHER:

**Goal:** get the kids to laugh and introduce the lesson.

- At the conclusion of the Digital Comic Book, Johnny asks the question “**What is the Bottom Line?**” Words pop up one at a time. Encourage your kids to guess the Bottom Line as the words pop up.

- Next Commissioner Thornton asks the question “**What is the Memory Verse?**” Again words pop up one at a time.

- It is motivating to reward the first child to guess the Bottom Line and Memory Verse.



Panel 1



Panel 2



Panel 3



Panel 4





**DRAMA**

***Detective Drake:  
"The Investigation"***

**TAKE HOME POINT:** There are things that can hinder our prayers from being answered.

**CHARACTERS:** Detective Drake

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Notebook and pen

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**Drama Script:**

(Detective Drake enters with a notebook and pen.)

Teacher: Detective Drake, thank you for coming today.

Drake: I only wish it could be under better circumstances that we meet.

Teacher: Yes, well I appreciate your help. Your expertise could make all the difference in getting our prayers answered.

Drake: I think you'll be happy to know that I solved the cases you sent me.

Teacher: You solved all of them?

Drake: Yes, each and every unanswered prayer had a reason for not being answered.

Teacher: Can you tell us about the cases?

Drake: The first case you told me about, the kid that was praying for her brother.

Teacher: Yes, she was praying for a whole week that he would pass his science test, but she would get angry sometimes and call him names like "stupid."

*Continued on next page*



## ***Detective Drake: "The Investigation" Drama Script — Continued***

Drake: That's the case alright. It seems calling him "stupid" counteracted the prayer. He failed that test. He didn't think he could pass.

Teacher: Why not? Why didn't he think he could pass?

Drake: His sister's name calling convinced him that he was stupid. He didn't even try. Now he'll be in summer school catching up.

Teacher: What a tragedy. That's so sad.

Drake: Then there was the boy that allegedly prayed for a new bike on a... (checks his notes) Tuesday.

Teacher: Sure, Billy. He said he prayed for a new blue mountain bike on a Tuesday.

Drake: Then on Sunday he came and told everyone that God never answered his prayer.

Teacher: Yeah, he was really disappointed about it.

Drake: Well I did some asking down at the station, and a friend of mine has an informant down at Billy's school.

Teacher: An informant at his school? What did the informant say?

Drake: He said Billy doesn't eat his vegetables that his Mom sends in his lunch.

Teacher: Wow, how did you find that out?

Drake: A good detective asks good questions. But that's not all.

Teacher: What else did he say?

*Continued on next page*



## ***Detective Drake: “The Investigation” Drama Script — Continued***

- Drake: It turns out that Billy admitted to his friend that he never really prayed for a bike.
- Teacher: He didn't?
- Drake: Nope.
- Teacher: Why did he say he prayed for a bike if he didn't actually do it?
- Drake: Peer pressure. Peer pressure from you and all his friends.
- Teacher: Oh no! He lied? Does that make us an accessory to a lie about praying?
- Drake: No, God looks at the heart. You and these kids were all pure of heart and just encouraging Billy to pray.
- Teacher: Our motives were pure.
- Drake: Exactly, God is a lot like the police force. Motive is important.
- Teacher: Whatever happened to Phillip? You know, the kid that lost his dog?
- Drake: He prayed for days that his dog would come home.
- Teacher: Yes, that's him.
- Drake: His prayer was answered. He never gave up praying and believing to receive the answer to his prayer, and just one hour after he thought about giving up his dog was home.
- Teacher: That's amazing!

*Continued on next page*





## ***Detective Drake: "The Investigation" Drama Script — Continued***

(Detective Drake checks his notes.)

Drake: There is one more case.

Teacher: What case? I don't remember another case.

Drake: When you were a kid you prayed you would get a (insert name of a cool toy from the era the Teacher was a kid) for your Birthday present.

Teacher: Yeah, that's right, but I never got it. How did you find out about that?

Drake: I'm that good. Do you remember what happened?

Teacher: My friend got one and I didn't.

Drake: Jealousy set in. God can't reward jealousy.

Teacher: But my friend rubbed it in my face that they got it and I didn't.

Drake: Unforgiveness, it'll stop a prayer in its tracks every time.

Teacher: So my own jealousy and unforgiveness stopped my prayer from being answered when I was a kid?

Drake: God looks at your heart.

Teacher: I pray that God will help me let go of that jealousy and unforgiveness.

Drake: I'm sure you'll get your prayer answered now. It looks like my work here is done. Case closed!

Teacher: Thanks Detective Drake. We'll see you next time.

*The End*



**OBJECT LESSON** *Watch Out For Roadblocks*

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** **James 4:6**, "God resists the proud, but He gives grace to the humble." (NKJV)

**TAKE HOME POINT:** Watch out for things that will stop your prayers from being answered.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** 4 hurdles or sawhorses  
(if sawhorses are not available, use powerpoint slides of road signs)  
4 signs: "Pride," "Unforgiveness," "Words," "Vain Repetitions"

**TO THE TEACHER:**

- Put the four signs on the sawhorses.
- Place the sawhorses at the front of the class.
- You will knock them over during this lesson.

**OBJECT LESSON APPLICATION:**

Prayer is more than just saying the right words. God is looking at your whole life. For example, there is a verse in the Bible that says, "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

Are you the kid that thinks he is better than everybody else? Do you think you are smarter than everyone in your class? If you do, the Bible says, "God resists you." It is hard to get your prayers answered if God is resisting you. What should you do if you find yourself in pride? You just need to humble yourself and say, "Father God, I am sorry. I ask you to forgive me." If you have been mean to someone, go tell them you are sorry and it will take care of that roadblock.

(Knock over the roadblock of "pride.")

Has someone ever said mean things to you? Or maybe

*Continued on next page*





## ***Watch Out For Roadblocks Object Lesson — Continued***

someone borrowed money but did not pay you back? Do you still feel hurt by what they said? You might be holding on to unforgiveness. Unforgiveness will hinder your prayers. Jesus not only died for your sins, but He also died for those that sinned against you. If you find yourself at this roadblock, is it “game over?” No. All you need to do is ask the Holy Spirit to help you forgive and He will.

(Knock over the roadblock of “unforgiveness.”)

Do you have a tendency to say negative words? If you do, you will have to really work at being thankful, especially when bad things happen. You need to be careful about the words you say after you pray. When you are tempted to say, “God did not answer my prayer,” don’t say it. Instead, thank the Father for the answer.

(Knock over the roadblock of “words.”)

Jesus told us not to use “vain repetitions” when we pray. What are “vain repetitions?” It is saying the same thing over and over and not really meaning it. Or you can pray the same prayer over and over and it isn’t really from your heart. Prayer comes from our heart. Prayer is not just saying the same thing over and over because someone told you to. Stop and think about what you are saying. Talk to God from your heart.

(Knock over the roadblock of “vain repetitions.”)



**INTER-ACTIVE  
OBJECT LESSON**

***Think Before You Speak***

- ▶ **WHAT YOU’LL LEARN:** *Your words can destroy your prayers.*
- ▶ **WHAT YOU NEED:** 1 table  
Several large building blocks (made of wood or cardboard)
- ▶ **CONTESTANTS:** 2 Contestants
- ▶ **PREPARATION:** Place building blocks on table.
- ▶ **INSTRUCTIONS:** Contestant 1 will build the biggest and best building in 2 minutes.  
When finished, Contestant 1 steps back.  
Contestant 2 comes forward.  
Ask Contestant 2 to destroy the building that Contestant 1 built.

**SPIRITUAL APPLICATION:**

Did you notice how much easier it was to destroy the building than it was to build it? Our hands can be used to build things or they can be used to destroy things. The same is true with our words. We can use our words to pray in faith and create things, or we can use our words to destroy our prayers. Be careful what you say after you pray. Negative words will destroy your prayers.

When you want to say something negative, don’t do it. Instead lift up your hands and thank God for the answer.



# Roadblocks To Answered Prayer

## DIGITAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

NEEDED: Review Prizes (penny candy for right answers)

### ▶ TO THE TEACHER:

The **Digital Review Questions** are a part of “The Masked Hero” download.

Once you get to the Memory Verse, then **PAUSE** the video.

After you have done your teaching then **PLAY** the Digital Review Questions.

You can turn this into a **Review Game** by rewarding kids for correct answers.

1. James 4:6 says, “God \_\_\_\_\_, but gives grace to the humble.”
  - a. likes to sleep
  - b. is very good
  - c. resists the proud**
  - d. all of the above
2. What we \_\_\_\_\_ will affect our prayers.
  - a. eat for breakfast
  - b. say and do**
  - c. buy at Walmart
  - d. ride to school
3. What are some roadblocks to answered prayers?
  - a. Pride
  - b. Unforgiveness
  - c. Vain repetitions
  - d. All of the above**
4. What is vain repetitions?
  - a. Looking in the mirror
  - b. Doing lots of sit ups
  - c. Saying the same prayer over and over**
  - d. Surfing the net
5. What should I do if I have pride?
  - a. Talk about how smart I am
  - b. Talk about how great I am
  - c. Talk about how all the girls like me
  - d. Humble myself and ask God to forgive me**





# Roadblocks To Answered Prayer

## PROP LIST (Props, supplies, costumes and characters)

\_\_\_\_\_ Participation Awards (Large candy bars or prizes)

\_\_\_\_\_ How many needed?

\_\_\_\_\_ Review Prizes (penny candy)

### Detective Drake: "The Investigation" — Pages 4-7

#### Characters

\_\_\_\_\_ Detective Drake

#### Props

\_\_\_\_\_ Notepad and pen

### Object Lesson: Watch Out For Roadblocks — Pages 8-9

\_\_\_\_\_ 4 hurdles or sawhorses (if sawhorses are not available use powerpoint signs)

\_\_\_\_\_ 4 signs: "Pride," "Unforgiveness," "Words," "Vain Repetitions"

### Inter-Active Lesson: Think Before You Speak — Page 10

\_\_\_\_\_ 1 table

\_\_\_\_\_ Several large building blocks (made of wood or cardboard)

### Small Group Club: Get Rid of Pride

\_\_\_\_\_ 3 balloons

\_\_\_\_\_ How many needed

\_\_\_\_\_ Pushpin

\_\_\_\_\_ How many needed

\_\_\_\_\_ Marker

\_\_\_\_\_ How many needed

\_\_\_\_\_ Activity page

\_\_\_\_\_ How many needed

### Special Edition: Pastoring Your Kids

\_\_\_\_\_ How many needed