

## CANDIDATE-SPONSOR SHARING SESSION

**DIRECTIONS:** This can be done in person or over the telephone.

1. Read the “If God Should Speak” script alone or together (each of you may be one of the readers if you read it together.)
2. Reflect upon and share the following with each other (both of you respond to the questions.)
  - a. What did the “If God Should Speak” reading make you think about?
  - b. Is there an aspect of our Catholic faith that you may not have thought about or considered as deeply?
  - c. What do you like best about being Catholic? Why?
  - d. How has your faith grown over the past few years?
  - e. Candidate: Tell your sponsor why you chose him/her.
  - f. Sponsor: Tell this young person what good qualities you see in him/her.
  - g. How will you continue to support each other in your faith life?
3. The candidate/student completes the online assessment:  
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/V8YN8VK>

# **If God Should Speak**

*By Clyde Lee Herring*

**Reader 1:** “Our Father who art in heaven . . . “

**Reader 2:** Yes.

**Reader 1:** Don’t interrupt me. I’m praying.

**Reader 2:** But you called me.

**Reader 1:** Called you? I didn’t call you. I’m praying. “Our Father who art in heaven . . . “

**Reader 2:** There, you did it again.

**Reader 1:** Did what?

**Reader 2:** Called me. You said, “Our Father who art in heaven.” Here I am. What’s on your mind?

**Reader 1:** But I didn’t mean anything by it. I was, you know, just saying my prayers for the day. I always say the Lord’s Prayer. It makes me feel good; kind of like getting a duty done.

**Reader 2:** All right, go on.

**Reader 1:** “Hallowed be thy name.”

**Reader 2:** Hold it. What did you mean by that?

**Reader 1:** By what?

**Reader 2:** By “Hallowed be Thy name.”

**Reader 1:** It means . . . it means . . . good grief, I don’t know what it means. How should I know? It’s just part of the prayer. By the way, what does it mean?

**Reader 2:** It means honored, holy wonderful.

**Reader 1:** Hey, that makes sense. I never thought what “hallowed” meant before. “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

**Reader 2:** Do you really mean that?

**Reader 1:** Sure, why not?

**Reader 2:** What are you doing about it?

**Reader 1:** Doing? Nothing, I guess. I just think it would be kind of neat if you got control of everything down here like you have up there.

**Reader 2:** Have I got control of you?

**Reader 1:** Well, I go to church.

**Reader 2:** That isn't what I asked you. What about the habit of lying you have? You've really got a problem there. The way you talk about others and listen when your friends rip on others. You hurt people that way.

**Reader 1:** Stop picking on me! I'm just as good as some of the rest of those phonies at church.

**Reader 2:** Excuse me. I thought you were praying for my will to be done. If that is to happen it will have to start with the ones who are praying for it. Like you, for example.

**Reader 1:** Oh, all right. I guess I do have some hang-ups. Now that you mention it, I probably could name some others.

**Reader 2:** So could I.

**Reader 1:** I haven't thought about it very much until now. But I really would like to cut out some of those things. I would like to, you know, be really free.

**Reader 2:** Good. Now we're getting somewhere. We'll work together, you and I. Some victories can truly be won. I'm proud of you.

**Reader 1:** Look, Lord, I need to finish up here. This is taking a lot longer than it usually does. "Give us this day our daily bread."

**Reader 2:** You need to cut out the bread. You're overweight as it is.

**Reader 1:** Hey, wait a minute! What is this, “Criticize Me Day?” Here I was doing my religious duty, and all of a sudden you break in and remind me of all my hang-ups.

**Reader 2:** Praying is a dangerous thing. You could wind up changed, you know. That’s what I’m trying to get across to you. You called me, and here I am. It’s too late to stop now. Keep praying; I’m interested in the next part of your prayer . . . Well, go on.

**Reader 1:** I’m scared to.

**Reader 2:** Scared? Of what?

**Reader 1:** I know what you’ll say.

**Reader 2:** Try me and see.

**Reader 1:** “And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.”

**Reader 2:** What about Linda?

**Reader 1:** See? I knew it! I knew you would bring her up. Why, Lord, she told lies about me, cheated me out of some money. She never paid back that debt she owes me. I’ve sworn to get even with her.

**Reader 2:** But what about your prayer?

**Reader 1:** I didn’t mean it.

**Reader 2:** Well, at least you’re honest. But it’s not much fun carrying that load of bitterness around inside, is it?

**Reader 1:** No, but I’ll feel better as soon as I get even. Boy, have I got some plans for old Linda. She’ll wish she never did me any harm.

**Reader 2:** You won’t feel any better. You’ll feel worse. Revenge isn’t sweet. Think of how unhappy you already are. But I can change all that.

**Reader 1:** You can? How?

**Reader 2:** Forgive Linda as I have forgiven you. Then the hate and sin will be Linda's problems, not yours. You may lose the money, but you will have settled your heart.

**Reader 1:** But Lord, I can't forgive Linda.

**Reader 2:** Then I can't forgive you.

**Reader 1:** Oh, you're right. You always are. And more than I want revenge on Linda, I want to be right with you . . . (sigh.) All right. All right. I forgive her. Help her to find the right road in life. She's bound to be awfully miserable now that I think about it. Anybody who goes around doing the things that she does to others has to be out of it. Some way, somehow, show her the right way. And Lord, help me to forget it too.

**Reader 2:** There now! Wonderful! How do you feel?

**Reader 1:** Hmmmm, well, not bad. Not bad at all. In fact, I feel pretty great! You know, I don't think I'll have to go to bed uptight tonight for the first time since I can remember. Maybe I won't be so tired from now on because I'm not getting enough rest.

**Reader 2:** You're not through with your prayer.

**Reader 1:** Oh, all right. "And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

**Reader 2:** Good! Good! I'll do that. Just don't put yourself in a place where you can be tempted.

**Reader 1:** What do you mean by that?

**Reader 2:** Quit hanging around with that group that's always getting into trouble. Change some of your friendships. Some of your so-called friends are beginning to get to you. They'll have you completely involved in wrong things before long. Don't be fooled. They advertise they're having fun, but for you it would be ruin. Don't use me for an escape hatch.

**Reader 1:** I don't understand.

**Reader 2:** Sure you do. You've don't it lots of times. You get in bad situations, get into trouble and then come running to me. "Lord, help me out of this mess, and

I promise I'll never do it again." You remember some of those bargains you tried to make with me?

**Reader 1:** Yes, and I'm ashamed, Lord. I really am.

**Reader 2:** Which bargain are you remembering?

**Reader 1:** Well, the time I almost got caught when I told John that thing about Susan because I was mad at her. I remember telling you, "Oh Lord, don't let me get caught and John hate me and I'll be at church every Sunday for the rest of my life."

**Reader 2:** He didn't tell, but you didn't keep your promise, did you?

**Reader 1:** I'm sorry, Lord. I really am. Up until now I thought that if I just prayed the Lord's Prayer every day, I could do what I like. I didn't expect anything to happen like this . . . that you really listen.

**Reader 2:** Go ahead and finish your prayer.

**Reader 1:** "For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."

**Reader 2:** Do you know what would bring me glory? What would really make me happy?

**Reader 1:** No. But I'd like to know. I want to please you. I can see what a mess I've made of my life. And I can see how neat it would be to really be one of your followers.

**Reader 2:** You just answered the question.

**Reader 1:** I did?

**Reader 2:** Yes. The thing that would bring me glory is to have people like you truly love me. And I see that happening between us. Now that some of these old sins are exposed and out of the way, well, there's no telling what we can do together.

**Reader 1:** Lord, let's see what we can make of me. Okay?

**Reader 2:** Yes. Let's see.