

God Uses the Prayers of Children: George Mueller/Blanche

This is a fun story to tell and act out right before a family meal or class snack when everyone is already seated. You will need to gather some simple props ahead of time: pictures on pp. 4-6, plates and cups, table, bread on plate, bottle/jar filled with milk, two child actors who can read, speaking parts for baker and milkman on p. 3

Story

George Mueller lived in the country of England many, many years ago, before the time of your parents, grandparents, or even great-grandparents. There were big cities, but no cars. Instead of cars, people rode horses or rode in wagons or carriages pulled by horses. *[show picture p. 4]*

Instead of going to a grocery store like ____ (insert name grocery store chain in your area) for bread, people bought bread in a bakery. *[show picture p. 5]* Have you ever been in a bakery? What kinds of things do they sell there? (allow children's responses)

Instead of buying milk at the store, a person called a milkman had the job of delivering milk right to your house. Milk came in glass bottles or large metal cans in those days. *[show picture p. 6]* In the milkman's wagon were big blocks of ice to keep the milk cold. What happens to milk if you leave it out of the refrigerator too long? (allow children's responses)

When George lived, there were many orphans in England, children who did not have mothers or fathers. God gave George Muller a love for these poor, dirty, hungry boys and girls. George began taking care of these orphans, praying to God for anything he needed. God provided money for 5 homes, clothes for the children, school supplies, and food. Here is an example of how God answered George Muller's prayer.

[Give two children who can read the baker and milkman props and their speaking part (page 3). Direct them to knock and read their parts when you give the signal for them to come in. If you are seated at a table, they can just knock on the tabletop.]

One morning the boys and girls who lived in the orphan home got up, washed, dressed, and came downstairs to breakfast. Each of the children had a chair at one of the large tables in the dining room. 300 children took their seats and waited for Mr. Mueller. *[Set table with the plates and cups.]* George always began breakfast with a prayer to thank God.

That morning, George prayed a very surprising prayer. He said, "Dear Father, thank you for what you are going to give us to eat." But as the children looked at the table, they saw empty plates and cups. There was no food on the table, there was no food in the kitchen, and there was no money left to buy more food. They looked up at George, they stared at the empty plates, and they wondered what would happen. They didn't have to wait long.

Just then there was a knock on the door. Standing at the door was the local baker. *[Signal for the baker to knock, enter with the plate of bread, and set it on the table.]*

Baker: I couldn't sleep last night. Somehow I felt that you didn't have bread for breakfast, and the Lord wanted me to send you some. So I got up at 2:00 in the morning and baked some fresh bread for you.

George took the bread and said, "Boys and girls, we not only have bread, but God has given us the treat of fresh bread!"

No sooner had the baker left, than there was a second knock at the door. It was the milkman. *[Signal for the milkman to knock, enter with the milk, and set it on the table.]*

Milkman: My milk cart broke down right in front of your orphanage. I can't fix the wheel until I unload the heavy cart. Could your children use some bottles of fresh milk?

George thanked God for his care for the orphans. That day, every child had breakfast. And all the days after that, all the boys and girls had what they needed. All through his life, George continued to pray and trust God.

But that's not the end of the story. George's belief in God and his way of praying about every need became a model for other people to follow ...

Hundreds of years later, in the small town of Bethany, Oklahoma, another group of orphaned children were in trouble. There wasn't enough money to buy food and the children living in the orphanage were hungry. Following the example of George Mueller, the orphanage leaders prayed in faith, asking God to supply their needs. Blanche, a six-year old girl rubbed her stomach and said, "I want bread, meat, butter, gravy, and fruit."

"Ask your Father in heaven for food," suggested the wise orphanage director. After spending some time alone with God in prayer, Blanche returned, clapping her hands and shouting, "Glory to God. He is going to give us the good things!" What would happen? They didn't have to wait long.

In a little while, a wagon pulled up to the orphanage and stopped by the kitchen door. Inside the wagon was everything that was needed, even the exact food that Blanche had requested.

God used adults like George and children like Blanche to pray for food and other things that the children in the orphanage really needed ... and God can use you, too. The God of the universe wants you to pray to him. God never sleeps, he's never too busy, he doesn't get distracted, and he never takes a day off. God is always ready and willing to listen to you. God uses prayers to change the world. Could you pray for children around the world who don't have the things they need like healthy food, clean water, a home, and loving people to take care of them? Who knows! Someone else might hear you praying and follow your example.

Background information from *George Mueller* by Janet and Geoff Benge, (1999) and *When Children Pray* by Cheri Fuller, (1998).

Baker and Milkman Speaking Parts

Baker: carry in bread on a plate

I couldn't sleep last night. Somehow I felt that you didn't have bread for breakfast, and the Lord wanted me to send you some. So I got up at 2:00 in the morning and baked some fresh bread for you.

Milkman: carry in the milk

My milk cart broke down right in front of your orphanage. I can't fix the wheel until I unload the heavy cart. Could your children use some bottles of fresh milk?





