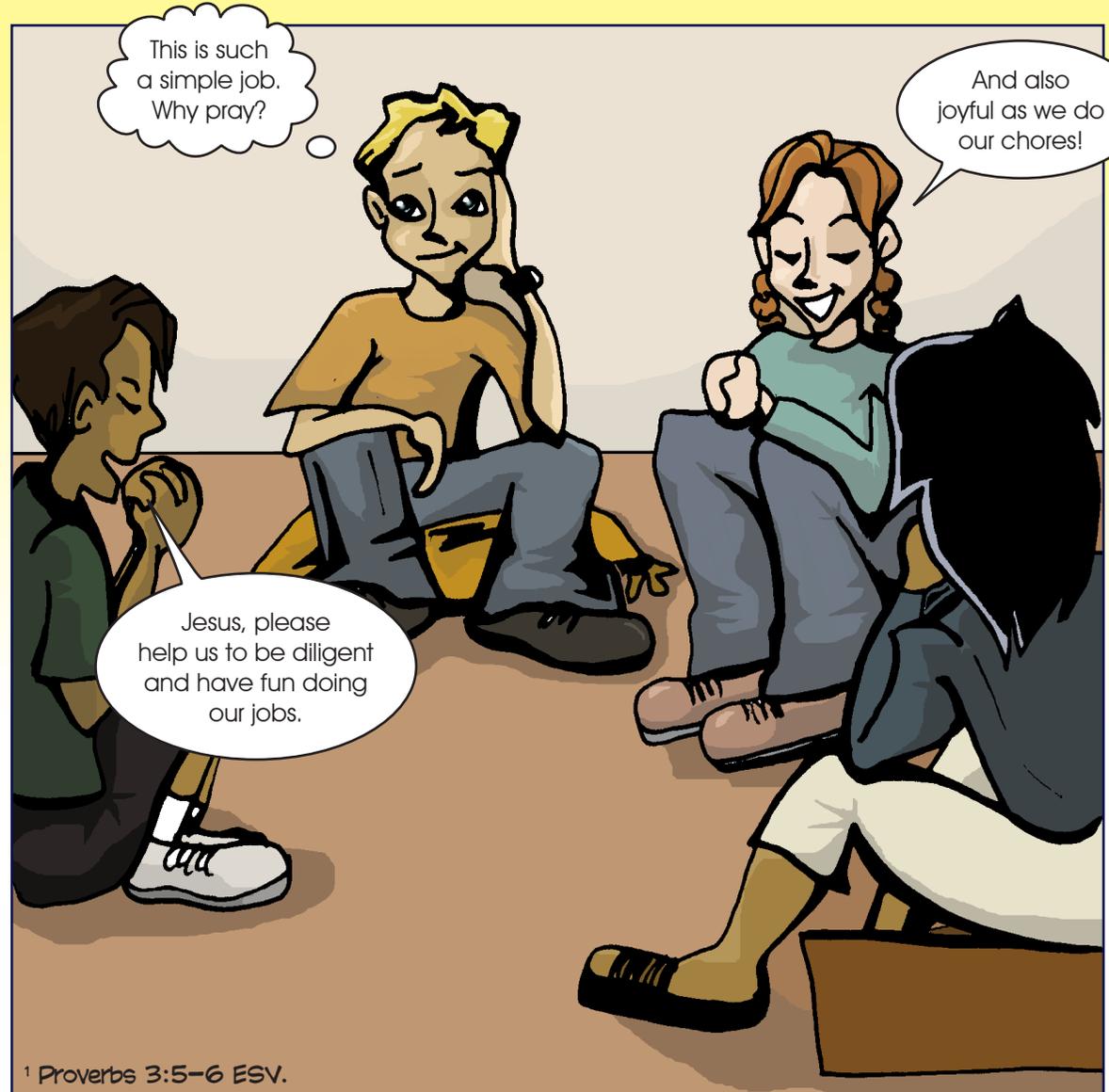


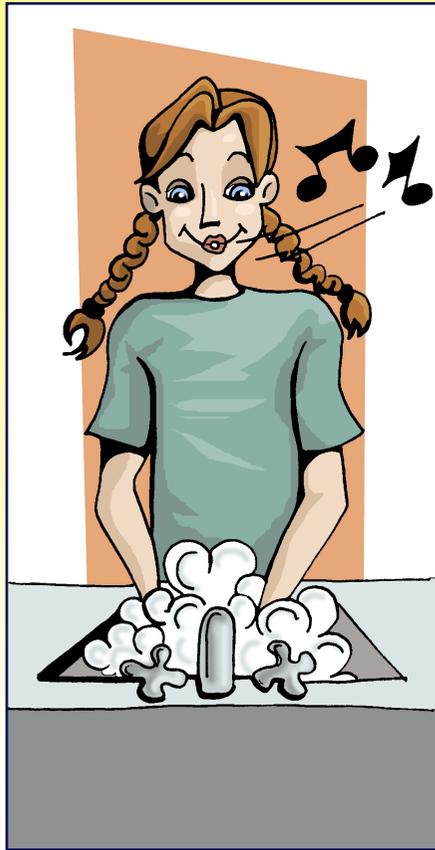
Practical and Powerful Prayer

When your first reaction to any problem, difficulty, or challenge is "Let's pray so we have God's help," this brings you great practical benefits because it places the focus on Jesus and His mighty power, instead of only on you and your skills and abilities. King Solomon of Bible days said, "In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."¹

Of course, you can't say, "Let's not do anything then, and just pray for Jesus to do *all* the work." Often there is also something Jesus wants *us* to do. But the *first* thing we can do when we need help is pray. Next, we can pray about what Jesus wants us to do in order to face whatever lies ahead.



Often, it's easy to forget to pray when it's a small thing that needs to be taken care of, and then when there's a big task or situation that you know you can't take care of, then you pray. But if you make prayer your *first* move or *first* reaction, whether the situation is "easy" or "difficult," you'll be establishing a good habit of prayer, which is going to make things better and easier for you in the long run.



I actually enjoyed my chore today!

It sure pays to pray!

Next time I'm going to pray!

Even if you could do this or that thing without prayer, why do it on your own when acknowledging Jesus could make whatever you are facing so many times easier than if you were to do it by yourself? That's the power and advantage of prayer. Use it!

