

Youth Culture Lesson
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Texting God

Praying Online with New iPhone App

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What Happened:

The iPhone has become one of the most-talked-about gadgets of the 21st century. Through its scads of applications, Apple's popular cell phone can be used as a GPS system, camera, game console, construction level, timer and countless other things.

If teen Allen Wright has his way, iPhone users soon will be able to talk with God.

Allen, 17, has developed an iPhone app called "A Note to God." It allows users to compose, type and send anonymous prayers to a special site, where they can be read by other faithful iPhone users.

"If you want to sent a message and you don't have anybody to talk to, you could send a little prayer," he told McClatchy Newspapers.

Talk About It:

People pray in different ways. In some branches of Christianity, it can be a complex, ritualistic procedure. In others, prayer can sound like an informal conversation between friends. Some kneel and bow. Some raise their hands and eyes to heaven.

How do you pray? Are there times or places when you feel closer to God? When? Where?

Allen's iPhone idea isn't new. Most of the psalms are prayers. For centuries, people have written their prayers on paper and "sent" them to God by burning them, hiding them or putting them in cracks in Jerusalem's famous Wailing Wall. Have you ever written a prayer?

For what sorts of things do you pray? Do you thank God for things in your life? Ask Him for help? Ask Him to help others? Do you ever pray simply to talk with Him?

What the Bible Says:

"Then man prays to God, and He accepts him; he sees His face with a shout of joy and He restores to man his righteousness" (Job 33:26).

"I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline Your ear to me; hear my words" (Ps. 17:6).

"I love the Lord, because He has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. Because He inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on Him as long as I live" (Ps. 116:1-2).