

## LESSON 22

## SUKETU LEARNS ABOUT PRAYER

**SUKETU:** Wow, was that prayer fast! I did not think he could do it. It only took our teacher four minutes and fifteen seconds for the prayer. He ought to be in the world record.

(Rita enters.)

**RITA:** What are you so thrilled about? What has happened that it is so special?

(Nirav enters.)

**SUKETU:** Oh, Nirav. Were you at the Jain Center this morning?

**NIRAV:** Didn't you see me during the prayer?

**SUKETU:** I am not sure. My mind was on other things.

**NIRAV:** Didn't you notice anything at the center today that was special?

**RITA:** Do you mean the prayer at the beginning of the class was special?

**NIRAV:** The new teacher said a beautiful prayer and it made a lot of sense.

**SUKETU:** What did he say this morning?

**NIRAV:** Didn't you listen to the words?

**SUKETU:** I was concentrating on different things and could not listen at the same time.

**RITA:** What were you doing during the prayer?

**SUKETU:** I was timing him. It only took him four minutes and fifteen seconds.

**RITA:** You time people at the center while they are praying or teaching?

**SUKETU:** I sure do. It is cool idea. I have a whole list of times for reciting prayers and lectures in my Sunday book. It tells me how long it takes to say different prayers and lectures.

**RITA:** You really missed a good prayer.

**SUKETU:** I was not saying the prayer, he was. What good would it do to me?

**NIRAV:** The teacher was leading us in the prayer. It is important to listen and pay attention to what is being said in any prayer.

**SUKETU:** I thought we were just supposed to sit still and be quiet.

**RITA:** Well, yes. But we are also supposed to pray and listen.

**NIRAV:** One of my favorite things to do is, listen to the prayer and understand the meaning.

**SUKETU:** I prefer listening to the songs on MTV. It is more fun!

**NIRAV:** We do not spend much time during the week praying, so we should at least pay attention during the prayer time. We learn a lot from these prayers.

**RITA:** He's right. Listening to the prayers has helped me understand why different things happen around us and how we can change ourselves to adjust to them.

**SUKETU:** Maybe you are right. Maybe that will change my attitude. I will leave my watch at home from now on. My new hobby will be listening to the prayers.