

# Bible Study: PRAYER

## Note to leaders

- This study has potential to last a longer than most studies
- When you go through each sections of verses try to facilitate discussion, and not necessarily read each verse and move on.
- You'll need a computer to watch the videos linked (play them at your own discretion)

## Open in Prayer

### Goal

I want us to be honest tonight. I want us to be convicted tonight. God wants our prayer lives to change from the way they are now. So that is my goal tonight, to let God change our lives.

### Ask, “What is Prayer?”

Play video: “What is Prayer” <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPAvfRpUAjI>

### Conditions of Prayer

This next section is titled, “Conditions of Prayer,” meaning the circumstances that affect our prayers. When we read these, if you have a cool story, or you have anything that you want to say, just blurt it out. I want wrestle through these verses to figure out how they can all work together and make sense.

[After each verse ask something like, “How does this change your view on prayer?” “What do you think?” “What is this verse’s implication in your life?”]

**<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up... [read through verse 8] (Luke 18:1-8)**

**<sup>13</sup> And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. (John 14)**

**<sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. (John 15)**

**<sup>14</sup> This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. <sup>15</sup> And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him. (1 John 5)**

**<sup>2c</sup> You do not have because you do not ask God. (James 4)**

• Play video: “Prayer Causes Things to Happen” <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3KzZJChhtvY>

**<sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. (John 9)**

**<sup>22</sup> and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. (1 John 3)**

**<sup>15</sup> And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. (James 5)**

**<sup>22</sup> And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.” (Matthew 21)**

**<sup>16</sup> The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. (James 5)**

## Commands about Prayer

[After each verse ask something like, “How does this change your view on prayer?” “What do you think?” “What is this verse’s implication in your life?”]

**<sup>17</sup> ...pray without ceasing... (1 Thessalonians 5)**

• How is this possible? What does this look like?  
• Play video: “Pray Throughout the Day” [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WL\\_KfhzWnis](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WL_KfhzWnis)

**<sup>24</sup> Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. (Mark 11)**

**<sup>6</sup> But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. (James 1)**

**<sup>7</sup> Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. (Matthew 7)**

• Play video: “ Bring Your Requests to God” <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDC4h7yw-Cs>

## **Matthew 6:5-15**

### **Jesus' Example of Prayer**

[After each verse ask something like, “How does this change your view on prayer?” “What do you think?” “What is this verse’s implication in your life?”]

**<sup>39</sup> Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.” (Matthew 26)**

#### **<sup>6</sup> But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. (Luke 5)**

*“Praying gives sense, brings wisdom, broadens and strengthens the mind. The closet is a perfect school-teacher and schoolhouse for the preacher. Thought is not only brightened and clarified in prayer, but thought is born in prayer. We can learn more in an hour praying, when praying indeed, than from many hours in the study. Books are in the closet which can be found and read nowhere else. Revelations are made in the closet which are made nowhere else.” E.M. Bounds, Power Through Prayer*

**<sup>12</sup> One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. (Luke 16)**

**<sup>35</sup> And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup> And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, <sup>37</sup> and they found him and said to him, “Everyone is looking for you.” <sup>38</sup> And he said to them, “Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out.” <sup>39</sup> And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons. (Mark 1)**

• Notice the order of Jesus’ priorities. Why do you think he woke up so early? Why not pray after he preached and casted out demons?

*“I ought to pray before seeing any one. Often when I sleep long, or meet with others early, it is eleven or twelve o'clock before I begin secret prayer. This is a wretched system. It is unscriptural. Christ arose before day and went into a solitary place. David says: "Early will I seek thee"; "Thou shalt early hear my voice." Family prayer loses much of its power and sweetness, and I can do no good to those who come to seek from me. The conscience feels guilty, the soul unfed, the lamp not trimmed.*

*Then when in secret prayer the soul is often out of tune, I feel it is far better to begin with God -- to see his face first, to get my soul near him before it is near another.” - Robert Murry McCheyne*

*“If God is not first in our thoughts and efforts in the morning, he will be in the last place the remainder of the day... No man gets God who does not follow hard after him, and no soul follows hard after God who is not after him in early morn.”  
-E.M. Bounds, Power Through Prayer*

**Ask: Why do you think we don't feel the need to pray all the time?**

- Video: “Platt on Prayer” <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KbDuoT4-HWc>
  - Distractions?
- How do we increase our desire for prayer?

**Close in Prayer**

**Announcements (Cru events, birthdays, etc.)**

Other Prayer resources:

“How the Gospel Affects Our Prayer Life” Tim Keller  
[http://crupress.campuscrusadeforchrist.com/green/\\_assets/resources/How\\_the\\_Gospel\\_Affects\\_Our\\_Prayer\\_Life.pdf](http://crupress.campuscrusadeforchrist.com/green/_assets/resources/How_the_Gospel_Affects_Our_Prayer_Life.pdf)

“The Power of Fervent Prayer” chapter excerpt from Fireseeds of Spiritual Awakening  
[http://crupress.campuscrusadeforchrist.com/green/\\_assets/resources/The\\_Power\\_of\\_Fervant\\_Prayer.pdf](http://crupress.campuscrusadeforchrist.com/green/_assets/resources/The_Power_of_Fervant_Prayer.pdf)

Link to Crupress/green where to find these and many more prayer resources:  
<http://crupress.campuscrusadeforchrist.com/green/index.php/search/results/prayer>