

The Compass

a tool for disciplers



Equipping Believers for Ministry

Prayer

Conversation On the Journey

Prayer is simply communicating with our Father, as Jesus did constantly. Luke 5:16 says that, "Jesus often withdrew to the lonely places and prayed." This week you want to help your disciple see what prayer is, why we pray, and even show her how to pray.

Jot down these thoughts and passages on a post-it note, and share with her from your own experience of success and failure in prayer.

What is Prayer?

It is an opportunity to express to the Lord what is on our heart and mind, to seek wisdom and guidance, and to ask for needs to be met. It is also a way to express our praise and adoration of who He is. It includes our asking on behalf of others and praying for what is on God's heart, as well as for His will to be done. Finally, prayer is one way we express our dependence on Him.

Why Pray?

There are many reasons that Scripture gives us to motivate us to exercise our right and privilege of prayer. Look at a handful of these with your disciple to help put God's perspective on prayer into their minds. Below are several passages to get you started. Augment with other verses that have been significant to you.

Because of His Character

1 Peter 5:7 He cares for you.

John 16:23-24 He wants to answer your prayers.

Matt. 7:7-11 He is a loving Father who gives good gifts.

Because He Invites Us to Pray When We Are Anxious

Phil. 4:6-7 He will guard your heart with peace.

You might ask, "What is it that most makes you desire to pray?"

What to pray for?

A key reason people don't pray is that they don't see answers to their prayers. Ask your disciple some questions to get at this issue: Why do you think God doesn't answer certain prayers? Have you ever prayed for something and it didn't happen?

This Week's Excursion

Prayer is tough. A new Christian needs to learn the value that God places on prayer, and the power it unleashes. Your goal is to use the Word to motivate your disciple to want to pray. As she does, she will get to know the Lord better, and grow in her faith as a result of seeing God answer her prayers.



Then look at some of these passages that give criteria for the kinds of prayer God answers.

What prayers does God promise to answer?

1 John 5:14-15 He answers when we pray according to His will.

John 14:13-14 He answers prayers to glorify Himself.

John 15:7-8 He answers prayers so that we will bear much fruit.

James 4:2,3 He doesn't answer when we ask with wrong motives.

How do I pray?

In Matthew 6:5-13, Jesus is teaching on prayer. Looking through this passage could be a great mini-study for you and your disciple. Help her see the different elements of Jesus' instructed prayer and suggest it as a model for her own prayers:

v. 9 Praise and adore the Father

You might want to ask why God wants praise. Our hearts must worship that which is greater than ourselves. There is nothing greater than God, and nothing greater than Him to praise.

v. 10 Ask that God's will be done

You might ask, "From what we've read so far, what kinds of things would be in accordance with His will?"

v. 11 Ask for what we need

v. 12 Confession of our sin

v. 13 Ask for God's help as we are tempted

Next Steps

One of the best things you can do with your disciple is to pray with her. You can model a healthy prayer life. Below are some suggestions:

Spend some time of your appointment praying together.

Invite your disciple to go to a prayer meeting with you.

Discuss using a prayer journal, or making up a prayer notebook, or just begin with a simple prayer list to keep record of how God answers prayer requests.

Discuss what her most pressing concerns are right now, so that you can be praying for her.

Discuss and decide on a time each day when she is going to attempt to have a quiet time and spend time in prayer.

Side Trails

Fireseeds of Spiritual Awakening. Dan Hayes. New Life Publications.

Order at campuscrusade.com

With Christ in the School of Prayer. Andrew Murray. Bridge-Logos Publishing.

Too Busy Not to Pray. Bill Hybels. IV Press.

The PAPA Prayer. Larry Crabb. Integrity Publishers.

Order at christianbook.com

End 

The Compass is the discipleship curriculum for Campus Crusade for Christ's Campus Ministry. It was created by Centerfield Productions, the field based division of CruPress. We'd love to hear your feedback on this lesson. Please write us at centerfield@uscm.org

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