



Praying Scripture

This leadership development resource encourages Community Bible Study (CBS) leaders to pray Scripture for those they shepherd.

Praying Scripture is a wonderful way of connecting with God and His Word. When we pray Scripture, we acknowledge that our entire dependency is on the power of the Holy Spirit for godly wisdom and direction.

Scripture

- Psalm 119:105
- Hebrews 4:12

Reasons to Pray Scripture

- The Word of God is powerful and effective.
 - Jesus is the Word. (John 1:1–2, 14)
 - Jesus used the Word. (Matthew 4:1–11)
 - The early Church used the Word. (Book of Acts, Acts 4:23–31)
 - All Scripture is the God-breathed Word. (2 Timothy 3:16–17)
- Praying Scripture is powerful and effective.
 - Praying the Word gives us confidence and power in our prayer. (John 15:7, Matthew 21:22, 1 John 5:14–15)
 - Praying the Word of God and hearing it prayed builds our faith in God’s ability to hear and answer. (Romans 10:17, James 5:15)
 - Praying the Word helps us to stand on a firm foundation. (Luke 6:47–48)

How to Develop Scripture Prayers

- Begin by praying a Scripture that prepares your own heart for connecting intimately with God.
 - Examples:
 - “Gracious God, I come boldly to your throne. I need your mercy and grace in my life.” (Based on Hebrews 4:16.)
 - “Lord, I need you. Please open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in your instructions.” (Based on Psalm 119:18.)
- Find a verse or passage to shape your Scripture prayer.
 - If you don’t know where to begin, the book of Psalms and Paul’s Epistles can be helpful.
 - Whether you are looking to declare God’s goodness, begging Him to listen, or praising His holy name, there is a Psalm that can become your prayer.
 - Paul’s Epistles also have some great encouragements and prayers. For example, see Colossians 1:3–13.
 - You can also search for topical Scriptures.
 - Use a concordance (use the one in the back of your Bible or do a quick search online) and find Bible passages about a particular topic (e.g., fear, anxiety, peace). You’ll discover treasures you didn’t even know existed and will be blessed in your prayer time.

- As you come across prayers or passages that speak to you in a special way, write them out in a prayer journal or on notecards, paraphrasing and personalizing to fit your situation. Come back to them again and again.
- Pray the verse back to God, inserting the name of a specific person or group to make the prayer more personal.
 - “Lord, the whole earth is yours, and everything in it! The world and all its people belong to you—including (name of your CBS class, participant’s name, Servants Team, etc). May these people understand the depth of your love for them today.” (See Psalm 24:1.)
- If praying Scripture is new or a struggle, ask the Holy Spirit to teach you pray.
 - The best teacher is the Spirit of God Himself. He promises to draw near to those who draw near to Him and to teach those who turn to Him. So, ask Him every day to guide you and to open your eyes to His Word.

Discussion

- Have you experienced the power of praying Scripture?
- Do you have other ideas on ways to develop Scripture prayers?
- How would intentionally praying Scripture grow your prayer life?
- How would praying Scripture for those you shepherd impact your connections with them this class year?

Training Exercise

- Select a verse to declare as truth for someone in your family or CBS.
- Write out the verse as a prayer.
- Share the Scripture prayer with the group.

Shepherding Toward Transformation

- In the next few weeks, try writing out personalized prayers for some of the participants in your Core Group or class as the Lord leads.
 - The *Prayers for Class Participants* resource may help you get started with ideas.
- Look for opportunities to pray or share the specific Scripture prayers when you make connections with the participants.

 *Prayers for Class Participants*

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”
Romans 12:12 (NIV)
