



Week 9
Discipleship Study
Questions



Teach Us To Pray

Many of us long to have a deeper prayer life -- and draw closer to God -- but we aren't sure how to grow in this spiritual discipline. The disciples asked Jesus directly, "Lord, teach us to pray." Jesus taught them a simple, powerful way to talk with God – we know it as the Lord's Prayer. Most of us know that prayer by heart, but like the disciples, we often have misconceptions and fears about prayer.

In the midst of our questions, God invites us to bring everything to him in prayer. God wants to be in a deep, close relationship with you, grow you as a disciple, and empower you to make disciples. The same is true for Christ The Rock as a community of believers -- and if we are really going to make that happen, we need to be a church that prioritizes prayer. We can't do it in our own strength. Join us to explore how Jesus taught us to pray, and ultimately, how we can be transformed into a people of prayer.

Read the Scripture:

Individual: Read the passage from two or three different translations.

Group: Have two different group members read the passage using different Bible translations.

Speak the Scripture:

Individual: Recite the story aloud from memory (as best you can) or tell it to a friend or family member. The goal here is to get the essence of the passage in your heart.

Group: Have someone volunteer to recite the passage aloud in their own words, as best they can.

Understand the Scripture:

Individual or Group: Use the Discovery Questions to help ensure you understand the passage.

Dig Deeper into the Scripture:

Individual: Work through the Digging Deeper questions and pray about what God reveals to you through His word. Discuss with a Christian friend or family member if you choose.

Group: Work through the Digging Deeper questions as a group, celebrating the work God is already doing in each person's life, and encouraging each other to trust Him in the places that need growth.

Small Group Guidelines

This is a Safe Group

Confidentiality is key—what is said in the group stays in the group. Be aware how you are affecting the environment with your words, actions, and non-verbal communication. This needs to be a place where people feel comfortable opening up and sharing.

No Crosstalk

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations, phone time, texting etc.

Listen

Let's value one another by listening to what is being shared. Allow a pause after someone shares to allow them to finish and others to consider what was said. Eye contact and body posture play key roles in creating a positive or negative group environment.

No Rescuing or Fixing

We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Avoid the tendency to rescue when someone is struggling to get the words out or shares a struggle or conviction.

Use "I" Statements

It's easy to talk about the issues of others, or respond with "we," "us," or "the church," but for us to grow as disciples and build relationships, we want to use "I" statements.

Don't Over-Talk

We want to create time for all members of the group to participate in the discussion. Be careful not to always be the first responder or regularly give long responses.

Fight for Relationship

It's not if conflict or hurt feelings will happen, but when. We commit to fight for relationship with each other. Go to the person and share your struggle or seek wise advice if you are not sure how to handle the conflict.

Week 9

Background: We can partner with God through prayer to make a difference. Sometimes we feel as if God can't hear us, or isn't listening to us – but if we remember the character of God and the promises of Scripture we know that isn't the case. God hears us and God longs for us to ask him for big things. Some things only happen when we pray. No matter what, our prayers can be powerful and effective.

Read: Genesis 18:17-33

Discovery Questions:

What do we learn about God in this passage?

What do we learn about what it means to be a follower of Christ in this passage?

What do you think the Holy Spirit might be teaching you personally through this passage?

Is there anything God is leading you to do after reading this passage?

Digging Deeper:

We are called to stand in the gap for others in prayer, have a right heart, ask God what His will is, and pray until it happens. How do we see Abraham engaging with this process?

Based on this text, how does Abraham see God? What is their relationship like?

How does God see Abraham?

When have you been bold and persistent in prayer like Abraham?

End this time with a prayer.

Heavenly Father, You are the creator of the universe, infinite, omnipotent, and omniscient – and yet you ask us to partner with you in prayer. Forgive us when we feel like our prayers don't matter. Give us the faith to be persistent in prayer, and stir our hearts to stand in the gap for those who need Your miracles in their lives. Remind us that You love to hear from Your children, and You want us to engage in prayer with you. In Jesus' name, Amen.