



September 4, 2022 | David Smith
MAY KNOW HIM BETTER

All of us, at some point in our lives, realize that we can't do it on our own. That is why prayer is our best work.

MEETING AGENDA

WELCOME (10 MINUTES)

For the next four weeks, we will look at the vital role that prayer plays in our lives as followers of Christ. We want to encourage you and your group to take time to engage more deeply in prayer this month. To do this, we have resources that you can take advantage of. Just text "Challenge" to 32000. In addition, we have included a prayer prompt section where your group can practice prayer each week.

This week we will look at an interaction between the disciples and Jesus in the book of Luke and see how prayer is the key to everything we need to be and do with God.

Don't forget to take attendance via the attendance reminder email.

ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

Besides prayer, what is one thing you feel you should be doing more of in your life? (Ex. Exercising, A Hobby, Sleeping, etc.)

INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

Anchor Verses: Luke 11:1-13

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INTO THE WORD (25 MINUTES)

1. Read Mark 1:35, Luke 6:12, and Luke 11:1. Do you think prayer is vital to your life? Why or why not?

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Answers will vary. Encourage your group to be honest. The disciples were honest about where they were, and Jesus was able to meet them where they were. Many of us understand that we should pray, but often it takes a back seat to the many other things on our minds and in our lives. This week we are learning that prayer is key to everything. It is the primary way that we can know God better. When we understand the vital role it plays in our lives, it will motivate us to make it a priority.]

2. Read Luke 11:2-4 and Matthew 6:9-13. What sticks out to you about what Jesus says regarding prayer in these two passages?

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Answers will vary. In Luke 11 and Matthew 6, We see that first, He acknowledges God and then calls for His kingdom to come. There is a focus on God's plan and not our plan. Often when we look at prayer, we see God as a Genie who will grant what we desire. Instead, we see an emphasis on his plan taking priority over ours. He then moves to our daily needs. At this time, food was not as readily available as we have it today, so there was a significant effort and having food provided daily. Jesus then turns to ask for forgiveness of sins and a reminder that we should offer forgiveness to others.]

3. Read John 14-15, Ephesians 6:18. Prayer has five essential aspects.

- It reminds us that God is enough on His own
- It reminds us that He has the final say
- It reorders the loves/priorities in our lives.
- It lets God work on our inner lives to change our outer lives.
- It provides strength and perspective in suffering.

Of the five areas listed, which ones stick out to you the most and why?

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Answers will vary. Encourage your group to make note of the aspect they chose so they can be reminded of how they can be encouraged to pray this coming week. The wife of missionary Jim Elliot, Elisabeth Elliot, says this about prayer, "Prayer lays hold of God's plan and becomes the link between His will and its accomplishment on earth. Amazing things happen, and we are given the privilege of being the channels of the Holy Spirit's prayer."]

APPLICATION (25 MINUTES)

1. Read Philippians 1:9-11, Colossians 4:2, and 1 Timothy 2:1-2. What is one way that you want to grow when it comes to prayer over the course of this series?

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Answers will vary. We all can grow in our understanding and practice of prayer. Martin Luther said, "To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing." Ways this might look for you could be spending time in prayer at a particular time each day. Or it could look like writing out your prayers and then revisiting them later on to see how God has answered your prayers.]

2. Read Luke 11:9-13 and James 1:17. We can pray boldly because:

- **God desires a friendship with us**
- **God is always available and waiting**
- **God always gives us anything we need for our spiritual welfare**

What areas in your life do you need to be praying boldly in?

H.O.S.T. GUIDANCE

[Answers will vary. Lysa TerKeurst, the president of Proverbs 31 Ministries, has this to say about praying boldly, "The reality is, my prayers don't change God. But I am convinced prayer changes me. Praying boldly boots me out of that stale place of religious habit into authentic connection with God Himself." Maybe there is a relationship that needs mending or a family member who needs to come to Christ. It could look like praying for more specific or significant things in your life. It could also look like praying that you would know God and Him and yourself more profoundly.]

Prayer Prompts (5-10 MINUTES) (Choose 1 or both)

Adoration - Praising God for who He is [Psalm 110:5, Exodus 34:6-7]

- 1. As a group, spend 5 minutes sharing the characteristics of God you are most thankful for. Afterward, close out your night in prayer, praising God for the attributes your group came up with.**
- 2. Of the list of the names of God provided, reflect on two of the names listed this week and incorporate this into your prayers throughout the week. Next week share which names of God you chose.**
 - Elohim: Creator, Mighty and Strong [Genesis 17:7, Jeremiah 31:33]
 - Yahweh – Jireh: The Lord Will Provide [Genesis 22:14]
 - Yahweh – Rapha: The Lord Who Heals [Exodus 15:26]
 - Yahweh – M'Kaddesh: The Lord Who Sanctifies, Makes Holy [Leviticus 20:8, Ezekiel 37:28]
 - Yahweh – Rohi: The Lord Our Shepherd [Psalm 23:1]
 - El Roi – God of Seeing [Genesis 16:13]

For more names of God, see <https://www.gotquestions.org/names-of-God.html>

PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

Dear heavenly Father, we thank you for who you are. May your will be done both in the world and in our lives. Give us what we need today as we cultivate a life of prayer. Lord, forgive us for the ways we fall short, and help us to forgive others as they fall short as well. Help us to pray boldly for those things in our lives that we need you to come through on. We pray all these things in Your excellent name. Amen.