

Discipleship Group

PRAYER – As Divine Invitation Group Study

Dive into Week 1 of our series on Prayer and how it isn't about transaction moment, but building relationship with our holy yet personal God.

KEY SCRIPTURES:

Psalm 63:1 NLT "O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you..."

Matthew 6:5-13 NIV "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁷And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

James 5:16 *The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*

KEY POINTS:

- Prayer is not an optional extra to the life of faith, it is the marker of active faith
- Prayer is an invitation into personal intimacy
- God cares more about our sincerity than He does our eloquence
- Prayer isn't a transactional moment, it's a relational lifeline

DISCUSSION & PRAYER POINTS:

- Discuss how everyone experiences prayer
- What are some of the common challenges with prayer
- How does reframing prayer as relationship building change the way we think about prayer?
- Out of the building blocks of prayer, which one is most challenging to believe
 - That God is who he says He is and will do what he says he will do?
 - That I am who God says I am?
 - That I have access to the authority of Heaven?
- What are some ways that people have found has encouraged them and stirred them in their prayer lives?

WANT MORE? - WATCH & UNPACK THIS FURTHER STUDY ON PRAYER TOGETHER:

<https://vimeo.com/1046263713/2654e2f305>



Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus gave us the Lord's Prayer as a model for how to pray?
Follow-up: How does this model influence your understanding of the purpose of prayer?
2. How has prayer helped you feel connected to God in your life?
Follow-up: Can you share an example of a time when prayer brought you peace or clarity?
3. The Lord's Prayer begins with worship and reverence. How does starting prayer with praise affect your perspective?
Follow-up: In what ways can you incorporate more worship into your prayer life?
4. Why is it important to pray for God's will to be done rather than focusing solely on our own desires?
Follow-up: How can praying for God's will change the way you handle difficult situations?
5. How does regular prayer influence your daily decisions and actions?
Follow-up: What steps can you take to make prayer a more consistent part of your life?

Tips for this Discussion:

- Create a welcoming space for participants to share personal experiences with prayer, regardless of their current practices or understanding.
- Encourage honest reflection about struggles with prayer and provide support for growth.
- Highlight the transformative impact of prayer through personal or biblical examples.
- Remind participants that prayer is a journey, and growth comes with practice and trust in God.