

# Discussion Questions

June 11, 2023

## B.L.E.S.S. Begin With Prayer



1. Read Luke 11:1-13

Notice this begins with Jesus praying. His Disciple's hear Jesus praying and ask him to teach them to pray like He does. Summarize Jesus' message on prayer in these examples he gives.

2. Read Matthew 6:9-10, the first half of the extended version of the Lord's Prayer.

What does it mean to pray for God Kingdom to come? What does it mean for His will to be done on Earth as it is in heaven? How do we actually pray for this today?

3. This week in the sermon James talked about how prayer changes us.

How does prayer change us?

Share some examples of how you have been changed through your prayers for others.

4. Discuss how God works in others through our prayers. Share examples of how you have seen God do this.

5. Share about the one person you are actively seeking to BLESS who is not currently walking with Jesus.

6. Have each person pray for the person they have chosen.

**Ephesians 2:1,4-6 (NLT)**

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins... But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus.

**Blessing = Makarios**

"A privileged recipient of Divine Favor" - Bauer's Greek Lexicon

**Ephesians 1:3-5 (NLT)**

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ.

**Genesis 12:2 (NIV)**

I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

**B**egin with prayer

**L**isten

**E**at

**S**erve

**S**tory

**Luke 3:21-22 (NIV)**

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

**Luke 4:42 (NIV)**

At daybreak, Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them.

**Luke 5:15-16 (NIV)**

Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

**Prayer Changes Us**

- Brings us in alignment with God's heart
- Attunes us to the Spirit's promptings

## **Corrie ten Boom**

We never know how God will answer our prayers, but we can expect that He will get us involved in His plan for the answer. If we are true intercessors, we must be ready to take part in God's work on behalf of the people for whom we pray.

### **Begin with Prayer**

- Pray for God to change us
- Pray for God to raise the dead

### **Ephesians 2:1,4-6 (NLT)**

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### **Romans 8:31-39 (NIV)**

*What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

### **Romans 9:1-4 (NIV)**

*I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit - I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race, the people of Israel*

- Pray for your neighbors by name
- Pray for their spiritual curiosity and health
- Pray for their physical health
- Pray for their children and work
- Pray for opportunities to serve them
- Pray for opportunities to share your story