

Discussion Questions

Date: August 9th, 2026

Preacher: Lisa Hensley

Sermon Outline

Prayer | 1 Peter 4:7, Col. 1:9-14, Matthew 5:6-13

Models for Prayer

Model 1: The Lord's Prayer

- We do not pray to impress God or others.
- Instead we pray using the model Jesus gives His disciples.
- **Question:** What would be different in our personal lives and in our church as a whole if we all prayed this way? How do you imagine that your life would change?

Model 2: Praying the Psalms

- The Psalms guide us into saying things to God we don't want to say.
- The Psalms also teach us to think of others as we pray.
- **Question:** How do you decide what to bring before God? What do you try to hide that the Psalms invite you to bring before God?

Talking Points

- * Everyone in the Church seems to agree on the importance and need for prayer. However, it seems like it is a very common struggle to actually build a life filled with prayer. Why do you think this is?
- * What are some current obstacles to prayer in your life?
- * Why do you think we default to prayers focused on physical needs and comfort, rather than ones focused on the Kingdom?
- * Why do you think Jesus points to the use of simple prayers, such as the Lord's prayer, over ones that are long and use many words?
- * Reading the Lord's prayer, what is something that sticks out to you or that challenges you in your prayer life?
- * The Lord's prayer points us to forgiving others. Are you battling with any unforgiveness in your life? What fruit have you seen come from this unforgiveness?
- * Psalms are full of raw emotions, such as anger, pain, and doubt. Why do you think we are hesitant to bring these feelings to God in prayer?
- * When is the last time you had an extremely vulnerable time of prayer with God, where you brought your emotions and vulnerability, laying down at His feet? What came from this?
- * What are you struggling with right now? Where do you need prayer? When, this week, will you make special, undistracted time to go to the Lord?

Who can you invite from this group to do this with you?

Understanding Scripture

1. Read the passage aloud.

- Question: How would the original audience have understood this passage?
- Question: What was God's desire for them?

2. Reread key verse(s) aloud.

- Question: What does this teach us about the human soul, desires, or behavior?
- Question: What does this teach us about the nature, desires, or behavior of God?

3. Ask if anything is difficult to understand in the passage, or simply point it out yourself.

- Back up from the confusing verse and reread the whole section slowly—highlight the author's flow of thought.
- Ask everyone, "What are some possible interpretations?" Encourage curiosity!
- If needed, provide clarification, but admit if you don't have a satisfactory explanation, and volunteer to research answers. Share your findings over text or at the next meeting.

4. Summarize the passage in 1-3 sentences to refocus the group ("Okay, so far we've seen in Amos...")

- Question: What does this say about our relationship with God and/or each other?
- Question: How do the teachings, actions, or person of Jesus shed light on this passage?

Prayer Requests

