

**SUMMER at GRACEWOOD**  
**“Getting To Know God Through Prayer”**  
**July 30, 2023**

**Why People Don’t Pray More:**

1. **Not sure they know how to pray.**
2. **Get bored or distracted while trying to pray.**
3. **Think their requests are too small for God.**
4. **Not sure their prayers will make a difference.**

- **PRAYER IS COMMUNICATING WITH GOD.**

Psalm 5:1-3 *Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my sighing. 2 Listen to my cry for help, my King and my God, for to you I pray. 3 In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation. (NIV)*

**TALK TO GOD...**

**1. WITH GUT-LEVEL HONESTY.**

Exodus 5:22-23 *Moses returned to the LORD and said, “Why, Lord, why have you brought trouble upon this people? Is this why you sent me? 23 Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble upon this people, and you have not rescued your people at all.” (NIV)*

Matthew 6:5, 7 *“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... 7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.” (NIV)*

**2. ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT MATTERS TO YOU.**

Philippians 4:6 *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (NIV)*

1 Peter 5:7 *Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. (NIV)*

**3. CONTINUALLY.**

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 *Rejoice always; 17 pray continually; 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (NIV)*

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1 Samuel 1:12-13 *As she kept on praying to the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. 13 Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. (NIV)*

**4. AND LISTEN FOR HIS RESPONSE.**

1 Kings 19:11-12 *The Lord said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.” Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. 12 After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. (NIV)*