

# PRAY: People of Prayer

**Text:** Matthew 6:9-13

**Theme:** Prayer is our greatest privilege and advantage—God invites us to call on Him as Father, aligning our desires to His will, depending on Him daily, and unleashing His kingdom power in our lives.

## Thesis

Prayer is not about performance but about presence—knowing who we're talking to, aligning with what He desires, and depending on Him for everything. Jesus gave His disciples the Lord's Prayer not as a ritual, but as a revolutionary way to live as God's people. When the church deploys this 'secret weapon,' heaven invades earth, hearts are transformed, and the world begins to change.

## Introduction

Many people have advantages they never use. But the greatest advantage given to us in Christ is prayer—direct access to our Father in heaven. The tragedy is that we often neglect it or reduce it to ritual. The Lord's Prayer, once the secret weapon that fueled the early church's power, has too often been reduced to superstition or routine.

Jesus invites us back into the school of prayer—not to impress God with our words, but to know Him as Father, align our hearts with His kingdom, and depend on Him daily. Prayer is the heartbeat of the Christian life and the engine of the church's mission.

## Correlating Scripture

Hebrews 4:16 — 'Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.'

## Group Discussion Questions

### **Our Father: Knowing Who We're Talking To**

Jesus teaches us to start with 'Our Father.' What does it mean to you that God is both intimate as Father and holy as King? How do your past experiences with earthly fathers affect the way you approach God in prayer?

### **Your Kingdom, Not Ours**

Jesus orients prayer around God's name, God's kingdom, and God's will. How does this confront our tendency to make prayer about ourselves? What would it look like to regularly pray for God's kingdom to break into your family, work, or friendships?

### **Daily Bread: Dependence on God**

What does praying for 'daily bread' mean in a culture where most of us have full fridges and bank accounts? In what everyday areas of life do you struggle to depend on God, and how can prayer reshape that?

### **Forgive and Be Forgiving**

How does prayer both awaken our need for forgiveness and shape us into people who forgive others? Can you share a time when praying through forgiveness transformed a relationship?

### **Deliver Us: Prayer as Warfare**

Jesus teaches us to ask God to keep us from temptation and deliver us from the evil one. How does this shape your view of prayer as spiritual warfare? Where do you most need to pray for God's protection and strength against temptation in your life right now?

## Application Questions

- What's one way you can redeploy prayer as your 'secret weapon' this week instead of neglecting it or treating it as ritual?
- Where is God inviting you to depend on Him daily instead of relying on your own strength?
- Who in your life needs you to intercede for them this week—bringing their needs before the Father?

## Prayer Guide

- Praise God as Father, holy and near.
- Confess the ways you've neglected prayer or made it about yourself.
- Thank Him for the privilege of direct access through Christ.
- Ask for His kingdom to come and His will to be done in your life, family, and community.
- Pray for strength to overcome temptation and for His presence to advance into areas of darkness around you.

## Discipling Reflection

- What would change if your small group became known as a house of prayer?
- How would your personal life look different if prayer became your first response instead of your last resort?

"Prayer does not equip us for greater works—prayer is the greater work." — Oswald Chambers