

How to Pray

The Purpose of Prayer



Message Summary

Prayer is simply talking with God, but sometimes it's challenging to do. If we don't know the purpose for our prayers, it's easy for them to become our last resort or a check-box item before bed.

The purpose of prayer is not to get something from God, but to be with Him and become like Him.

Key Scripture

"This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'"

Matthew 6:9-13 NIV

Additional Scriptures

- Luke 5:16 NIV
- Luke 6:12 NIV
- Luke 9:18 NIV
- Luke 9:28 NIV
- Luke 11:1 NIV
- Matthew 6:5-8 NIV

Start Talking

Find a conversation starter for your group.

- What words, thoughts, or feelings come to mind when you think about prayer?

Start Thinking

Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- On a scale of 1-10, where would you rank your confidence in your ability to pray? What would help you move closer to a 10?
- Read **Matthew 6:9-13**. What does this prayer show you about our relationship with God? What character traits of His are highlighted?

Start Sharing

Choose a question to create openness.

- The purpose of prayer is to be with God and become like Him. What obstacles make prayer challenging for you, and how can you begin breaking those barriers this week?
- Think about where you hope your life will be one year from now. How would building a habit of prayer impact your life and your hopes for the future? What would other people notice that's different about you?

Start Praying

Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Thank You for not just telling us to pray, but for showing us how to pray through the life of Jesus. We long to know You more personally. Help us commit to building a regular habit of prayer that starts today. In Jesus' name, amen.

Start Doing

- Find a time and place where you'll pray every day this week and commit to making it part of your routine.
- Start the Bible Plan *7 Biblical Prayers and How to Pray Them Today* using Plans With Friends: www.go2.lc/prayers
- Consider how you could love others by serving on the weekend or with a Local Mission Partner.