

Talk About It

Small Group Discussion Guide

The Way of Wonder

Prayer

August 10-13, 2023

Start Talking

Talk with your group about your view on prayer. How comfortable are you with praying?

Main Idea

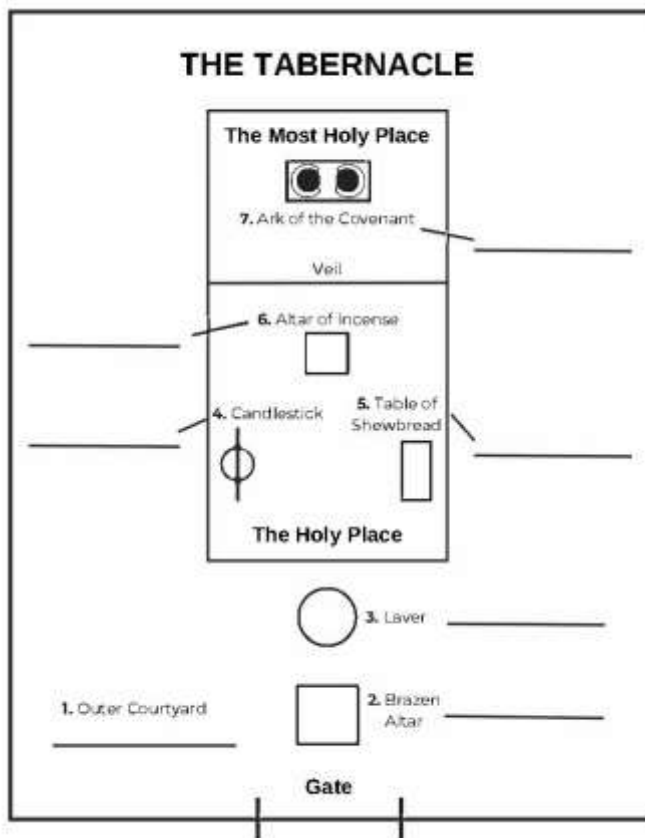
We are in the "The Way of Wonder" teaching series in week two. During this series, we will journey together to personally experience the awe and wonder of God like never before. Pastor Ken encouraged us to lean in and believe that our lives will be changed over the next several weeks if we practice what we talk about. This week, Pastor Ken taught on prayer and the importance of it in our lives. We looked at a model of prayer called the "Tabernacle Prayer."

Personalize It

1. Read Colossians 4:2-6. What is Paul teaching the people to do in this passage? We are asked the same thing today. What is the significance of praying with an alert mind? What are your prayers often filled with? How can you make sure you are praying with a thankful heart?
2. There were three things Pastor Ken shared with us to help us improve our prayer life. They were: make prayer a priority, have a place, make a plan. Which of those is the hardest for you? Which would instantly change your prayer life if you committed to doing it this week?
3. Pastor Ken walked us through the "Tabernacle Prayer." Review the seven steps of praying through the Tabernacle. Talk through which ones you have questions about or need clarification on. Then spend time as a group praying through this together. (Scriptures connected to each step are listed in the "Key Scripture" section.)

Tabernacle Prayer model is on page two and also in the Pray Now book.

Gate- Praise and Thanksgiving
Brazen Alter- The Cross
Laver- Cleansing and Preparing
Candlestick- Holy Spirit
Table of Shewbread- The Word of God
Alter of Incense- Worship
Ark of the Covenant- Intercession



Let's Do It! Commit to a step and live it out this week!

1. Commit to going through the "Pray Now" book. Connect with someone from your group after finishing to share about one thing that you learned or noticed during your time.
2. Join us each day for the 7 Days of Prayer at 7am at Alton Darby or on-demand at 12pm or 7pm.
3. Pair up with someone in your group over the next week to encourage and hold one another accountable to growing in your prayer life. Continue this practice so that it sticks and a month or more down the road, you can look back and see the change your relationship with Christ has taken because of prayer.

Let's Pray

God, thank you for who you are and what Christ did for us. You are a gracious, loving God and we are in awe of You. We each have something that we need to surrender and confess to you today, so we quietly take a moment to do that. Holy Spirit, we welcome you into our lives and into this place. Fill us with your power as we go from this place and transform us to be the best we can for your glory. Give us a deep desire to be in the Word each day. We open ourselves up so that it changes us. God, we worship you and praise you. May we always be aware of your presence with us. And now, we lift up our prayers for each other and intercede for one another. Thank you in advance for what you are going to do in each of these situations. We love you. Amen.

Key Scriptures

Colossians 4:2-6 (NLT)

Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart. Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains. Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should. Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.

Tabernacle Scriptures

Psalm 100:4-5 (NLT)

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.

1 John 1:9 (NLT)

But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

Romans 12:1 (NLT)

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.

2 Timothy 1:6-7 (NLT)

This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

Matthew 4:4 (NLT)

But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Psalm 95:6-7 (NLT)

"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care."

1 Timothy 2:1-4 (NLT)

I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.

Teaching Notes

The Way of Wonder Prayer Aug 10-13

What is prayer and how do I pray...

Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

NIV Jeremiah 29:12-13

Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart. Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains. Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should. Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone. Colossians 4:2-6

How do I improve my personal prayer life... Make Prayer a Priority
Have a Place Have a Plan

PRAY NOW booklet available on resource page A model of prayer... the Tabernacle
Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you NLT 1 Corinthians 3:16

"Have the people of Israel build me a holy sanctuary so I can live among them. You must build this Tabernacle and its furnishings exactly according to the pattern I will show you.

NLT Exodus 25:8-9

1. The Outer Courtyard... THANKSGIVING and PRAISE

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good. His unending love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.

NLT Psalm 100:4-5

2. The Brazen Altar... THE CROSS

Let all that I am praise the LORD; with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name. Let all that I am praise the LORD; may I never forget the good things he does for me. He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases. He redeems me from death and crowns me with love and tender mercies. He fills my life with good things. My youth is renewed like the eagle's!

Psalm 103:1-5

3. The Laver... CLEANSING

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.

NLT Romans 12:1

4. The Candlestick... HOLY SPIRIT

This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

NLT 2 Timothy 1:6-7

5. The Table of Shewbread... GOD'S WORD

But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

NLT Matthew 4:4

6. The Altar of Incense... WORSHIP

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

NIV Psalm 95:6-7

7. The Ark of the Covenant... INTERCESSION

I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth

NLT 1 Timothy 2:1-4

7 Days of Prayer is August 14-20. Information at cypresschurch.tv