

- Prayer is simply communicating with our Father, as Jesus himself did regularly.

**Read Luke 5:16**

This week we will be looking at what prayer is, why we pray, and even how to pray.

**1. So, what is prayer?** \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer is an opportunity to express to the Lord what is on our heart and mind, to seek wisdom and guidance, and to ask for needs to be met. It is also a way to express our praise and adoration of who He is. It includes our asking on behalf of others and praying for what is on God’s heart, as well as for His will to be done. Finally, prayer is one way we express our dependence on Him.

**2. So, why do we pray?** \_\_\_\_\_

There are many reasons that Scripture gives us to motivate us to exercise our right and privilege of prayer. Look at the following passages and write down what you discover about God’s character or what He will do for you when you pray.

**1 Peter 5:7** \_\_\_\_\_

**John 16:23-24** \_\_\_\_\_

**Matt. 7:7-11** \_\_\_\_\_

**Philippians 4:6-7** \_\_\_\_\_

Which of these passages means the most to you? And why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**3. So, what do we pray for?** \_\_\_\_\_

- A key reason people don’t pray is that they don’t see answers to their prayers.

Why do you think God doesn’t answer certain prayers? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever prayed for something and it didn’t happen? \_\_\_\_\_

Did that unanswered prayer affect your future prayers? \_\_\_\_\_

Now look at the following passages that give criteria for the kinds of prayer God answers.

What prayer does God promise to answer?

**1 John 5:14-15** \_\_\_\_\_

**John 14:13-14** \_\_\_\_\_

**John 15:7-8** \_\_\_\_\_

**James 4:2-3** \_\_\_\_\_

Which of these means the most to you? \_\_\_\_\_

**So, how do we pray? ...**

**Read Jesus teaching on prayer found in Matthew 6:5-13**

**Re-read verse 9.**

Why do you think God wants praise? \_\_\_\_\_

Our hearts must worship that which is greater than ourselves. There is nothing greater than God, and nothing greater than Him to praise.

**Re-read verse 10.**

From what we've read so far, what kinds of things would be in accordance with His will?

\_\_\_\_\_

In verse 11 we are shown that we should pray for what we need.

What are some of your needs you could request of God now? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In verse 12 we are reminded of the need to confess our sin.

Take a moment to pause and confess any known sin to the Lord.

In verse 13 we are told to ask for God's help when we are tempted.

Close your time together by committing to pray for each other. List any requests your teammate may have so you can remember them in prayer this week.

**Memorize Philippians 4:6-7**