



LET US PRAY

LESSON 1 // LET US PRAY—WHY PRAY?

Big Idea: Prayer is a vital part of your relationship with God, and you'll never pray consistently or effectively unless you understand why you are to pray. Prayer connects us with God, changes things, changes us and moves forward God's work in the world.

Genesis 1:27 (NIV) *So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.*

Genesis 3:8-9 (NIV) *Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"*

Acts 12:5-7 (NIV) *So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. 6 The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains ... 7 Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists.*

1 Chronicles 4:9-10 (NIV) *Jabez was more honorable than his brothers. His mother had named him Jabez, saying, "I gave birth to him in pain." 10 Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." And God granted his request.*

Matthew 6:9-10 (NIV) *This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."*

1 John 5:14-15 (NIV) *This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him."*

Start Talking:

Is prayer more of a duty, desire or delight for you? Why do you think this is the case?

Start Thinking:

Read Genesis 1:27 and Genesis 3:8-9. Why is it so important to understand that we are made in God's image? How has sin disrupted our communion and communication with God?

Read Acts 12:5-12. What happened in this story as the church was "earnestly praying to God"? How does this encourage you about the impact your prayers can have?

Read 1 Chronicles 4:9-10. What are some ways that God works to change us as we pray?

Read Matthew 6:9-10 and 1 John 5:14-15. Why is the petition "your will be done" a key to praying effectively and with confidence?

Start Praying and Doing:

Pray for confidence in approaching God and pressing in to your relationship with Him. Look for opportunities this week to pray boldly based on His will for challenges you and others face.