

**PRAYER: AWE & INTIMACY**  
**Discussion Guide 3, Week of Jan. 27**

**For Small Groups:** Share about your prayer times as you tried to “Praise Daily” last week.

**AWE: SURRENDER SERMON SUMMARY**

Prayer changes us. We see this as we walk through Jacob’s story with an emphasis on prayer. (Genesis 25-32)

1. **Prayer is learned throughout life.** God revealed himself to Jacob. He recognized God’s power and responded with an honest, very human prayer. (Gen. 28:13-14, 20-22).
2. **Prayer is rooted in humility and a deep need for God.** Afraid of facing Esau, Jacob called out to God and prayed desperately for help. (Gen. 32:9-12)
3. **Prayer connects us to God’s promises.** Jacob wrestled with a man (God) all night. God dislocated his hip, gave him a new name and new identity, and worked in his heart to bring reconciliation. (Gen. 32:24-30; 33:1-4, 10-11)

*Then the man said, “Let me go, for it is daybreak.”*

*But Jacob replied, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.”*

*The man asked him, “What is your name?”*

*“Jacob,” he answered.*

*Then the man said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.” (Gen. 32:26-28)*

Just as God asked Jacob, “What is your name?” and gave him a new name, God looks us in the eye and asks us “What is your name?” Whatever your answer (*Broken, Tired, Liar, Sinner, etc.*), God says you are *Beloved, Redeemed, Adopted*. That is who you are.

**QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION**

1. Do your prayers ever feel abstract, “lame”, or not good/long enough? What feels frustrating to you about prayer?
2. What stands out to you in Jacob’s story? How do you relate to his experience and/or his prayers? Have you ever felt like you were wrestling with God?

3. How have you felt changed by prayer (e.g., change of heart, attitude, willingness to forgive, sense of identity or promise)? If you can, share an example and talk about how that process of change happened for you.
  
4. As you listened to the sermon and this discussion, do you feel there is something God might want to change in you, or that you need to surrender? If so, share whatever you feel comfortable saying about it. [You might stop and pray for each other here.]
  
5. The Prayer Challenge this week is to pray the Lord's Prayer daily, in a way that's meaningful to you. Think about the words and how you can connect to the meaning behind the words. Pastor and theologian Dallas Willard wrote the Lord's Prayer in his own words, and said it every morning to start the day. How does his re-worded version help you?

**The Lord's Prayer, Mt. 6:9-13:**

*"Our Father in heaven,  
 hallowed be your name,  
<sup>10</sup> your kingdom come,  
 your will be done,  
     on earth as it is in heaven.  
<sup>11</sup> Give us today our daily bread.  
<sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts,  
     as we also have forgiven our  
 debtors.  
<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into  
 temptation,  
     but deliver us from the evil one  
 [for yours is the kingdom and the  
 power and the glory forever.  
 Amen.]*

**Dallas Willard's version:**

*Dear Father always near us,  
 may your name be treasured and loved,  
 may your rule be completed in us -  
 may your will be done here on earth in  
 just the way it is done in heaven.  
 Give us today the things we need today,  
 and forgive us our sins and impositions on you  
 as we are forgiving all who in any way offend us.  
 Please don't put us through trials,  
 but deliver us from everything bad.  
 Because you are the one in charge,  
 and you have all the power,  
 and the glory too is all yours, forever,  
 which is just the way we want it!*

6. Pick one phrase or line of the Lord's Prayer that you struggle to connect with. What makes it abstract or unclear to you? Discuss and help each other re-word it in a way that brings meaning to it. If you have more time, discuss and work through more of the Lord's Prayer.

Close by praying the Lord's Prayer (either or both of the above versions, or your own) together.