

Study Guide





LifeLight

# LifeLight Expands

Available NOW!

The Bible: An Overview  
 Genesis, Pt. 1  
 Genesis, Pt. 2  
 Exodus, Pt. 1  
 Exodus, Pt. 2  
 Wilderness Wanderings  
 Joshua  
 Judges  
 Ruth/Esther  
 1 & 2 Samuel  
 Life of David

1 & 2 Kings  
 Ezra/Nehemiah  
 Job  
 Selected Psalms  
 Proverbs  
 Ecclesiastes/  
 Song of Solomon  
 Isaiah, Pt. 1  
 Isaiah, Pt. 2  
 Daniel  
 Minor Prophets

Matthew, Pt. 1  
 Matthew, Pt. 2  
 Mark  
 Luke, Pt. 1  
 Luke, Pt. 2  
 John, Pt. 1  
 John, Pt. 2  
 Acts, Pt. 1  
 Acts, Pt. 2  
 Romans, Pt. 1  
 Romans, Pt. 2

1 Corinthians  
 2 Corinthians  
 Galatians/Philippians/  
 Colossians  
 Ephesians/  
 1 & 2 Thessalonians  
 Timothy/Titus/Philemon  
 Hebrews  
 James/Jude  
 1 & 2 Peter  
 1, 2, 3 John  
 Revelation

## LifeLight Foundations

Baptism  
 Bible Feasts  
 Creation, New Creation

The Christian's Mission  
 Heaven & Hell  
 Law & Gospel

Ministry  
 Miracles  
 Prayer

Prophecy  
 Triune God  
 Worship

## LifeLight Release Schedule

### 2013 RELEASES

LifeLight—Haggai/Zechariah/Malachi July  
 LifeLight Foundations—Parables October

### 2014 RELEASES

LifeLight—Nahum/Habakkuk/Zephaniah January  
 LifeLight—1 & 2 Chronicles April  
 LifeLight—Hosea/Joel/Amos July  
 LifeLight Foundations—End Times October

### 2015 RELEASES

LifeLight—Jeremiah/Lamentations January  
 LifeLight—Ezekiel April  
 LifeLight—Obadiah/Jonah/Micah July

# Prayer's True Foundation

## Selected Passages

*Distribute before session 1 for use in session 1.  
Use enrichment magazine pages 2–5.*

### Resources for Worship

Use these resources for your daily study at home and at the week's assembly.

### Hymn

Baptized into Your name most holy,  
O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
I claim a place, though weak and lowly,  
Among Your saints, Your chosen host.  
Buried with Christ and dead to sin,  
Your Spirit now shall live within.

My loving Father, here You take me  
To be henceforth Your child and heir.  
My faithful Savior, here You make me  
The fruit of all Your sorrows share.  
O Holy Spirit, comfort me  
When threat'ning clouds around I see.

My faithful God, You fail me never;  
Your promise surely will endure.  
O cast me not away forever  
If words and deeds become impure.  
Have mercy when I come defiled;  
Forgive, lift up, restore Your child.

All that I am and love most dearly—  
Receive it all, O Lord, from me.  
Let me confess my faith sincerely;  
Help me Your faithful child to be!  
Let nothing that I am or own  
Serve any will but Yours alone.  
(LSB 590)

### Prayer

O God, our eternal Father in heaven, You have granted us a great privilege and blessing in prayer. We come to You not because we can perfectly fulfill our rightful duty, but rather because of the gracious invitation and promise that You have given to us and to all of Your baptized saints. Enable us to treasure this gift and be strengthened in a life of faith and prayer that is pleasing in Your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

### Digging Deep

#### My Personal Study for Week 1

### Day 1 • Knowing God

1. Before we make requests of other people, as we do in prayer, we need to know them. We need a relationship with them. Read Acts 2:38–39 and Galatians 3:26–29. List gifts God provides as a basis for our relationship with Him.

2. In Romans 6:3–4, Paul described specifically how God bestows on us a new relationship with Him. What means does God use to provide this new relationship, which gives life to our prayers?

3. The Old Testament story of Naaman is a story of renewal. In the miraculous healing of Naaman in 2 Kings 5:8–14, what did Naaman's servants say? How does this event reveal the power of God's Word to renew us and to lead us to pray?

4. When Jesus was baptized in Luke 3:21–22, what else was He doing? How does this link together Baptism and prayer?

8. In John 1:9–13; 3:3–8; 1 Peter 1:3–4, 22–23; 1 John 2:29; 3:1–3, 9–10; 5:1–5, the apostles use two similar expressions to describe how God has interceded on our behalf. In view of them, how does His intercession change us?

5. Like the story of Naaman, Ephesians 5:25–32 describes cleansing, renewal, and the basis of a new relationship with God. What attitude does this passage inspire in you as you reflect on the topic of prayer?

9. Consider the following statement: God does not hear an *unbeliever's* prayer. (See John 9:31.) How does this illustrate the important role that faith plays before one begins to pray?

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**Day 2 • The Need for an Intercessor**

6. Before we begin to pray, we realize that God has expectations for our lives. Read Exodus 19:5–6; Galatians 6:15–16; and 1 Peter 2:9. What does God ask of His people and call them to be?

10. **Challenge question.** Exodus 25:17–22 describes the function of the golden atonement cover or “mercy seat” that was on top of the ark of the covenant. Using the word *propitiation* (“atonement”), the New Testament also mentions the atonement cover in Romans 3:25; Hebrews 2:17; and 1 John 2:2. How are these facts significant for believers today as we begin to pray?

7. Spiritual leaders of the old covenant served as *intercessors* (“go-betweens”) for other people. God calls us to be intercessors when we pray. Based on the passages from question 6 and your knowledge of the Old Testament, name two similarities and two differences between spiritual leaders in the Old Testament and spiritual leaders in the church today.

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**Day 3 • Lord, Teach Us to Pray!**

11. In Luke 11:1, what two reasons did one of the disciples give for Jesus to teach them to pray?

12. (a) What are John the Baptist's instructions on fruits of repentance that he gave to the people in various vocations (Luke 3:9–14)? (b) How would prayer relate to each of them? (c) How would you incorporate it in your daily calling as a Christian?

13. Note these other times when Jesus is recorded in the Gospels to have prayed: Matthew 14:13; Luke 3:21; 5:16; 22:32; John 11:41–42 and 17:1. (a) What else was going on either before or after these prayers? (b) Why do you think it was important to depict Jesus in prayer at these particular moments?

14. John the Baptist, while still in prison, received good news when he sent disciples to Jesus with a question in Matthew 11:2–15. What answers to prayer did John learn about?

15. John the Baptist deferred to Jesus as God's answer to His people's prayers in John 3:25–31. And yet, Matthew 11 and Acts 19 tell us that John's influence somehow lived on. Why do you suppose it was difficult for some believers to stop hearing John's preparatory message and believe in Jesus?

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**Day 4 • The Command to Pray**

16. Read the commands to pray in Psalm 50:15; Matthew 6:7–9; and 1 Thessalonians 5:17. How are these commands different from the Ten Commandments?

17. **Challenge question.** Compare closely the commands Jesus gave immediately before the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:9 and Luke 11:2. Is the Lord's Prayer meant to be prayed verbatim, or as a model that guides our own prayer?

18. The Lord's Prayer is God's Word, and it is given to us to pray back to our Father. What is comforting to you about this truth?

19. (a) What are the three activities in Matthew 6 that Jesus commands should be done "in secret"? (b) Is this meant as a requirement? (c) What should we remember when we pray along with others?

20. Read James 1:5–8 and Romans 8:26. (a) What must be present along with prayer? (b) How would you encourage a friend or relative who is having trouble praying or doesn't see the need to pray?

23. What promises of God are found in Psalm 91? What makes this psalm appropriate for evening?

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**Day 5 • God's Promise to Hear Our Prayer**

21. After Jesus gave the Lord's Prayer in Luke 11:5–13, He used two short illustrations to explain the Father's promise to answer prayer. What is the type of comparison that He made in each?

24. Elijah proposed the ultimate test (1 Kings 18:20–40) as to how God can be depended on to answer prayer. To what specifically does he appeal when he petitions the Lord in verses 36–37 to send down fire?

22. Jesus says all we need to do is ask, seek, and knock, and all our prayers will be answered. What should we say to people who tell us that God did not give them that for which they prayed? Is it their fault that their prayer was not answered?

25. Read Ephesians 3:14–21 and Philippians 4:10–13, 19–20. What is it that God promises to grant in abundance? Write below some blessings you would request for a friend or neighbor.