

“Prayer”

Growth Group Guide

October 5, 2025

WELCOME *(Connecting with each other)*

We have all (hopefully) experienced answered prayer. Tell the group of a time when you had a prayer answered with 1) yes, 2) no or wait, 3) right away, and 4) after a long time. Choose any or all options.

WORSHIP THROUGH PRAYER *(Connecting with God)*

Read the verses below. Give thanks that God listens to all our prayers with love, grace, and kindness.

Psalm 86:1-7 (ESV)

“Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.
Preserve my life, for I am godly; save your servant, who trusts in you—you are my God. Be gracious to me, O LORD, for to you do I cry all the day.
Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O LORD, do I lift up my soul.
For you, O LORD, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you. Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace. In the day of my trouble, I call upon you, for you answer me.”

WORD *(Letting God speak to us)*

1. Read these verses: **Exodus 32:11, 1 Samuel 1:15, 2 Chronicles 32:30 (in KJV), and Ephesians 3:14.** What are the different ways mentioned in these verses that describe prayer?
2. As a believer, you have likely spent time on prayer. How would you define prayer? As a group, discuss why it is that we pray.
3. Is there a proper way to pray? Must we bow our heads, close our eyes, and fold our hands? Do we need to use certain words? What about proper “good King’s English?” Discuss with the group what you think may be necessary to do and say when you pray, and what things are not needed.
4. **Read John 14:13-14 and James 5:16.** According to these verses, what leads to more effective prayers? What prayers is God more inclined to answer “yes” to?
5. “If it matters to you, it matters to God, because *you* matter to God (Unknown).” Who or what should we pray for? Is there any request too small or trivial to bring to God? **Read Philippians 4:6** for more insight.
6. **Read Matthew 14:23, Mark 1:35, Luke 9:18, and Luke 22:39-41.** What do we learn was important to Jesus from these verses? What are other examples of Jesus doing this?
7. **Read Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:1-4.** When Jesus was asked by His disciples to teach them how to pray, this was the form that He provided them. How are we to use “The Lord’s Prayer?” What elements of this prayer can we use in our own prayers?

8. The ACTS formula can be a helpful framework for prayer. Praying through Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication can help us stay focused and guide us through a prayer that includes more than just a list of requests. Have you ever tried using this, or another, prayer guideline? Do you think this structure could be helpful to you? Why or why not? Are there parts of ACTS that you already include in your prayers? Share, if you are comfortable, with the group.
9. **Read Romans 8:26.** Sometimes our own words just fail us. Or, we don’t really have a good idea about how, or for what, we should pray. What comfort can we take from this verse in Romans?
10. Have you ever had a conversation with someone in which they did most (or all) of the talking? Was it enjoyable? Did that person ever get to hear what you had to say? Have you ever stopped to listen to God? How can this important part of prayer be incorporated into your prayer time?

WALK *(Living out God’s purposes)*

- ✓ **One Big Idea: God wants to be in conversation with us. He listens to us when we talk to Him, and He has answers for us if we’ll listen.**
Spend time this week conversing with God. Be sure to tell Him how much you love and adore Him. Confess your sins and shortcomings, knowing that, if you are in Him, He has already forgiven you. Tell Him all of the things you are thankful for. Submit your supplications to Him. Ask with the confidence that prayers within His will, will be answered. Believe it! Remember, it’s a conversation. Just tell Him how you are, what you are feeling, what you need. Then, listen.

WORLD *(Embracing God’s heart for others)*

***Dove Medical is celebrating 40 years of service! You can attend their Celebration Baquet THIS Thursday, October 9th, at Grace Community Fellowship.** Choose to attend either their lunch program at 12P or their dinner program at 6P. It’s important to register as registration is required to attend. To register, please visit: dovefriends.org. The lunch is nearly full! For dinner, you can sit at a table with open seats, but no extra tables can be accommodated for new Table Hosts.

*Please join in prayer for their October prayer focus: Homeless Patients. Dove has many patients who do not have a permanent address. When their patients are homeless, it can be very challenging for their clinical team to reach them by phone to schedule follow-up appointments or to communicate test results. Will you pray that the Lord will provide stable living situations for these women and their families? Please pray that the Dove staff will have complete success in contacting their patients for follow-up appointments to ensure they are getting the care they need. Most importantly, will you pray that Dove Medical could be a vessel through which their patients could meet Jesus Christ? *“I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.” Psalm 116:1 (ESV)* *(From Dove Medical October 2025 Newsletter.)

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