

Week 7

Speaking with God: Prayer & Worship

Prayer is conversation, not performance. Worship is a life offered, not just a song sung. This week is about both becoming real.

Day 1 — Talking to Jesus Like You Mean It

Optional Reading: John 15 • Matthew 6 • Luke 11 • Psalm 145 • Psalm 62 • Ephesians 6 • Philippians 4

"Pray constantly." (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Prayer isn't primarily a formal appointment with formal language. It's an ongoing conversation; the kind you'd have with someone you talk to throughout the day rather than just at a scheduled meeting.

That reframe takes pressure off "praying right" and puts the focus back on staying in touch.

Bible Study Questions

1. Read John 15:15. What does Jesus call his disciples instead of servants, and why/how does that change the way you talk to him?

2. Read Matthew 6:7. What does Jesus say not to do, "like Gentiles*," when praying?
(*other translations use heathens.)

3. Read Matthew 6:6. Where does Jesus say to go and pray?

4. Read Luke 11:2. Write the first line of the prayer Jesus gives.

5. Read Psalm 145:18. According to this verse, who is the LORD near to?

6. Read Psalm 62:8. What does this verse tell you to do with your heart, and how often?

7. Read Ephesians 6:18. The context of this passage is – spiritual warfare. How and when are we to pray?

8. Read Philippians 4:6. What two actions does Paul pair with prayer and petition?

Reflect: *What would it look like this week to treat prayer more like an ongoing conversation than a scheduled task?*

Journal: *What impacted you during this devotion? How will you apply this to your life?*

Day 2 — Praying with Specificity

Optional Reading: Daniel 9 • Genesis 24 • Luke 18 • 1 Kings 3 • Nehemiah 1 • 1 Samuel 1 • Philippians 4 • Matthew 6

“Don’t worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” (Philippians 4:6)

Vague prayers are easy to pray and hard to notice being answered. Specific prayers — named people, named needs, named dates — let you actually see God move, because you know exactly what you asked for.

Specificity isn't about impressing God with detail. It's about paying attention long enough to notice his answer.

Bible Study Questions

1. Read Genesis 24:12-14. What specific sign does the servant ask God for?

2. Read 1 Samuel 1:27. What does Hannah say she asked God for, and what does she say happened?

3. Read 1 Kings 3:9-11. What does Solomon ask God for? According to vs 11, what did Solomon NOT ask for, and why did this please God?

4. Read Nehemiah 1:11. What does Nehemiah ask God to grant him? (Read 2:4-6 for added context)

5. Read Daniel 9:4–6. List the specific things Daniel confesses in these verses.

6. Read Luke 18:41. What does this man originally ask? What does Jesus ask the man?

7. Read Philippians 4:6. What attitude does this verse say to present your requests to God with?

8. Read Matthew 6:8-10. What does this verse say your Father already knows? Whose will are our prayers to align with?

Reflect: *If God already knows our needs – is the specificity really for Him, or for us? Write specific detailed prayer requests – are these requests shaped by earthly desires, or what you know of God’s heart? Pray. Watch for Him to answer.*

Journal: What impacted you during this devotion? How will you apply this to your life?

Day 3 — When Prayer Feels One-Sided

Optional Reading: Psalm 13 • Psalm 88 • Job 30 • Psalm 22 • Lamentations 3 • Luke 18

“How long, LORD, must I call for help and you do not listen, or cry out to you about violence and you do not save?” (Habakkuk 1:2)

Even the prophet felt like his prayers were bouncing off the ceiling. Scripture doesn't hide these moments – it records them as part of a real relationship, not a smooth transaction.

Silence from God is uncomfortable but doesn't prove He is absent. Keep bringing heartfelt prayers to Him anyway. His answers are yes, no, or not yet. He will answer, if He hasn't already.

Bible Study Questions

1. Read Psalm 13:1-2. How many times does David ask “how long” in this verse?

2. Read Psalm 88:1, 13-14. What does the psalmist say he does “day and night” and “every morning”? In what way is the psalmist being honest with God about his perception of his situation?

3. Read Job 30:20. What does Job say happens when he cries out to God?

4. Read Psalm 22:1-2, 22. The psalmist is being honest with God here. How does he describe feeling? How often is he praying? What is his physical condition? What does he say happens in vs. 22?

5. Read Psalm 13:5. What does David say he trusts in, despite his complaint?

6. Read Lamentations 3:21–22. What does the writer say he calls to mind, and why does he have hope?

7. Read Lamentations 3:23. What two words describe how often God's mercies are renewed?

8. Read Luke 18:1. What point does this verse say Jesus made through the parable?

Reflect: *Think of the last time God felt distant. It may be now. Did you bring him honesty and real prayer – or a polished one? What's the honest version you need to say out loud?*

Journal: What impacted you during this devotion? How will you apply this to your life?

Day 4 — A Day Shaped by Prayer

Optional Reading: Psalm 5 • Psalm 63 • Psalm 119 • Daniel 6 • 1 Timothy 5 • Luke 6 • Luke 5 • Matthew 14

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, went out, and made his way to a deserted place, and there he was praying. (Mark 1:35)

Jesus, with more demands on his time than almost anyone, still carved out solitude to pray. If he needed prayer throughout His day, it's unlikely we are the exception.

The goal isn't guilt over a missed quiet time. It's not about a specific time. It's about building a rhythm sustainable enough to keep.

Bible Study Questions

1. Read Psalm 5:3. What time of day does David mention laying his requests before God?

2. Read Psalm 63:1-8. When does the psalmist say he seeks God?

3. Read Psalm 119:147-148. What two times does the psalmist mention seeking God?

4. Read Daniel 6:10. How many times a day did Daniel pray?

5. Read 1 Timothy 5:5. How often is the widow praying?

6. Read Luke 6:12. How long did Jesus spend in prayer this time?

7. Read Luke 5:16. What does this verse say Jesus often did?

8. Read Matthew 14:23. What did Jesus do after he had dismissed the crowd?

Reflect: What time and place could realistically become your regular spot for prayer, starting now?

Journal: What impacted you during this devotion? How will you apply this to your life?

Day 5 — Worship as a Way of Life

Optional Reading: Romans 12 • John 4 • 1 Corinthians 10 • Micah 6 • Psalm 95 • Psalm 100 • Revelation 4 • Psalm 103

“Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship.” (Romans 12:1)

Worship isn't contained in a song or a Sunday. It's the posture of a sacrificed life offered to God — how you work, rest, spend, and speak.

Worship was never meant to be something you attend. It's something you become.

Bible Study Questions

1. Read Romans 12:1. How does Paul define true worship? What happens to selfish desires?

2. Read John 4:24. According to this verse, how must true worship be done?

3. Read 1 Corinthians 10:31. What amount of what we do should be done for God's glory?

4. Read Micah 6:6-8. What does God say He requires, instead of the sacrifices listed earlier in the passage?

5. Read Psalm 95:6. List the three actions of worship named in this verse.

6. Read Psalm 100:4. How does this verse say to enter God's gates and courts?

7. Read Revelation 4:11. What three things do the twenty-four elders say God is worthy to receive?

8. Read Psalm 103:1-5. List what the psalmist says are reasons he desires to bless the Lord?

Reflect: *In your typical week, outside of church, where could your life become more of an act of worship?*

Journal: What impacted you during this devotion? How will you apply this to your life?

Memorization: What verse this week impacted you in a way that you should commit it to memory?
