

Level up: Pray
Small Group Questions

The person with the longest pinky finger gets to open in prayer and read the first question. The verses covered in the sermon are given for reference and don't need to be read out loud, unless needed. Go clockwise from this first person to the next person to read the second question etc... until finished. Please feel free to spend as much time or as little time on each question as the group deems appropriate.

Guideline #1 - Motive Matters

Matthew 6:5-8 “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Question 1: Have you ever done either the negative one or the positive one? Tell us about it.

James 5:16a Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

Question 2: Does our church or you personally follow this verse?

Questions 3: Why might the Bible tell us to do this?

James 4:3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

Question 4: What are some other wrong motives that people have when they pray?

Guideline #2 - Persistence Matters

Luke 18:1 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Question 5: Share a time in your life where a prayer took a long time to be answered.

Guideline # 3 Pray in Faith

James 1:6 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

Question 6: Why can this be difficult for people?

Guideline #4 You're not alone.

Romans 8:26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

Question 7: Have you ever felt this way or experienced this in your life? If so share.

Guideline #5 Pray in right-ness.

1 Peter 3:12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.

James 5:16b The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

2 Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Question 8: How can we position ourselves spiritually so that we are praying as righteous people?

Guideline #6 God Matters

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

Question 9: How might this parameter of prayer change how we pray?

Guideline #7 You Matter

Luke 11:9-13 "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

"Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Question 10:

The person with loudest hand clap gets to close in prayer!