



# STUDY GUIDE

## PRAYER 03.18.2018

### [start with prayer]

Missions Prayer Focus this week:  
Cornerstone of Hope

### [set up]

Why is it that we often struggle with knowing how to pray (getting started, finding the right words, knowing what to pray for, more substance than just shallow requests)?

Share a story of a time when you had a major breakthrough in your prayer life that has grown you and how you pray?

### [digging deeper]

Is there a difference between “praying” and “saying prayers”?

List all the different ways that come to mind of how we can pray. Use a large Post-it note to capture answers.

1. Have each person circle one of the ways they pray most often and explain why.
2. Have each person underline one of the ways they pray the least and explain why.

Share the meanings of the PRAY or ACTS acronyms to help us pray. How are these useful and how are they not?

**Read Romans 8:26-27.** Why don't we know how to pray? How has God helped us?

Read all these verses. Now craft a sentence stating how Christ, God's Word, faith, and the Holy Spirit work together in our prayer lives. This can be a great exercise for smaller groups within your LifeGroup.

John 14:6, 26      Ephesians 6:18      John 15:16      James 1:6      Romans 10:17

The Holy Spirit will use God's Word to launch us into prayer or bring God's Word to our mind when we pray.

Here are three examples of moments when Scripture was included in prayer. Look up the passage and then do a little study and research to see if you can find the original verse that was prayed back (you can divide the passages up and do this in smaller groups in your LifeGroup).

- Nehemiah 9:9-17—Recapped what portion of Scripture? What verse was prayed?
- Mark 15:34—Jesus prayed what verse?
- Luke 23:46—Jesus prayed what verse?
- Acts 4:23-26—What verse was prayed?

Read this Quote from Pastor John Piper. Do you agree with it or not and why/why not?

*“If we don't form the habit of praying the Scriptures, our prayers will almost certainly degenerate into vain repetitions that eventually revolve entirely around our immediate private concerns, rather than God's larger purposes.”*

What percentage would you say you pray Scripture? \_\_\_\_\_%

### **[living it out]**

Share one action step from today's study that you will start applying in your prayer life.

Dust off your CVC *Living New* book and use Chapter 2 as a devotional this week. Practice some of what you learned today as you go through it again, making additional notes, and praying. If you do not have one, you can go to the CVC Facebook page to find a link for digital copies of that chapter or pick up a book at the front desk of the church.

Plan on buying Donald Whitney's book, *Praying the Bible*, to help you grow in praying Scripture.

### **[end with prayer]**

Select a Scripture from either this study, a favorite verse, or a Psalm. Use it as a template for your closing prayer time, to pray back to God. Be sensitive to how the Holy Spirit will impress you to pray and have the courage to do so.