

Living New | Week 2

Prayer: Connecting with God as a Beloved Child

Ask your group members to share something that especially stood out to them, that especially encouraged them, or that they found especially helpful from the message or FONL study material this week. If your group is large, you may only have time for four or five responses.

Tell a recent story about how God answered your prayer. Read James 4:2b, “You do not have because you do not ask.”

Have a group member open in prayer.

Ask your group to share any of their own stories about answered prayer that have come to mind.

Ask, “What seems to be the best opportunity in your schedule to create space for regular, unhurried prayer?” and “Where is a secluded place that you can regularly go to for prayer?” Summarize the answers to drive toward a specific application. (Especially emphasize verses like Psalm 88:13 that teach early morning prayer.)

Ask the members of your LifeGroup to list some of the benefits of both praying alone and praying with others. Write their responses on a Post-it with the heading, “Praying Alone . . . Praying with Others.”

Read Matthew 6:5-15. Ask, “What stood out to you in this passage?” and “What challenged you?”

Tell the group members that a model demonstration is about to take place. Tell them to look for “how-to’s” as you demonstrate. Use the six petitions in the Lord’s Prayer to help you shape a spontaneous prayer. Then ask your group members to share insights about what they learned from the demonstration.

Print out a list of some hindrances to answered prayer. Have groups members read each one along with the corresponding verse.

1. Cherished sin. Psalm 66:18
2. Wrong motives. James 4:3
3. Unreconciled relationships. Matthew 5:23-24
4. Practical unbelief. James 1:6-8
5. Neglecting Scripture. Proverbs 28:9
6. Avoiding generosity. Proverbs 21:13
7. Marital discord. 1 Peter 3:7

Have the group members work collaboratively and then, by consensus, choose one hindrance to prayer that they feel is the one that most derails answered prayer in the life of your church. Then, ask them individually to develop and write down a spiritual strategy for overcoming that hindrance. Don’t allow talking during this exercise. Afterwards, have each participant share what he/she developed. Write the strategies on a Post-it. Give each person affirmation and constructive feedback.

For closing prayer, ask your group members to pray through *in their own words* the six petitions of the Lord's Prayer.

- Group member 1 will pray through petition 1.
- Group member 2 will pray through petition 2.
- Group member 3 will pray through petition 3.
- And so on...

If you have more than 6 members of your group, simply ask group member 7 to pray petition 1. Group member 8 will pray through petition 2. And so on. As the leader, you can pray through any of the petitions that are left.