

## **May 2021 CONNECTION GUIDE:**

Topic: **Prayer** ~ Icebreaker questions ~ Scriptures ~ Group Discussion Questions

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### **Icebreakers**

- Have you ever been told you look like someone famous? If so, who was it?
- What's the best piece of advice you've ever been given?
- What question would you most like to ask God?

### **Prayers from the Bible / Old Testament**

#### **Jonah 2:1-9** New International Version (NIV)

*"<sup>1</sup> From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. <sup>2</sup> He said: 'In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened to my cry. <sup>3</sup> You hurled me into the depths, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me. <sup>4</sup> I said, 'I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.' <sup>5</sup> The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. <sup>6</sup> To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you, LORD my God, brought my life up from the pit. <sup>7</sup> When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, LORD, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple. <sup>8</sup> 'Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God's love for them. <sup>9</sup> But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, 'Salvation comes from the LORD.'"*

#### **Psalms 3** New Living Translation (NLT)

*"<sup>1</sup> O LORD, I have so many enemies; so many are against me. <sup>2</sup> So many are saying, 'God will never rescue him!' Interlude <sup>3</sup> But you, O LORD, are a shield around me; you are my glory, the one who holds my head high. <sup>4</sup> I cried out to the LORD, and he answered me from his holy mountain. Interlude <sup>5</sup> I lay down and slept, yet I woke up in safety, for the LORD was watching over me. <sup>6</sup> I am not afraid of ten thousand enemies who surround me on every side. <sup>7</sup> Arise, O LORD! Rescue me, my God! Slap all my enemies in the face! Shatter the teeth of the wicked! <sup>8</sup> Victory comes from you, O LORD. May you bless your people."*

#### **Psalms 139:23-24** (NIV)

*"<sup>23</sup> Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. <sup>24</sup> Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life."*

#### **2 Chronicles 20:5-6, and 12** Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB)

*"<sup>5</sup> Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem in the Lord's temple before the new courtyard. <sup>6</sup> He said: "Lord God of our ancestors, are You not the God who is in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand, and no one can stand against You. ... <sup>12</sup> Our God, will You not judge them (our enemies)? For we are powerless before this vast multitude that comes [to fight] against us. We do not know what to do, but we look to You."*

### **Discussion Questions**

- **Is there one of these prayers that stands out to you? Why?**
- **Have you ever prayed a similar prayer? What was the result?**

### **Jesus teaches about "asking" / praying**

#### **Matthew 7:7-11** New Century Version (NCV)

*<sup>7</sup> "Ask, and God will give to you. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will open for you. <sup>8</sup> Yes, everyone who asks will receive. Everyone who searches will find. And everyone who knocks will have the door opened. <sup>9</sup> "If your children ask for bread, which of you would give them a stone? <sup>10</sup> Or if your children ask for a fish, would you give them a snake? <sup>11</sup> Even though you are bad, you know how to give good gifts to your children. How much more your heavenly Father will give good things to those who ask him!"*

## Discussion Questions

- Have you ever experienced a “dynamic YES” answer to something you’ve prayed about?
- Have you ever asked God for something and God said, “no,” “wait,” or never answered?
- Why do you think Jesus emphasized “persistence” in asking?
- Does prayer change God? Others? Me?

## 5 Prayers that Jesus prayed

### John 17:15-21 (NLT)

*“<sup>15</sup> I’m not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They do not belong to this world any more than I do. <sup>17</sup> Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. <sup>18</sup> Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. <sup>19</sup> And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth. <sup>20</sup> “I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. <sup>21</sup> I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.”*

### Matthew 6:9-13 (NCV)

*“<sup>9</sup> (Jesus said, “So when you pray, you should pray like this: ‘Our Father in heaven, may your name always be kept holy. <sup>10</sup> May your kingdom come and what you want be done, here on earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us the food we need for each day. <sup>12</sup> Forgive us for our sins, just as we have forgiven those who sinned against us. <sup>13</sup> And do not cause us to be tempted, but save us from the Evil One.”*

### Luke 23:33-34 (NIV)

*<sup>33</sup> When they came to the place of the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals; one on his right, the other on his left. <sup>34</sup> Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”*

### Mark 14:32-36 (NIV)

*<sup>32</sup> They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” <sup>33</sup> He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. <sup>34</sup> “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,” he said to them. “Stay here and keep watch.” <sup>35</sup> Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. <sup>36</sup> “Abba, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”*

### John 11:41-42 (NLT)

*(Jesus’ prayer before raising Lazarus from the dead) <sup>41</sup> So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, thank you for hearing me. <sup>42</sup> You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent me.”*

## Discussion Questions

- Is there one of these prayers that stands out to you the most? Why?
- Can we pray the same prayers Jesus prayed?

## God prays for me?

### Romans 8: (NLT)

*<sup>26</sup> And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. <sup>27</sup> And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God’s own will.*

## Discussion Questions

- How does it make you feel to know that God prays for you?
  - What do you think the Holy Spirit’s prayer for you is?
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### **Deeper study and more resources**

- Pastor Tim Mackey; Praying through doubt .... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAtwOW03dAY>
- Pastor Tim Keller: Praying our fears ... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-8tdA8YMOYM>
- The Lord's Prayer: prayer guide ... <https://21days.churchofthehighlands.com/files/2020-lords-prayer.pdf>

### **Questions for the Pastors and Staff?**

If you would like contact from one of our pastors or staff, we invite you to reach out to any or all of us.

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