



The Week of June 27, 2021
Prayer: What to Say
Conversation Guide

This Week's Take-Aways

- **I am in prayer.** (Philippians 4:6) I regularly pray to God to better know Him and His direction for my life.

Intro Questions

- What is the craziest thing you've done to make an appointment with someone important?
- What things do you do to build a relationship with someone special?
- What is a good habit that you have worked hard to make a part of your life? What motivated you to get there?
- From your experience, is praying something that comes naturally or something you have to be intentional about?

What Jesus Taught Us About Prayer

Matthew 6:5-8 (CSB)

“Whenever you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward. But when you pray, go into your private room, shut your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. When you pray, don’t babble like the Gentiles, since they imagine they’ll be heard for their many words. Don’t be like them, because your Father knows the things you need before you ask him.”

- What are the “rules of engagement” when praying?
- What is the reward for following these rules?
- What is the proper attitude of prayer?

Read Matthew 6:9a

“Therefore, you should pray like this: ...”

- Jesus is giving us a framework for prayer. How important is it to have a plan when approaching God?

Read Matthew 6:9b

“Our Father in heaven, ...”

- What is our relationship to God?

Read Romans 8:15 (CSB)

For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear. Instead, you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father!”

- What does Abba mean? What would be the equivalent word or phrase in English?

Read Matthew 6:9c

“...your name be honored as holy.”

- What should our posture be before God?

Read Matthew 6:10

“Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

- What is God’s kingdom?
- What happens when God’s will is done?
- Why does Jesus want the way things happen in heaven to be reality on earth?

Read Matthew 6:11

"Give us today our daily bread."

- What is our daily bread? Is it just food?

Read Philippians 4:6

Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

- What are you anxious about that you need to present to God?

Read Matthew 6:12

"And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."

- What is the condition placed on forgiveness?
- How does that condition used by God to change our hearts?
- Is it important to be specific in our confession of sin (do we *really* have to name them all)?

Read 1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- Is there a difference between confession and saying we're sorry?

Read Matthew 6:13

"And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

James 1:13-17

No one undergoing a trial should say, "I am being tempted by God," since God is not tempted by evil, and he himself doesn't tempt anyone. But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desire. Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death. Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

- Our inclination is to sin and then ask for forgiveness. What do these passages tell us should be the proactive steps in prayer?

John 16:23–24 (CSB)

"In that day you will not ask me anything. Truly I tell you, anything you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. Until now you have asked for nothing in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete."

- Why do we pray "in Jesus name?"
- "Amen" in Hebrew means "so be it" (or "make it so" for the Trekkies in your group).

- Read the Lord's Prayer out loud, together as a group:

"Therefore, you should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, your name be honored as holy. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." Matthew 6:9-13

- As a time of prayer right now, take a few minutes to jot down a simple, personal prayer using the outline Jesus gave us:
 - Statement of relationship
 - Worship
 - Submission
 - Provision
 - Confession & Forgiveness
 - Deliverance
 - Ending
- What are three essential things needed for prayer? (answer: A plan, a place, and a time)

Read Romans 8:26

In the same way the Spirit also helps us in our weakness, because we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with inexpressible groanings.

- Are you struggling to write a prayer? What does the Spirit do when we don't know what to pray or can't express ourselves?

Next Steps

- Look at the Book: The Lord's Prayer- <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/207012>
- How to Talk to God- <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/291303>
- Get your free Right Now Media account at <https://accounts.rightnow.org/Account/Invite/celebrationbaptistchurch>).