

Jan. 22,
2012

TCC YOUTH

For Small Groups & Personal Study

Triangle Community Church
Student Ministry

Daily Exposure to
God's Word



Monday

[1 Thessalonians 5:16-18](#)

Remind yourself today that Christ lives in you and is with you every moment. Pray without ceasing is to remember Jesus is with you every thought.

Tuesday

[Philippians 4:4-9](#)

What are you worried about in your life? What does worry reveal about your trust in God in this situation? Ask God to help you trust in Him first rather than worry first.

Wednesday

[Ephesians 6:18-20](#)

In what ways can you be more bold for Christ in your relationships with others. Pray for God to enable you to be bold in the way you talk about God to others?

Thursday

[Matthew 6:1-18](#)

Take a few moments by yourself today in prayer. Pray using the pattern of the Lord's prayer.

Friday

[Hebrews 5:7-9](#)

How does verse 7 show how important Jesus thought prayer is? Have you ever prayed like Jesus did? Why or why not?

LOPSIDED CHRISTIANITY

PART 4: CHRIST'S CALL TO PRAYER

Why Pray?

One of the greatest ways we can strengthen our relationship with God and not feel like our Christianity is Lopsided is by spending time with God in prayer. One of the biggest reasons people don't pray is that they don't know why it is important to pray or they struggle with how to pray.

When we think about why we should pray, as Christians one of our key motivations should be that God designed prayer to be a way for us to have a more intimate relationship with Him and empower us to do the ministry of Christ for His Glory. Here are 4 things about prayer that helps us gain a better perspective on why we should pray:

1) Prayer does not inform God, it involves God, 2) Prayer does not change God, it changes us, 3) Prayer does not get our will done in Heaven, it gets God's will done on earth, 4) Prayer is not because God needs us, but because we need God.

Remember, God loves you and wants you to have a close relationship with Him. Since He designed prayer to be a way for you to do that, just ask Him to show you how. Start your prayers by being honest with God and asking Him to teach you to have a passion to pray and to know how to pray. Go through each daily verse and then take time to pray afterward.

The message this Sunday is designed to help us take a BIG step forward in knowing "How to pray." Hopefully after this study you will gain a better understanding on "How to pray."

"Prayer will make a man cease from sin, or sin will entice a man to cease from prayer." ~ **John Bunyan**

"We have to pray with our eyes on God, not on the difficulties." ~ **Oswald Chambers**

Group Questions

Part 4: Christ's Call to Prayer

Connect with Others

1. How can some people's prayer life be similar to a 911 call?
2. How important do you think prayer is to most Christians? Explain.
3. What is prayer? Why do you think most people pray? *Take a moment to read the front section of this study guide and discuss.

Dig in the Message

* Turn your Bibles to Luke 11:1-4 & Matthew 6:5-13 and answer these questions below.

4. In what ways do our prayers often reveal that we are praying 'My' kingdom come rather than 'your' kingdom come?
5. What are we asking for when we pray for God's ultimate reign over the whole earth?
6. What is the big problem we humans have in following God's will for our lives?
7. What does it indicate when we don't pray to God daily?
8. In Ps. 32:1-2 what do the words 'blessed', 'forgiven', and 'covered' mean?
9. How does un-repentant sin fracture our relationships with God and others?
10. Why should "Deliver us from the evil one" be a daily part of our prayers?
11. Why does the prayer 'Lead us not into temptation', come immediately after the prayer, "Forgive us our sin"?

Transform and Apply

13. How would you evaluate your prayer life at the moment?
14. Read "More than Words" & discuss how you can make the Lord's Prayer a pattern for your prayer life.
15. End your group time in prayer for each other (use Lord's Prayer as a guideline).

Scripture Memory

Matthew 6:9-13

9 "Pray, then, in this way : 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. 11 'Give us this day our daily bread. 12 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]

More than Words

Many people misunderstand the Lord's Prayer to be a prayer we are supposed to recite word for word. God is far more interested in our hearts when we pray than He is in our words. *"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 use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words"* (Matthew 6:6-7). In prayer, we are to pour out our hearts to God (Philippians 4:6-7), not simply recite memorized words to God.

The Lord's Prayer should be understood as an example, a pattern, of how to pray. It gives us the "ingredients" that should go into prayer. Here is how it breaks down. "Our Father in heaven" is teaching us whom to address our prayers to—the Father. "Hallowed be your name" is telling us to worship God, and to praise Him for who He is. The phrase "your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" is a reminder to us that we are to pray for God's plan in our lives and the world, not our own plan. We are to pray for God's will to be done, not for our desires. We are encouraged to ask God for the things we need in "give us today our daily

bread." "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors," reminds us to confess our sins to God and to turn from them, and also to forgive others as God has forgiven us. The conclusion of the Lord's Prayer, "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one" is a plea for help in achieving victory over sin and a request for protection from the attacks of the devil.

So, again, the Lord's Prayer is not a prayer we are to memorize and recite back to God. It is only an example of how we should be praying. Remember, in prayer, God is far more interested in our communicating with Him and speaking from our hearts than He is in the specific words we use. [Philippians 4:6-7](#) declares, *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

How do we pray?

Jesus gave his disciples, what we call, "The Lord's Prayer" ([Matthew 6](#)) as a model.

In addition, [Hebrews 4:14-16](#) tells us we can pray boldly -- "That is why we have a great High Priest who has gone to heaven, Jesus the Son of God. Let us cling to him and never stop trusting him. This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same temptations we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it."

Above all, pray with sincerity, honor, and humbleness before the Almighty God. "The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results" ([James 5:16](#)).

Prayer does not inform God, It involves God.

Recommended Resource: [Prayer, The Great Adventure by David Jeremiah](#)