

Weekend Teaching Discussion Guide

30 Days to Greater Faith: Week Two

Prayer

Teaching by Pastor Jackson

WARM-UP QUESTION

- When you think about your own prayer life, what word best describes it right now: consistent, growing, difficult, comfortable, distracted, or something else? Why?
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DISCUSS

Prayer Starts With Priority

Pastor Jackson began by sharing honestly about his own journey with prayer. Even as a pastor, prayer has been an area he has struggled with and continues to grow in. The goal is not simply to hear a message about prayer, but to put what we learn into practice.

The first of the four Ps is **Priority**. There is tremendous value in what we choose to do first. Giving God our first and best communicates that He has our attention.

Scripture: Proverbs 3:9-10

Jesus modeled this principle in His own life.

Scripture: Mark 1:35

- Why do you think what we do first can have such a significant impact on the rest of our lives?
 - What would it look like for prayer to become a true priority rather than something we fit in when we have time?
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Create a Place and a Plan

The second and third Ps are **Place** and **Plan**.

Pastor Jackson encouraged us to identify a place that is conducive to our personality and helps us focus on God. It could be a specific chair, room, corner, or another place where, when we see it, we naturally think about spending time with God.

He also emphasized the importance of having a plan. Paul reminds us that there are different kinds of prayers and that prayer can take many forms.

Scripture: Ephesians 6:18

Consistency becomes much easier when prayer is not left to chance. Having a place, a plan, and a priority helps us develop prayer as a regular part of our lives.

- What place could you intentionally set aside for prayer?
 - Why do you think having a plan makes it easier to become consistent?
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Connect With God Relationally

The disciples once asked Jesus to teach them how to pray.

Scripture: Luke 11:1

Jesus responded by giving them a model for prayer beginning with, “Our Father in heaven.”

Pastor Jackson explained that prayer begins with understanding who God is and who we are in relationship to Him. Our view of God will shape our relationship with God.

Scripture: Romans 8:15

We do not approach God as fearful slaves trying to earn His attention. We approach Him as His children.

- How does seeing God as a loving Father change the way you approach prayer?
 - What misconceptions about God can make it difficult to pray honestly and confidently?
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Use Jesus' Prayer as a Daily Model

Pastor Jackson explained that the Lord's Prayer was not simply intended to be recited quickly. Jesus was giving His disciples an outline, or seven focuses, that could shape their prayer lives.

Connect With God Relationally

“Our Father in heaven...”

Begin by remembering who God is and who you are to Him.

Worship His Name

“Hallowed be your name...”

Take time to worship God for who He is. He is our Righteousness, Sanctifier, Healer, Banner of Victory, Shepherd, Peace, and Provider.

Scripture: Proverbs 18:10

Pray His Agenda First

“Your kingdom come and your will be done...”

Instead of beginning with everything we want from God, begin by asking what God wants to accomplish through us.

Scripture: Luke 12:31

Depend on Him for Everything

“Give us this day our daily bread...”

God is not simply someone we turn to when we have an emergency or a need. We can depend on Him for everything and trust that He is a good Father who delights in giving good gifts.

Scripture: Matthew 7:11

Get Your Heart Right With God and People

“Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors...”

Jesus places significant emphasis on forgiveness. Prayer gives us an opportunity to ask God to forgive us and to release the people who have hurt us.

Scripture: Matthew 6:14–15

Recognize the Battle

“And do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from the evil one...”

There is a spiritual battle taking place. We have an enemy who is actively working against us, and prayer helps us recognize our need for God's protection and strength.

Express Faith in God's Ability

“For yours is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory forever.”

Prayer ends with confidence in who God is and what He is capable of doing.

Scripture: 1 John 5:14–15

- Which of these seven focuses of prayer do you naturally do well?
 - Which one do you most need to grow in right now?
 - How could using this model change the way you pray this week?
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Prayer Changes More Than Our Circumstances

Pastor Jackson challenged us not to approach prayer only with a list of things we need from God. Prayer is an opportunity to connect with God, worship Him, surrender our agenda, depend on Him, get our hearts right, recognize spiritual battles, and express faith in His ability.

He challenged us to consider what it would look like to begin prayer by asking, **“God, how can I serve You today?”**

Prayer is not simply about getting God to do what we want. It is about becoming increasingly aligned with His heart, His purposes, and His Kingdom.

- What would change in your prayer life if you began asking God what He wants to do through you before presenting your own requests?
 - How can prayer become a place where God changes you, not just a place where you ask God to change your circumstances?
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CLOSING REFLECTION

Which statement best reflects where you are right now?

- I need to make prayer a greater priority.
- I need to establish a consistent place and plan for prayer.
- I need to grow in seeing God as a loving Father.
- I need to surrender my agenda and seek God's Kingdom first.
- I need to forgive someone and get my heart right with God and others.

- I need to become more aware of the spiritual battle around me.
- I need to grow in confidence in God's ability.

PRAYER

God, thank You that we can approach You as our loving Father. Teach us to make prayer a priority, seek Your Kingdom first, trust You with every area of our lives, and keep our hearts right with You and others. Help us recognize the spiritual battles around us and grow in confidence in Your power and ability. Draw us closer to You and let prayer transform not only our circumstances, but our hearts. In Jesus' name, Amen.

7 DAYS OF PRAYER

7 Days of Prayer is happening this week at Cypress Church!

We are taking another step closer to Jesus and making prayer a greater priority together.

Sign up to receive **daily prayer prompts** online at:

cypresschurch.tv/submit-prayer-request

Then join us at **each Cypress Church campus on Wednesday, August 12 at 6:30 PM** for a special **Prayer Rally service**.

Come expecting God to move, believing for breakthrough, and ready to seek Him together.

Let's make prayer a priority this week!