

How to Pray—1

The Purpose of Prayer

But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

Luke 5:16 NIV

One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. Luke 6:12 NIV

Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him ... Luke 9:18 NIV

... [Jesus] took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. Luke 9:28 NIV

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. ... Luke 11:1 NIV

Prayer is talking with God.

“This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, ¹⁰your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us today our daily bread. ¹²And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’”

Matthew 6:9-13 NIV

“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶But 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.” Matthew 6:5-6 NIV

“And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.” Matthew 6:7-8 NIV

1. God wants your heart.

**The purpose of prayer is not to get something from God,
but to be with Him and become like Him.**

“This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name ...’” Matthew 6:9 NIV

2. Prayer is relational.

3. Prayer is formational.

... “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name ...”

Matthew 6:9 NIV

TALK IT OVER

Read **Matthew 6:9-13**. What does this prayer show you about our relationship with God? What character traits of His are highlighted?

The purpose of prayer is to be with God and become like Him. What obstacles make prayer challenging for you, and how can you begin breaking those barriers this week?

Think about where you hope your life will be one year from now. How would building a habit of prayer impact your life and your hopes for the future? What would other people notice that's different about you?

Start the Bible Plan *7 Biblical Prayers and How to Pray Them Today* using Plans With Friends: www.go2.lc/prayers