BIBLE STUDY

**Becoming A Person of Prayer**

**Lesson 1: Engaging With Prayer**

**DISCUSSION**

A man who worked as a messenger for a photo lab got a message on his beeper instructing him to pick up a package at an unfamiliar company with a long, difficult name. He looked skyward and exclaimed, “God, where am I supposed to go?” Just then, his pager came on, this time with the client’s exact address.

A man nearby witnessed this scene. Raising his arms to the heavens, he cried, “Why don’t you ever answer me?” (Adapted from Reader’s Digest [April, 1991], p. 127.)

Have you ever felt like the messenger in the anecdote above? The witness?

Wouldn’t it be spectacular if prayer worked in this way: You pray and instantly a voice gives you the answer that you are looking for. Most times, however, it’s not this easy! Would you agree?

**\*How do you define prayer?**

**DISCOVERY**

WHAT IS PRAYER?

Prayer is **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** with God from the heart as to a friend.

**Psalm 25:1; 86:4; 143:8; Lamentations 3:41**

**\*What does the word “soul” mean in these verses?**

* What do these verses imply about my soul and prayer?

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Amazingly, The Creator of the Universe is eager to spend time with you and with me, but the only way we can experience conversation and communion with Him is through personal and corporate prayer.

Prayer should be the **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** of the believer’s life.

**Luke 18:1-5; 1 Thessalonians 5:17**

**\*What word stands out to you in these verses?**

* How would you characterize your prayer life? (be honest)
	+ Vibrant/Active
	+ Dull/So-So
	+ I don’t have a prayer life.
	+ I feel I need more knowledge/training.

The point of prayer is not merely to list our requests, but to press into knowing Jesus better.

Knowing Jesus better requires that I not only speak (in prayer) but that I earnestly and attentively **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** for the voice of God speaking to me through prayer.

“Prayer is simply a two-way conversation between you and God.” - Billy Graham

This means that I should not “**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**” praying – attempting only to satisfy some religious requirement; checking off the box that “I prayed this morning/today”.

Prayer should be deliberate. Prayer should be intentional. Prayer should be on purpose.

My prayer life should be more than a “knee-jerk” response to the challenging occurrences of my life.

Prayer must be **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**. God desires a personal relationship with us.

We cannot pray, as in Matthew 6:9, *“Our Father…”* if we do not have a personal relationship with God.

**Matthew 6:9; Romans 8:14-15**

* How do I know that I have a relationship with God?

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**To have a relationship with God:**

* Accept that fact that I am a sinner in need of a Savior (Romans 3:23)
* Acknowledge that I am unable to rescue myself from sin (Romans 6:23)
* Believe that Jesus came into the world to die for every man’s sin (John 3:16)
* Confess my sin and receive God’s gift of Salvation through Jesus (1 John 1:9)

**DIRECTION
Every day, for the next 7 days, pray a one (1) sentence prayer to begin your day.**