



Chapter Two

Part 6 – Prayer

Discussion Guide

This week, we are diving into how the first Church and early believers were devoted to prayer. What does it mean to earnestly pray? How are we supposed to pray? During the message, we were reminded of the time Peter was in prison and “the church was earnestly praying.” During times of despair, times of stress and not having all the answers, we can live in our feelings or we can PRAY.

Jump Start

1. Are you comfortable praying out loud? If you remember the first time you were asked to pray out loud, how did it make you feel? Share a time that God answered your prayers.
2. **Read [Acts 12:1-5](#)**. In this passage, we see that the early Church has come under persecution. James has been killed and Peter arrested. What did the church do in a crisis? What do you do? Have you ever prayed with others about something that you were facing?
3. All the while, Peter was stuck in prison. **Read [Acts 12:6-7, 12](#)**. What was Peter doing during this crisis? When he realized he was set free, where did he go and what did he find? What does this tell you about prayer?
4. **Read [Acts 12:13-16](#) and [James 1:6-8](#)**. When Peter showed up at their door, what were the reactions? Have you ever been astounded by what God has done? Have you ever prayed, not really expecting Him to rescue you? What does this verse from James tell us about our faith in relation to answered prayers?
5. **Pray This Prayer: [Matthew 6:9-15](#)**

We can go to our Father in many ways:

- *gathered as a group - [Matthew 18:19-20](#);*
- *we can go to Him quietly as we go about our day - [1Thessalonians 5:16 - 18](#);*
- *we can get on our knees in our prayer rooms or closets - [Matthew 6:6](#);*
- *we can cry out to Him - [Deuteronomy 26:7, 1 Samuel 7:8](#);*
- *we can go to the altar and kneel before Him - [Ephesians 3:14-21](#).*
- *Ultimately the most important way to pray is to just to pray and believe in the power of prayer - [Matthew 21:22](#).*

Note: There is a Seven Day Prayer Challenge on [Chapter Two Resources Page](#). You can also post Prayer Requests on our [Virtual Prayer Wall](#).

Deeper

In this season, we are reading the Scriptures and coding them as we read. Why we are doing this? To slow down and become aware of what the Holy Spirit is teaching us as we read. The voice of the Holy Spirit will take faith to follow. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you the plans that God has for you. Ask Him for wisdom. Pray for awareness of His presence. There are also the **SOAP** questions to help guide you as well. (**S O A P** stands for **S**cripture **O**bservation **A**pplication **P**rayer.) There are lots of ways to study God's Word. The key is to just do it. As we spend time with God, we become more like Him.

CODING GUIDE:

(If you do not have these colors adjust to what you have and make a coding guide in your study notebook.)

Yellow Highlighter: God is speaking personally to me.

Green Highlighter: Who I am to be or what I am to do.

Red Underline: Mind Blowing (something that stood out to you).

Black Circle: I do not understand this at all. HELP.

(Bring this up when you are in Life Group to discuss.)

6. **Scripture.** Read [James 5:16, Philippians 4:6, Matthew 6:6, John 15:7, Romans 8:26, 1 Timothy 2:8, Romans 12:12, and Mark 11:24](#) and study the Scripture to gain deeper understanding of prayer. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you as you read these passages?

Take time to read these passages and allow God to speak to you. Jot down anything that made you stop and pause or anything that you questioned. When you are done, look for a verse that particularly spoke to you and write it out fully in your journal.

7. **Observe.** What is God saying to you in these verses? What overarching theme or promise did you see? What did the specific verse that you were drawn to teach you?

What do you think God is saying to you, personally and specifically, in these Scriptures? (You can even have a short prayer at this point, asking the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal Jesus to you. Remember that He promised to give us wisdom and reveal truth to us when we ask.)

8. **Application.** How will you apply what God showed you through these verses?

Personalize what you have read by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now. Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, a new promise, or correction in an area of your life. Examine what God is speaking to your heart about your possessions right now. Write down how this Scripture applies to you today.

9. **Pray.** Take time to pray over the verses that hit home with you. Pray with praise, pray with faith, and pray believing He has you!

This prayer can be as simple as asking God to help you use this Scripture, or even a prayer for a greater insight on what He may be revealing to you. Remember, prayer is a two-way conversation, so take time here! Be sure to listen to what God has to say! Now, write it out. Journaling your quiet time helps you to see what God is teaching you over time.