

WAY TÖ PRAY

Week 1: *Praying Like Jesus*
Week 2: *Praying Through Scripture*

Week 3: *Praying For Harvest*

APPETIZER: Three Questions

DOES PRAYER PRIMARILY CHANGE GOD OR CHANGE US?

BUT WHY PRAY IF GOD ALREADY KNOWS THE FUTURE?

Genesis 22:12

BUT WHY DOESN'T GOD ANSWER ALL MY PRAYERS?

1 John 5:14

REVIEW...

1. PLACE – Find a comfortable, quiet, private place. (A “prayer closet”)
2. POSTURE – Sit or stand or kneel or walk.
3. TIME – Aim for 10 minutes to an hour per day.
4. REMOVE – Get rid of distractions, like phones and other technology.
5. VOICE – Pray out loud, even if only mumbling.
6. SHARE – Talk to your Home Church and Huddle members about your experiences. Also Tweet me, Facebook me, or BBM me too, to let me know about your experiences. (BBM: “caveman”)

Matthew 26:40-41

DINE IN: See, Pray, Love

Matthew 9:35-38

1. Meditate on and pray through **Matthew 9:35-38** every day this week.
2. Pray for opportunities to evangelize, in person or online.
3. Open your eyes! Wake up to what God is doing all around you.
4. In conversations, ask lots of questions. (Pray for genuine spiritual curiosity.)
5. Look for signs of their awareness of their need for the **LOVE, FORGIVENESS, PURPOSE, and REST** that only Jesus gives.
6. If someone shows interest, share your own experience/story (e.g., **John 4:39**).
7. Invite them to listen to Jesus for themselves (through church, podcasts, books, Bible). Take a “Come and see!” approach (Philip to Nathanael, **John 1:46; 4:39-41**)
8. Don't feel pressure to “win” an argument. Introduce them to Jesus and let HIM convince them. You're a dating service, not a salesperson.
9. If they are not interested, serve them in other ways or just move on.
10. If appropriate, let them know you'll be praying for them.

TAKE OUT: Next Steps

I will endeavour to pray every day this week (and beyond!)...

HOW:

- The Our Father (Lord's Prayer)
- Gospel Meditation & Conversational Prayer
- Conversational Prayer through other Bible passages
- Praying the prayers of other saints (e.g., a prayer book)
- Using a prayer journal
- Praying evangelistically, for opportunities to participate with Jesus in sharing his good news (Matthew 9:35-38).

WHEN: _____

WHERE: _____

FOR: _____ min.

NEXT WEEK: Local Teaching!
IN TWO WEEKS: New Peace Series!

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. What stood out to you the most from this prayer series?
2. How have you been doing with daily prayer this week? Talk about your experiences.

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

3. Read **Matthew 9**.
 - a. What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why?
 - b. Jesus proclaimed his message in tandem with healing the sick. What can you do, as an individual or together with the church, in order to bring compassion and healing into people's lives?
 - c. Jesus preached "the good news of the kingdom." What is that message? Why is it "good news" to everyone?
 - d. Some people aren't in a season of life where they are "harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd". They feel like they've got it all together and are not interested in God's help. How should we respond to them? (See **Matthew 7:6**.)
 - e. What does Jesus mean by saying the harvest is plentiful? How might this change your focus throughout the day?
 - f. Are you ready to pray this prayer? Are you ready to become the answer to this prayer? Ready or not, are you *willing*?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

4. PRAY! Take 10-20 minutes on your own to pray evangelistically. Pray for specific people you know, for God to give you opportunity and boldness. And pray that God helps you be more aware to opportunities to live and give the gospel to people you don't know yet. Remember to pray *out loud*, not just in your head. Then check in as a huddle to talk about your growing experience in prayer.

Quotes

We are kicking off this "Year of GO" by spending extended times in prayer, in our Sunday services and in our Home Churches.

Today we're wrapping up our series on prayer by connecting our prayer life with our evangelism life and learning from Jesus how to pray for the gospel to spread.

We will also close today's service by praying through The Lord's Supper, or the Eucharist, together.

In Matthew's Gospel, chapter 9, we read...

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few."

"Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."