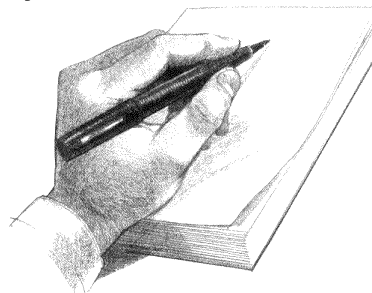


# Living Connections Bible Study



## Teach us to pray

### Prayer

**Text:** Matthew 6:9-15

**Icebreaker:** Would anyone like to share how or when God answered a specific prayer request for you or your family recently.

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Some of you may not be able to think of a single answer to a specific prayer request this week. Maybe you would have to go back several months, or maybe you can't remember the last time God answered your prayers at all.

1. When the disciples heard Jesus praying in Luke 11:1 what did they ask Him to do for them?

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Matthew 6:9-13 is the model prayer Jesus gave us to build our prayers around.

### Relationship & Access

*Our Father in Heaven*

2. What awesome relationship do we have to God when we come to Him in prayer, and what encouragement should this be to us?

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**Attitude**

*Hallowed be Your name*

- 3. What does it mean to hallow the name of God?

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**Priority**

*Your Kingdom come*

- 4. What priority should we have when we come to God in prayer and what does this mean?

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**Surrender**

*Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven*

- 5. Part of our prayer life involves discerning God’s will. What does it mean to pray, *Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven?*

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**Provision**

*Give us this day our daily bread*

- 6. Bread has been called the staple of life. What other things should we bring before our Heavenly Father when we pray? Philippians 4:6

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**Pardon**

*And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors*

A vital part of our daily prayer life should include confession and forgiveness, keeping short accounts with God, confessing any known sin to Him, and then forgiving those who have sinned against us.

7. Why is it important to confess all known sins to God? Psalm 66:18, 2 Chronicles 7:14-15

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8. What did David ask God to do during his prayer time that we should also practice in our lives? Psalm 139:23-24, Psalm 32:5, Psalm 51:1-2

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9. What does Jesus say will hinder our prayer life in Matthew 6:14-15?

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**Protection & Deliverance**

*Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one*

10. What does James teach us about temptation in James 1:13?

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11. Since this is true, why does Jesus teach us to pray, *Do not lead us into temptation?* James 1:14

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**Authority & Power**

*For Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen*

12. What great encouragement and confidence in prayer do we find in Matthew 6:13b, Ephesians 3:20-21?

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## Think About this week:

4 keys to answered prayer

### 1. Pray Specifically

Many of our prayers are far too general to bring a specific answer amid the general blessings that are going to fall anyway. We pray: *“God bless my home and family, God bless our country, bless our church, bless our missionaries...”* and so there is no way of knowing if your prayers are answered or not.

What percentage of your prayers are specific, faith-centered requests?

### 2. Pray Expectantly

The problem for many is that they just go through the motions of prayer and aren't expecting God to answer, and so He doesn't. Look up the following references and apply them to your prayer life: Jeremiah 33:3, John 15:7

*Answered prayer is not abnormal, it is normal. It is not unusual; it can be your regular experience, not to be marveled at, but to be expected.* (unknown author)

### 3. Pray According to the Lord's Will            1 John 5:14-15, John 16:24

This is what it means to pray in Jesus' name. Some seem to think that ending their prayers with the phrase, *“This I pray in Jesus name, Amen”* is a magic formula like rubbing Aladdin's lamp, or saying *abracadabra*, hoping to obligate God to answer their prayers. But sad to say, there are many prayers that end with the words *in Jesus name, Amen*, that are not prayed in Jesus name at all. To pray in Jesus' name means to ask what Jesus would ask for. Jesus left us here to carry on His work and to ask His Father for the things that He would ask for if He were present. A vital part of our prayer life should be learning to discern, *“What would Jesus ask for?”*

### 4. Pray in Faith Believing

Do you take God at His Word and believe He will do what He says. Check out Hebrews 11:6, Matthew 17:20, Matthew 21:22, Mark 9:23, Mark 11:24

*Now this is the confidence that we have in (Jesus Christ),  
that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.  
And if we know that He hears us,  
whatever we ask,  
we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.*

1 John 5:14-15