*Prayer Training for the Rest of Us* Week 3

Day 1 May 25



Pray | Ask God to provide for all your needs

"GIVE US today our daily bread." Matthew 6:11

God is perfect, all-powerful, and eternal. He can handle any prayer from any person. There is no prayer too small or too big for God. Spending time in prayer and asking God about your needs reveals a heart of humility and obedience to God.



*Reflect* | *Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:* 

Sometimes we may believe our needs are too specific or unimportant to a God that is eternal and infinite. Have you ever avoided prayer because you believed your needs were not important enough for God's ears? Write down some of these avoided prayers and share them with God.

When Jesus told his people to ask God to provide "daily bread," he was, in part, referring to our everyday needs. Think about an area in your life you don't typically pray about and make an effort to bring it to God moving forward.

What are some of your daily needs that you pray about least often? Spend time this week and share these prayers with your small group, in a bible study setting, or in a gathering of family or friends.

Prayer Training for the Rest of Us Week 3

Day 2 May 26



Pray | Relent to God's timing and pray for a patient heart

GOD HAS his own sense of time. It's difficult for humans to make sense of time in an eternal perspective.

God's perspective is fully perfect and eternal. In a world where we experience a great deal of instant gratification, we might expect our prayers to be answered immediately. God may sometimes answer our prayers right away, or his answer may be, "no" or "not now." This doesn't mean we can't ask God for immediate answers, but we should also be prepared to wait.



Read | Psalm 27:13-14, Psalm 70, Hebrews 12:1-3



*Reflect* | *Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:* 

The tone of King David's prayers in Psalm 27 and Psalm 70 are quite different. At times we pray for things that need a quick resolution and other times it's ok to wait. What do today's verses reveal to you about communicating the immediacy of your needs to God?

What are some prayers you have been waiting for a long time for God to answer or reveal a result? Waiting on God takes great perseverance. Share the ways in which you have persevered through God's timing with others in your life who might be struggling with waiting on God.

Why do you think it's difficult for some people to wait on God's timing? If this is something your struggle with, take it to God in prayer.

Prayer Training for the Rest of Us Week 3

Day 3 May 27



Pray | Delight in God's response to your prayer

UNEXPECTED WAYS: one manner in which God might answer prayer.

Sarah and Abraham prayed for a biological son for dozens of years. God finally answered their prayers and gave them a son at an age when Sarah would have been well beyond her years of healthy child-bearing.

Sometimes God might answer our prayers with a non-answer or a "no." God's will can still be found when he says "yes" as well as "no."



*Reflect* | *Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:* 

What are some of your prayers that God has answered in an unexpected or ironic way? How did his way of answering your prayer affect your relationship with him?

Are there any prayers that you are confident in your heart that God has said "no" to? What have you learned from his "no" answer?

Today's scripture verses indicate that the ways of God are sometimes beyond our understanding as humans. How might this provide you comfort when God doesn't answer your prayer in the way you would have liked, or when he says "no" to your prayer?



Read | Isaiah 55:6-13, Jeremiah 33:3, Genesis 21:1-8

## Day 4 May 28



Pray | Bring your prayers to God with a humble heart

HUMILITY IS a virtue that can sometimes be hard to achieve. Spending time in prayer with God shows that you are humble enough to wait on his answers, to obey him, and to relent to his will.

If God is all-knowing, and all-powerful, why bother spending time in prayer? This is an often-asked question that even some of the most seasoned Christians might ask from time to time.



Read | 2 Chronicles 7:13-15, Luke 22:39-44, Romans 10:9

Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:

God delights when we spend time in prayer with him because he is loving and relational. He has provided his people with the ability to pray because of his grace. If you are making a first-time decision to accept Jesus into your heart, God will delight in you when you call in the name of Jesus in a way like that recorded in Romans 10:9.

Jesus famously prayed and pled with God in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus is God's son and founder of the Christian faith, yet even he prayed and pled with God. If feelings of pride have gotten in your way of praying, how can the fact that Jesus spent a lot of time in prayer encourage you to put pride aside and seek God's will in prayer?

Humility is one of the most important characteristics to possess to be able to submit yourself before God in prayer. If you search various forms of the word for humble or humility on the web, you'll come across dozens of results. Why do you think there is so much emphasis placed on this virtue throughout the Bible? How can you apply this emphasis to your prayer life?

Day 5 May 29



Pray | For a deeper relationship with God

THE WORD, prayer, or any form of it, appears several hundred times throughout the Bible. Prayer is central to being a follower of Jesus Christ.

God desires a personal relationship with each and every individual he has created. He has provided prayer as a graceful pathway to deepening our relationship with him.

Read | Psalm 13. 1 Kings 8:22-24. 52-61. Matthew 6:11



*Reflect* | *Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:* 

Why might the Bible put so much emphasis on spending time in prayer with God over merely thinking about him? What is the difference to you between praying to God versus thinking about God?

A silver lining in the current global pandemic is that more people might be spending time in prayer with God than would be under normal circumstances. If this is true of you, how can you continue to spend quality time in prayer with God after the pandemic passes?

What is most revealing to you about God's will for your prayer life according to Matthew 6:11, "Give to us our daily bread." --? It is crucial to remember that you can pray to God about anything at any time, and he will delight in your prayer, no matter how trivial or difficult you perceive it to be.

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