

CBF Discipleship 1.0 – Lesson 5 – Prayer

Name: _____ Date: _____

If time is available, it is recommended to review the 5 lessons in the Building Blocks of Christianity on Prayer (Lesson 10-14)

Why do we pray?

- Because Jesus prayed (as well as He got baptized, submitted to the will of the Father, loved the brethren, spread the Gospel, ministered to those in need, and rejected teaching and practices in opposition to God's way)
- Because Jesus instructed us to pray (Luke 11:2 states, "When you pray", not "If you pray")
- We need help in many areas from our Holy Father along our Christian walk.

What is prayer?

- Here are a few definitions to consider: A conversation with God, To cry or call out, To seek the face of, To request, To inquire, To intercede, To pour out one's heart
- Prayer is our alive spirit in Christ (Eph 2:1) conversing with God

There are multiple examples of prayer from the Old and New Testament. For this study we focus on the prayers of Jesus and His instructions.

When did Jesus pray?

- Read Mark 1:35 – before _____.
- Read Luke 6:12 – _____.
- Jewish tradition was 3 times per day.

What are some observations from Jesus praying?

- Read Luke 3:21 – Jesus prayed and heaven was _____.
- Read Luke 5:16 – He withdrew to the _____ and prayed.
- Read Luke 6:12 – He prayed all _____ because He had to pick the 12 the next day.
- Read Luke 9:28-29 – took Peter, James, and John up to the _____ to pray.
- Read Luke 11:1 – was praying in a certain place.

In your own words, what do the observations above mean to you personally?

Let's look at some of Jesus' prayers.

- Read Mathew 11:25-26 – 'You have hidden these things from the wise but revealed them to babes'
- Read Mathew 27:46 – 'My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me'
- Read Mark 14:32-36 – '..take this cup, but not my will but your will'
- Read Luke 23:34 – 'Father forgive them for they do not know what they do'
- Read Luke 23:46 – 'Father, into your hand I commit my spirit'
- Read John 11:41-42 – 'Father thank you for hearing me' (Lazarus)
- Read John 12:27 – 'Father save me from this hour.. Father be glorified'
- Read John 17 (the whole chapter) – Prays for himself, prays for the disciples, prays for other believers

What do you notice about His prayers above? (many answers are possible)

- They were all focused on _____ will, not His will
- There was not a hidden agenda (give me something because I deserve it)
- There is respect and reverence
- There was love, a longing for the Father

When the disciples asked Jesus "how should we pray", He provided a model in Luke 11

Luke 11:2 So He said to them, "When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. 3 Give us day by day our daily bread. 4 And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one."

What do the above reasons seem to follow? (notice the order)

- Praise Him
- Provision
- Repentance
- His leading, (keep from evil, resistance from temptation)

It's important to open your prayer with thanks and praise, for that is how we enter into His presence (Ps 100:4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise.)

What are some other teachings from Jesus about prayer you should remember?

- Ask, seek, knock and it will be _____ to you – Read Luke 11:9-13
 - Note that this implies your prayer is with the right motives and in the will of God
- Pray in _____ – Read Mathew 6:5-6
- Do not use vain _____ – Read Mathew 6:7-8

Ps 102:1 Hear my prayer, O Lord, And let my cry come to You. 2 Do not hide Your face from me in the day of my trouble; Incline Your ear to me; In the day that I call, answer me speedily.

‘let my cry come to you’

- God hears what you think, what you feel, what you meant to say but didn’t, what your spirit says, and what’s hidden in your heart.
- He hears you even when you mess up the words. He hears your voice and heart

‘incline your ear’

- This is a picture of God bending down to hear you.
- He loves you and is interested in you.
- This is not a picture of you shouting so that He might hear you.
- This is a picture of you whispering and Him bending down to hear His child.
- Sometimes you may feel like nobody hears you, but He does.

And since Christ came, we have the Holy Spirit (the Helper) helping us today

- Read Romans 8:26-27
- When we don’t know what to pray, He intercedes for us (speaks for us)
- According (aligned with) to God’s will

What if I don’t pray? What are you saying to God?

- You are saying you don’t want to hear his warnings or receive His blessings. Read: 1 Kings 9:3, Ezek 96:37, Mathew 7:7
- You are not confident in God’s abilities: Read 1 John 5:14
- You will call Him when you need Him; otherwise stay out of my life and let me run it. You are saying that you will be the god of your life until you need help: Read Exodus 20:3.

Summary from today?

Questions to reflect on?	Answer
What truths have you learned today?	
Given what you have learned and/or decided, are there any areas you need to take to the Holy Spirit in prayer?	
What actions should you take in your life to demonstrate what you have learned and committed to?	