

Overview

Series: “Lord Teach Us To Pray”

Devotional Guide

Videos and additional resources: <https://prayercourse.org/sessions/>

Week 1, June 7-13 — Why Pray?

Main Passage: Luke 11:1–13

Supporting Passages: Matthew 6:5–13; Romans 8:26–28; Hebrews 4:14–16

Theme: Prayer begins with a simple invitation: “**Lord, teach us to pray.**”

Conversation Questions:

1. When you hear the word “prayer,” what do you feel? Peace, guilt, confusion, hunger for God, pressure, or something else?
2. In Luke 11:1, the disciples asked Jesus, “**Lord, teach us to pray.**” Why do you think they asked that? What do you think they saw in Jesus?
3. What area of your life do you sense God inviting you to depend on Him more and less on your own strength?

Weekly Challenge:

Pray this prayer every day: “**Lord, teach me to pray.**”

Then take five minutes to talk honestly with God. Keep it simple, keep it real, and keep going.

Week 2, June 14-20 — Adoration: Starting with God

Main Passage: Matthew 6:9

Supporting Passages: Psalm 103:1–5; Revelation 4:8–11

Theme: Prayer begins by looking at who God is before focusing on what we need.

Conversation Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus teaches us to begin prayer by saying “**Our Father**” before asking for anything?
2. What part of God’s character do you need to remember most right now: His love, holiness, faithfulness, power, patience, nearness, or something else?
3. When you pray, what usually fills your mind first: your problems or God’s presence? Why?

Weekly Challenge:

Before asking God for anything this week, take a few minutes to worship Him. You can begin with this phrase: “**Father, You are...**”

Week 3, June 21-27 – Petition: Asking Without Shame

Main Passage: Matthew 6:11

Supporting Passages: Philippians 4:4–7; James 4:2–3

Theme: God cares about our daily needs and invites us to ask.

Conversation Questions:

1. Is it easy or hard for you to ask God for what you need? Why?
2. What does “**daily bread**” mean in your life right now? What do you need God to provide today?
3. How can asking God for our daily needs help us depend more on Him and less on ourselves?

Weekly Challenge:

Make a simple “**daily bread**” list. Each day, ask God for what you need physically, emotionally, spiritually, financially, or relationally.

Week 4, June 28-July 4 – Intercession: Your Kingdom Come

Main Passage: Matthew 6:10

Supporting Passages: 1 Timothy 2:1–4; Romans 8:26–27; Ezekiel 22:30

Theme: Intercession is praying for God’s Kingdom to come in the lives of others.

Conversation Questions:

1. What people or places do you sense God has put on your heart to pray for in this season?
2. What does it mean to pray **“Your Kingdom come”** over your family, our church, Southern Illinois, or the world?
3. How does praying for other people change our own hearts?

Weekly Challenge:

Choose **three people or places** to pray for every day this week. Ask God to bring His Kingdom, healing, salvation, peace, and justice.

Week 5, July 5-11 – Unanswered Prayers: Trusting God with the Pain

Main Passage: Mark 14:32–36

Supporting Passages: Psalm 13; Daniel 3:16–18; Romans 5:3–5

Theme: God invites us to bring Him our pain, our questions, and our unanswered prayers.

Conversation Questions:

1. Why is it sometimes hard to talk honestly about prayers that have not been answered the way we hoped?
2. In Mark 14, Jesus prays with deep pain, but also with surrender. What does His prayer teach us about bringing our pain before God?
3. How can we better walk with one another as a church when someone is carrying an unanswered prayer?

Weekly Challenge:

Practice a simple prayer of lament this week:

God, this hurts...

God, I ask You to...

God, I choose to trust You with...

Week 6, July 12-18 – Contemplation: Being with God

Main Passage: Psalm 46:10

Supporting Passages: Luke 10:38–42; John 15:1–9

Theme: Prayer is not only talking with God; it is also learning to be with God.

Conversation Questions:

1. What is difficult for you about being silent before God?
2. In Luke 10, Mary sits at Jesus' feet while Martha is busy serving. What does that story reveal about our own hearts?
3. What would it look like for you to slow down and simply be with God this week?

Weekly Challenge:

Practice **five minutes of silence** with God three times this week. No phone, no music, no rushing. Just sit with the Father and receive His love.

Week 7, July 19-25 – Listening: Recognizing the Shepherd's Voice

Main Passage: John 10:1–5, 27

Supporting Passages: 1 Samuel 3:1–10; James 1:5; Acts 13:1–3

Theme: Prayer is a conversation, and we can learn to recognize God's voice.

Conversation Questions:

1. What do you think Jesus means when He says, **“My sheep hear my voice”**?
2. In what ways have you sensed God speaking to you before: through the Bible, peace, conviction, wise counsel, circumstances, prayer, or something else?
3. How can we test what we sense God is saying so we stay grounded in the Bible and in community?

Weekly Challenge:

Pray Samuel's prayer every morning: **“Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening.”**

Write down anything you sense God highlighting, and test it with Scripture and mature believers.

Week 8, July 26-August 1 – Spiritual Warfare: Deliver Us from Evil

Main Passage: Matthew 6:13

Supporting Passages: Ephesians 6:10–18; James 4:7–8; 2 Corinthians 10:3–5

Theme: Prayer helps us stand firm in the victory of Jesus.

Conversation Questions:

1. When you think about spiritual warfare, what do you feel most: fear, doubt, curiosity, or confidence in Christ?
2. According to Ephesians 6, what part of the armor of God do you need most right now?
3. How can we be aware of spiritual battle without living in fear or getting distracted from Jesus?

Weekly Challenge:

Choose one area where you need to stand firm: fear, temptation, accusation, discouragement, division, or anxiety. Pray a Bible passage over that area every day this week.

Week 9, August 2-8 – The House of Prayer

Main Passage: Isaiah 56:7

Supporting Passages: Acts 2:42–47; Ephesians 6:18

Theme: God is forming His church into a praying community filled with the Holy Spirit.

Conversation Questions:

1. In Acts 2, the early church was devoted to prayer. What do you notice about the kind of community that was formed through a life of prayer?
2. What would it look like for La Cruz Church to be known as a house of prayer?
3. How can you personally help build a culture of prayer in our church, your family, or your small group?

Weekly Challenge:

Commit to one practical step: join a prayer gathering, pray regularly with your small group, begin praying with your family, or set aside a weekly time to pray for revival in Southern Illinois.

Small Group Meeting Format

- **Opening Prayer**
Ask the Holy Spirit to teach the group how to pray and to guide the conversation.
- **Gratitude and Prayer Request**
Share something you are thankful to God for this week and something you would like the group to pray for.
- **Read the Scripture Together**
Have someone in the group read the main passage out loud.
- **Three Conversation Questions**
The goal is not to answer “perfectly,” but to speak honestly and listen to God together.
- **Weekly Challenge**
One simple practice to live out during the week.
- **Closing Prayer**
End by praying for one another, even if it is simple and brief.

Leader Note:

The goal is not to rush through every question. Let the conversation breathe. Keep the group connected to the Bible, honesty, and application. At the end, pray together, even if it is simple and short.

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