



## What to Bring to Prayer

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*1 John 3:21 – 22 & 5:14 - 15*

### OPEN

When you're traveling by car with a parent, sibling, spouse or a good friend do you prefer to be the driver or the passenger? Explain why.

As a passenger, are you able to relax or are you giving instructions? (Backseat driver)

### DISCUSS

After hearing last week's sermon did you change the way you pray or experience something new in your prayer life?

Have you ever prayed to God when you knew your heart wasn't in the right place, or you had misbehaved?

- What did that sound and feel like?
- Have you ever had similar feelings coming to your parents?

### PRAY

Before you read the scripture have someone pray and ask God and His Holy Spirit to open your hearts to receive His Word.

Read 1 John 3:21-22 & Matthew 7:7

- Most people reading these passages respond with either hope and excitement or a serious skepticism and doubt. Where do you fall and why do you think this is?

Now read Matthew 6:33, John 15:7 & James 4:3

- What does it mean to seek first His Kingdom and righteousness? (Matt 6:33)
- How do you translate, “to remain in Me and my Words remain in you”? (John 15:7)
- James talks about wrong motives. How do you experience that in your own prayers? (James 4:3)
- Does reading these three scriptures change the way you read the first two? (1 John 3:21-22 & Matthew 7:7) Explain how.

Read the quote from Brother Andrew Murray, one of the great saints of prayer.

*"Our prayers must not be a vague appeal to God's mercy, an indefinite cry for blessing, but the distinct expression of definite need... It's not that we must be definite because God does not know our needs. God desires [such specificity] for our own sakes. Such definite prayer teaches us to know our own needs better. It demands time, and thought, and self-scrutiny to find out what really is our greatest need. It searches us and puts us to the test as to whether our desires are honest and real, such as we are ready to persevere in... It helps us to wait for the special answer, and to mark it when it comes."*

Some of us are holding onto the wheel with a tight grip, and praying for very specific things, but many of us have a loose grip, and are vague in what we ask for.

Loose and vague prayers – talk about why you think we often pray this way.

Tight and specific prayers – talk about how this could help our prayer life and faith.

## **PRAY**

Take a moment to talk about prayer requests. Try to make them tight and specific.

Then have someone close your group time with prayer.

## **NEXT STEPS**

- Visit <https://www.cc-ob.org/prayerresources> and browse through all the resources Christ Church has listed for you. Pick one or two things you would like to commit to.
- Let your group know as soon as possible, and have them keep you accountable.
- Pray

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