



Why Pray?

Luke 11:1-13

OPEN

Do you have a significant prayer moment (answered prayer, unanswered prayer, hearing from God...)?

What questions do you bring with you about prayer?

DISCUSS

How do you define prayer?

What do you think of Alvin VanderGriend's definition of prayer?

"Prayer is the conversational part of the most important love relationship in our lives, our love relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

Read Luke 11:1-13

- Why do you think the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray?
- Who is God compared to in these verses?
- What do these say about God?
- How is God similar and different than what is described?
- Other observations?

How is prayer relational?

Reflect on your own faith journey. How has prayer been a catalyst for your own growth?

When do you most often pray?

While studying prayer is a good, praying is even better. As a group commit to give more time to prayer in the weeks to come. For today, simply take prayer requests and praises. Then designate someone to open and close in prayer. Those who wishes to pray in between are welcome to. Do not rush, give yourself space for prayer. Allow periods of silence if they come...take pleasure in simply being in God's presence.

NEXT STEPS

- Commit personally to pray throughout your day—both in planned times and spontaneously as pray comes to mind or as situations in your day bring forth prayer. Is there anything you can do to help you follow through on this commitment?
- Remember to incorporate these aspects in your times of prayer:
 - Talk to God. Prayer is the conversational aspect of your relationship with God.
 - Listen to God. Believe God has things to say to you.
 - Dwell in God's Presence. Do not underestimate how presence can impact prayer.
 - Reflect. Look back on your days being aware of your prayers, what God has impressed upon your heart, and how you see God moving in your day.
 - Repeat often.