



SIMPLE
PRAYER

PRAY LIKE JESUS

DISCUSSION GUIDE

SMALL GROUP
SESSION ONE

Introduction

Jesus said in **Matthew 6:9-13**: **“In this manner, therefore pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”**

Jesus had an intimate prayer life with His Father. Every time He connected with Him, He gained overwhelming power, clarity, and joy. Prayer can be defined as talking to God, listening to Him, and experiencing His presence and power in every area of your life.

- Share a little bit about yourself and what brought you to this small group.
- What do you want to get out of this *Simple Prayer* small group?

Discussion Questions

Chapter 1: You Can Enjoy a Powerful Prayer Life

Mark 1:35 says, **Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He [Jesus] went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.**

- Why do you think Jesus took time in the morning to pray?
- What are the benefits of having a specific time set aside to connect with God?

Three Steps to a Powerful Prayer Life

1. Passion for prayer

“My prayer for you is that a great passion and desire to pray will spark like a fire in your heart, burning so intense you will do whatever it takes to become a person of prayer.”
(page 13)

- What changes do you need to make to your schedule to connect with God?

2. Practice in prayer

- What are the different outcomes between a legalistic, religiously structured prayer life and one that is fueled by passion, established daily, and pleasurable because of God’s presence?

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3. Pleasure in prayer

- Why is pleasure in prayer an essential step to experiencing a powerful prayer life?

Chapter 2: Our Father

Jesus said in **Matthew 6:9**: “**In this manner, therefore pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.**” Jesus addressed God as “Our Father.” As we get to know Him better, we will begin to trust Him more. Praying like Jesus begins the process of restoring our image of who God the Father really is.

- What are the benefits of knowing our Heavenly Father personally through prayer?
- What two powerful truths did Jesus show the disciples about prayer? (page 19)

Jesus is the clearest picture of who God is. **Colossians 1:15** says, **He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.** If we want to know God as our Father, we can begin by getting to know His Son, Jesus.

- Why should we look to Jesus to get a fresh perspective of our Father? How does this enhance our view of God as our Father?

Embracing the Promises of God

God’s names are found throughout the Old Testament. Praying through the names of God validates His promises; He never separates who He is from what He does. Following Jesus’ model, Pastor Steve shows us how we can incorporate the names of God into our prayer life. He says the name of God, what it means, and declares that action in his life (page 24).

- Read the eight names of God and what they mean on pages 24-25. Which name of God resonates with you most?
- Which name of God do you need to lean into and declare His promise in a situation you’re currently facing?

Life Challenge

Time with God brings refreshment, renewal, and richness in your spirit. **Psalm 34:8** says, **Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!** Throughout this small group, allow God to teach you to pray.

Prayer Requests & Close in Prayer

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SESSION TWO

Introduction

- How has your prayer life changed since last week's readings and discussion?

The Kingdom of God is the rule and reign of God and is present in the hearts of His people. In **Mark 1:15** when Jesus said, "**The kingdom of God is at hand,**" He meant that God's rule and reign is available in our hearts. The key to spiritual power is not only prayer but prayer that connects us to God and His King, purpose, and power. (pages 28-29)

Discussion Questions

Chapter 3: Your Kingdom Come

Four Key Areas to Ask God to Establish His Kingdom

1. In Our Lives

It's important to pray God's Kingdom into our own lives first *before* praying over anyone else.

- Why is it important that we "put on our spiritual oxygen masks" first before praying for others? (pages 29-30)
- Why do you think Pastor Steve calls honoring God's will over our own "the epitome of Kingdom living"? (page 30)
- Give an example of how to pray for God to establish His Kingdom in your life.

2. In Our Families

After praying for God's will to be done in our own lives, it's important that we ask for His righteousness, peace, and joy to fill our families' lives.

- What is the fastest way for hearts to be changed within a family? Why? (page 32)
- Give an example of how to pray for God to establish His Kingdom in your family.

3. In Our Church

We are all a part of God's family. **Ephesians 2:19** says, **Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.** As our church family pursues the mission of reaching people and building lives, it's important that we pray for a fresh outpouring of God's power.

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- Why is prayer essential for our church family and pastors? (pages 33-34)
 - What does “praying for the harvest” mean and why is this an important part of praying for our church? (page 34)
 - Give an example of how to pray for God to establish His Kingdom in our church.
4. In Our Nation
1 Timothy 2:1-2 says, Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.
- Why should we regularly pray for spiritual renewal, revival, and awakening in our nation?
 - Give an example of how you might specifically pray for God to reign in this area.

Life Challenge

The Kingdom of God is found wherever He rules and reigns in people’s hearts. Begin to incorporate praying for God’s will to be done in your life, your family’s life, your church, and your nation in your daily prayer life.

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SESSION THREE

Introduction

- How have you experienced God moving as you've prayed for His Kingdom to be established in your life, your family's life, your church, and your nation?

As we learned in Chapter Two, God is Jehovah-Jireh; He is our provider.

- How have you seen God's provision in your life?
- Why do you believe God wants to provide for you in every way? Or, why don't you?

Discussion Questions

Chapter 4: Daily Bread

God promises physical sustenance and spiritual nourishment. He cares for both our physical and spiritual needs.

- Why is it important to consistently be in God's Word?

Four Ways to Walk Closely With God

1. Understanding God's daily bread is provided as spiritual nourishment in His Word.
2. Fellowshiping with Jesus through a consistent and personal prayer life.
3. Sitting daily at His feet, learning His ways.
 - What's the most recent thing He taught you?
4. Fellowshiping with each other.
 - Do you have people in your life that will lift you up through good times and bad?
 - Share about a time you were encouraged by the relationships God has sent into your life.

While we were created for community, we were also created to work (Genesis 2:15)! This is a primary means of God's provision. Many times we have a wrong perspective of God's provision because we have a wrong perspective of work (page 42).

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- When is work both a *good thing* and a *God thing*? (page 44)
- What distinct advantage does a Christian have when it comes to work? What are the benefits of this advantage? (page 44)

God wants us to be specific in prayer and set our spiritual sights on exactly what we desire and need.

- Why should we be laser-focused in prayer?

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.” Matthew 7:7

In **Matthew 7:7**, Jesus taught us to not give up in prayer. Jesus says in **John 14:14**, **“If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”**

- What does it mean to ask in Jesus’s name? (page 47)
- What are some ways we can remain persistent in prayer?

Life Challenge

Think of something you’ve prayed and believed God for in the past and have given up praying for it. Spend time with God this week and ask if this is something you should start praying for again. If it is, have big faith and don’t give up! God’s provision is just around the corner.

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SESSION FOUR

Introduction

Our lesson on forgiveness begins with the story of the fig tree. Do you remember the scene? Jesus, unhappy that the leaf covered tree had no figs, declared that no one would eat fruit from it again. His disciples heard Him and the very next day saw evidence that Jesus' power over nature was proof they could have faith. and **“whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.” (Mark 11:24)**

But, Jesus quickly followed these faith-building words with two profound truths: **“And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.” (Mark 11:25-26)**

- What are the two things Jesus teaches us about forgiveness and prayer? (page 50)

Discussion Questions

Chapter 5: Forgive Us

Pastor Steve asks us to think of our life like a large PVC pipe. When we imagine water flowing through unhindered, that represents God's power and presence. But, if the flow slows to a trickle, that represents what happens when we harbor unforgiveness against someone else. A clogged PVC pipe prevents God's power in our prayer lives.

- What is the fastest way to block miracles in your life? (page 50)

Three Practical Ways to Unclog Our Spiritual PVC Pipes

1. Ask God to Forgive You.

We must ask God to forgive us our sins before we worry about anyone else. This involves two important steps: We put our trust in Jesus as our Savior, and we practice a lifestyle of repentance.

Romans 10:9 says, that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

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1 John 1:9 says, **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

- Why, after we confess and repent, should we never feel guilt and condemnation?

2. Forgive Others.

Pastor Steve writes, “God views sin as debt, a gigantic loan with enormous interest we can never repay on our own.” (page 53) The parable in **Matthew 18:23-35** tells of a servant who was forgiven tremendous debt, yet this same servant would not forgive the debt of a fellow worker who owed him much less than he had been forgiven.

- Why should this parable compel us to forgive our debtors?

3. Make the Daily Decision.

As Christians, we are empowered to make the decision to treat others as God has treated us (page 56). When we forgive others, then we unlock the supernatural in our lives. Our PVC pipe is no longer clogged.

- When there are people in our lives who have hurt us deeply, what can we do to make forgiving them an easier process?

Life Challenge

This week, examine if behaviors such as unforgiveness, anger, bitterness, and resentment are clogging your spiritual PVC pipe. Then follow the three practical ways to spiritual power by asking for your own forgiveness, forgiving others, and practice daily forgiveness so your prayers are never hindered again.

Prayer Requests & Close in Prayer

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SESSION FIVE

Introduction

Jesus said in **Matthew 6:13**, “**And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.**”

God Himself does not tempt us; when we pray this, we are believing for God to help deliver us from temptation that we face. We can cry out to God to lead us away from the temptation. Just as a soldier walks through a physical minefield, we walk through spiritual minefields. There are areas of temptation all around us.

- What is an area of temptation you need to pray for deliverance from?
- What does God always provide in every temptation?

Discussion Questions

Chapter 6: Deliver Us

- As believers we have a real, tangible enemy. Who is our enemy? (page 60)

John 10:10 says, “**The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.**”

- What is Satan’s goal for us?
- What does Jesus want for us?

Two Sources of Temptation

James 1:13 says: **Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.**

- God does not tempt us, but what role does He play in the enemy tempting us? (page 61)

1. Outward - Satan

Satan wants to destroy us and take us off the path of the abundant life God has for us.

- Share a time when the enemy tried to get you off track, but you overcame his plans. How did you fight temptation?

2. Inward - Our flesh

- Why do we struggle with sin even after we become Christians?
- Why is it important to remember God is for us during these times?

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Weapons and Armor

Although we face temptation both from the outside and the inside, God has equipped us to win every battle and encounter with temptation.

1. The Belt of Truth

Ephesians 6:14a: Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth. The belt of truth defends our minds from the lies of the enemy.

- Where do we find this truth? (page 62)

2. The Breastplate of Righteousness

Ephesians 6:14b: ...having put on the breastplate of righteousness... the second piece of armor in our defense against temptation. As believers we do not have to live in our own righteousness; we are covered by the righteousness of Christ.

- What does the breastplate of righteousness protect? (page 64)

3. The Shoes of Peace

Ephesians 6:15: And having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace. We can stand firm in supernatural peace from God.

4. The Shield of Faith

Ephesians 6:16: Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

- How can our faith be strengthened?

5. The Helmet of Salvation

Ephesians 6:17a: And take the helmet of salvation... Protecting our head is a way to keep us from listening to and believing the lies of the enemy.

6. The Sword of the Spirit

Ephesians 6:17b: ...and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God; this is our weapon. The other pieces that we must equip ourselves with to fight temptation are armor, but the sword is a weapon. How do we wield the Sword of the Spirit? (page 67)

Life Challenge

Review the steps on Page 68 for how we can arm ourselves against temptation: See the Word, say the Word, do the Word.

Prayer Requests & Close in Prayer

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SESSION SIX

Introduction

Jesus opened and closed His teaching on prayer with praise. The Lord's Prayer is God-centered, beginning and ending with God. We can center our prayers on praising God in these three areas: His Kingdom reign, His unlimited power, and His eternal glory.

Discussion Questions

Chapter 7: Yours Is The Glory

1. Yours is the Kingdom

God's kingdom is different from the rest of the world. We get to be a part of His Kingdom, one full of peace, joy, and righteousness. In **Matthew 6:13**, Jesus gives God the credit and honor He deserves. Being a part of the Kingdom of God is about honoring Him in all that we do, including prayer.

- What are some practical ways we can honor God in our everyday lives?

2. Yours is the power

Next, Jesus declared that God rules with power. Sometimes the difficulties of life can seem to overshadow the truth that God is all powerful. When we find ourselves feeling weak and powerless, we can speak the truth of who God is in us and through us. As we praise Him, He pours His power and strength into our lives.

- What Scripture verses can we speak over our lives when we feel powerless?
- How can we encourage others when they feel hopeless?

3. Yours is the glory

Glory is defined as renown, honor, or magnificence. You've probably also used this term to refer to someone getting the credit for accomplishing something great. In this sense, God deserves all the glory. As Jesus is closing His prayer, He recognizes the "honor and weightiness", or the *kabod*, of God. Giving praise to God invites His presence into our situations and lives.

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- What stood out to you in this chapter? Did you learn something new that you had never heard before about prayer?
- How has giving God praise and worshiping Him helped you or someone you know through difficult times?
- Praise can be hard when we're walking through a difficult season and we feel we have very few reasons to thank God. What are some things you can be thankful for even in the midst of your challenges?

Life Challenge

As we wrap up this series, it's important to take what we've learned through The Lord's Prayer and apply it to our lives. If we keep in mind and put into practice the principles we've learned, God can radically transform our lives! Remember to implement the following into our daily prayer lives:

- Believe we can have a powerful prayer life.
- Meet with God as our good Father.
- Invite God's Kingdom power into our daily lives.
- Trust God to provide.
- Extend forgiveness .
- Ask God to help us navigate temptation.
- Start and end our prayer with praise.

This week take some time to work the points above into your prayer life.

Prayer Requests & Close in Prayer