

Prayer Do's and Don'ts Leader's Guide

See Bible study at bottom of page

- 1. What does it mean to pray in Jesus' name? (We can come to God in prayer because Jesus died for us, cleaned and forgave us, and put His perfect record in our book. We're praying as Jesus' representatives using His authority doing His business. We're praying what He would pray if He were in our situation.)**
- 2. How do we know what God's will is? (God's will is found in the Bible. It's His will to do GOOD, not EVIL!) What is an example of a prayer that's God's will? (Pray for my friends to know Jesus and be saved. Pray that we'd have money to buy food and pay the rent. Pray that God would heal a broken relationship.)**
- 3. Is it hard to believe that God will answer when you pray? (Answers will vary.)**
- 4. Is it okay to pray for something more than once? Why? (YES! God wants us to keep asking and not give up. He wants us to persevere in prayer!)**
- 5. Have you ever stopped praying when the answer took too long? (Answers will vary.)**
- 6. What are you worrying about? Pray about it! (Questions 6-9 answers will vary. Pray about any problems you have with prayer!)**
- 7. Do you have a quiet place to pray?**
- 8. What friend could you pray with?**
- 9. Have you ever prayed for the government? If not, start now!**

- 10. How could you pray more throughout the day? (Pray when walking, between classes, pray in the shower, when getting ready for school or bed, pray when driving)**
- 11. Describe a time when you mixed doubt and faith. (Answers will vary.)**
- 12. Describe a time when you prayed with selfish motives. (Answers will vary.)**

Prayer Do's and Don'ts Bible Study

Prayer Do's

1. Pray in Jesus' Name John 14:13-14 Who Is Jesus?

- Gives us a blank check!
- Gives us permission to ask for anything.
- Promises to do whatever we ask in his name 2x v.13,14
- Brings glory, honor to God by answering our prayers. Shows how great the Father is.

Who Is Man?

- Have privilege of praying. Ask God for help. v.13
- Can use Jesus' authority. Doing his business.
- Pray as his representatives
- Pray what Jesus would pray if he were in our situation
- "ANYTHING" – we can pray BIG prayers!

So What?

- Pray the prayers Jesus would pray! Use his name!

2. Pray God's Will 1 John 5:14-15 Who Is God?

- Has a will. Likes some things. Doesn't like other things.
- Hears when we pray according to his will, what pleases him v.15
- Will give us anything we pray that's his will
- God will not give us things that are NOT his will, don't please him!

Who Is Man?

- Can be confident that God hears and will answer when we pray his will

So What?

- I can be confident when I pray for people's salvation, revival, etc. because these are God's will
- Are all my prayers in line with God's will?
- Am I asking for some selfish or mean things?

3. Pray With Faith Mark 11:22-24 Who Is God ?

- Trustworthy. We can have faith in him. v.22
- Can do impossible, amazing things if we believe v.23
- Answers and does impossible things as we pray IN FAITH v.23

Who Is Man?

- Need to have faith in God's power v.22
- Can pray BIG, bold prayers v.23
- Need to pray without doubting in our hearts v.23
- Will receive everything we pray IN FAITH v.23

So What?

- Do I trust in God's power?
- Do I pray big, bold prayers? Do I know God can do the impossible?
- Do I pray with FAITH or do I DOUBT?

Hebrews 11:6 Who Is God?

- Pleased when we believe. Not pleased when we don't believe.
- He exists! He is real!
- He rewards faith! Rewards those who seek him!

Who Is Man?

- Can please God by our faith
- Must come to God believing that He is real
- Will receive a reward if we seek God

So What?

- Do I have faith in God? Do I believe that he exists?
- Do I come to God?

- I will receive a reward for my faith, seeking him!

4. Pray persistently. Who Is God? Matthew 7:7 AMP

“Keep on asking and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. “

- Gives what we ask for if we persist. Allows us to find if we seek. Opens doors that have been closed.

Who Is Man?

- Need to keep on praying and not give up. We'll get answers!

So What?

- Do I keep on praying? Do I give up when my prayers aren't answered right away?

Who Is God? Luke 18:1-8

- Opposite of mean judge. KIND.
- Will give justice to his people who cry out v.7
- Answers repeated, persistent requests v.7 (“day and night”)
- Will not keep putting people off v.7
- Will give QUICK justice v.8

Who Is Jesus?

- Teaches people should pray instead of giving up, losing hope v.1
- Son of Man. Will return a second time. Looking for people who have faith v.8

Who Is Man?

- Judge- doesn't care about God or people v.2
- Corrupt. Does not give justice. Ignores widow. v.3-4
- Widow- keeps asking for justice. Repeats same prayer v.3 ,5
- Unjust but gives a just decision in the end. v.6-7
- Don't always have persistent faith v.8

So What?

- Do I know that God is kind and wants to answer my prayers?
- God wants me to persist in praying if I don't get an answer right away!
- God will give me justice.
- God wants me to keep believing and praying!

5. Pray Instead of Worrying Philippians 4:6-7 Who Is God?

- Does not want us to worry about anything
- Wants us to pray about everything- even small, "stupid" things we are worrying about
- Cares about even small details of our lives!
- Will give us peace if we hand over our problems to him v.7
- His peace will protect our thoughts and feelings v.7

Who Is Man?

- Tend to worry. We are anxious. v.6
- Need to tell God about anything causing anxiety. v.6
- Need to pray and THANK GOD before he answers!
- Need to hand over the problems to God
- Will receive peace from God.
- We cannot understand God's wonderful peace. v. 7

So What?

- What am I worrying about? Have I given it to God?
- If I don't have peace, have I prayed and thanked God? Prayer + Thanksgiving = Peace