

Lesson 1-Prayer With Confidence Selected Scriptures

1. What aspects of prayer would you like reassurance about? (Read James 1:5-8 & Luke 11:9-10)
2. Does prayer take faith? Explain your answer.
3. Read Matthew 6:9-15. Why is the Lord's Prayer a model prayer for us?
4. Read Matthew 14:23. Why did Jesus go by Himself to pray so many times during His earthly ministry? What can we learn from that?
5. What does Jesus pray for in John 17:1-5? In verses 6-19? In verses 21-26? Be very specific. What lessons are there in this prayer for all of us?
6. Read Mark 14:32-42. What feelings did Jesus express in this prayer?
7. Why did Jesus want Peter, James and John along with Him?
8. Jesus spoke specifically to Simon Peter in verses 37-38. Why? How can prayer keep us from temptation?
9. Many times the Lord uses prayer to encourage us because when we pray we feel so close to Him. Read Matthew 3:16-17 and 17:5. Why did Jesus need to feel especially close to His Father at these two times in particular?
10. How much should we pray? 1 Thessalonians 5:17.
11. When should we pray? James 5:13
12. What does James say about the prayer of a righteous man? James 5:16b

13. What keeps you from a powerful prayer life? What does it take to have a powerful prayer life? Read Luke 18:9-14

Lesson 2-Abraham's "Talk" With God Genesis 18:16-33

1. Review Lot. Who is he? What is his relationship to Abraham? Why is he in the center of Abraham's predicament?
2. What is the Lord going to do and why? Why does this seem unreasonable and unfair to Abraham? Do you ever think that in your own personal life? Explain.
3. Describe the relationship between Abraham and God. How does this affect the way God behaves toward Abraham?
4. How and what we pray usually reflects our motives for praying. What was Abraham's motive for praying here?
5. What motivates you to pray for other people? Think of specific people you are or should be praying for.
6. What recurrent theme does Abraham keep referring to in verses 23-24,28,29,30, 31 and 32? Why does he do that?
7. What is an intercessor?
8. God does not appear to be angry with Abraham for asking. How does this give us reassurance when we pray in difficult circumstances?
9. How do you think Abraham knew how long to continue and when to stop? What thoughts and feelings might Abraham have gone through after his conversation with God ended?
10. After we lay our request before the Lord, what is a must?
11. Can you share an experience in which God guided you in prayer, or maybe even changed your view as you prayed?

12. What can we practically do to “listen” to God when we pray?

Lesson 3 Praying For God's Will Exodus 32:1-14 & 1 Samuel

Sometimes we wonder if prayer changes anything. If God has His plans, and will work out His purposes, do we really need to pray?

We cannot possibly understand the mind of our Almighty God, but He does love the prayers of His children. So, let's pray and let God be God.

1. Why do you think Israel made a golden calf to worship? What did God think of that?
2. How does the fact that God is going to judge the person without Jesus for their sin affect the way you pray for them?
3. Can you find any passages of scripture that give us an idea of the wrath of God?
4. What does this passage show us about Moses?-his relationship to God and the nation of Israel?
5. What was God going to do to the Israel nation and Moses? How did prayer change that? (Also read Jeremiah 18-7-8)
6. Describe God's mercy.
7. In what ways has suffering strengthened your faith?
8. Why was Hannah miserable and what did she do about it?
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10. Verse 12 has a key factor about our prayers that we should be reminded of. What is it? (Read Luke 18:1-8 and Ephesians 1:17)
Why is this important?
11. What should we know about God's will when life disappoints us? (Isaiah 55:8)

12. Hannah does not hide her feelings, pain, hurt or desire. What prevents us from being that direct with God?
13. Prayer did not change Hannah's circumstances immediately. But, it was very effective. How.
14. What valuable lessons do we learn from Hannah's prayer life?

Lesson 4-Love For God's People Nehemiah 1:2-8 and Ephesians 1:15-23 and 3:14-21

1. How does the way you feel about something or someone affect the way you pray?
2. What motivated Nehemiah to approach the king? Do you think it was an easy task? How might his feelings have affected the way he prayed?
3. How long did Nehemiah pray? What lessons does that teach us?
4. Nehemiah 1:5 shows us the first stage of his prayer. How can focusing on God at the beginning enable us to pray with more confidence?
5. The next stage goes on to repentance. Why is that necessary?
6. For what reasons might Nehemiah have returned to God's promises and past dealings with Israel as part of his prayer?
7. Define sovereign. How should that affect your prayers?
8. What do you think gave Nehemiah the confidence and courage to begin the task of rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem?
9. What did you learn from Nehemiah?
10. When you love someone, you want the best for him. According to Paul, what is the BEST? How does he know?
11. When Paul prayed and loved, he did it for all of the Christians. There must have been some difficult and rebellious ones. How could he do that?

12. How would your prayer be different for a believer than a non-believer?
13. What does Paul want us to know deeply?
14. Why does knowing Ephesians 3:20 affect the way you pray?

Lesson 5 Praying With Thankfulness Luke 1:46-55

1. In what sorts of circumstances do you find it difficult to thank God?
2. What did Mary think God was like?
3. How did Mary see herself before God?
4. Mary glorified the Lord and rejoiced in her Savior. In what ways can we do this in our prayers?
5. If we started our prayers praising the Lord, how could this change our prayer life?
6. Verse 50 tells us that God's mercy extends to those who fear Him. How does your "fear" of God affect the way that you pray to Him?
7. Mary prayed in thankfulness for being chosen as Christ's mother. However, she also refers to many other actions of God in her prayer. What does this show us about her understanding of God? Will the more you know God affect your thankfulness in prayer?
8. In what ways do verses 51-53 both reassure us and act as a warning to us?
9. How can the more we know that God is good on every one of His promises be a basis for thanksgiving in our prayers?
10. Read Philippians 4:6-7. Now explain what those two verses mean to you.
11. Why should praising and thanking God take a priority in your prayer life?
12. When you can pray and thank Him **before** you even know the answer, what does that show about your relationship with Jesus?

Lesson 6 Relying On God Selected Scriptures

1. What happens to your relationship with God (especially your prayer life) when you find yourself facing very difficult times?
2. What do hard times teach us? II Corinthians 1:9-10.
3. Read Genesis 32. Jacob is about to meet Esau. He's been very self-reliant. Now he's afraid. List the different steps of his prayer in verses 9-12. Why do you feel he prayed this way? What did praying this way starting helping him to see?
4. To get Jacob to realize his dependence on God, what did he have to go through? Have you ever been through and experience like this?
5. Read II Chronicles 20. King Jehoshaphat is about to face a vast army. What did he chose to do?
6. In verses 6-12, Jehoshaphat has a beautiful prayer formula. What is it?
7. What is the key word to our prayer life in verse 15?
8. Why is verse 17 such a victorious verse for you?
9. Read Psalm 5. Instead of dealing with his enemies by becoming aggressive or planning revenge, David turns to God in prayer. What requests does David make of God?
10. David is clearly accustomed to beginning his day with prayer. What are the benefits of this?
11. David appears confident that God hears his prayer. What does he say about the character of God that would give him confidence?

12. How might David's understanding of God's judgement upon his enemies have affected the way he dealt with them?
13. David clearly sees the sins of his enemies as the heart of their rebellion against God (v10). How can this perspective help us to pray for those who oppose us because of our faith?
14. How might David's description of God's view of evil help us when we feel like **blaming** God for terribly evil acts and the consequences of these acts?
15. Does your prayer life prove that you rely on God completely?

Lesson 7 Praying During Spiritual Conflict Daniel 10

Christians often react in one of two ways to spiritual conflict. They assume everything stems from it and become unhealthily fascinated by it. Or they do not think it's a problem. Seeing spiritual conflict the way God sees it is critical. This passage gives us a rare insight into the realities of the heavenly places and the importance of prayer in such circumstances.

Ephesians 6:10-18 (esp 18) 1 John 4:4 1 Corinthians 10:13*

1. When do you think Satan works the hardest on you?
2. How much power does Satan have over you? When does he win? How can you experience victory over this kind of power? (Read II Timothy 1:7)
3. Is this an on-going battle? Why is it a "battle" (Galatians 5:16-26) What is really at war here?
4. Read Daniel 10. What can you tell about the character of Daniel from the passage?
5. Daniel received a message from God concerning a great war. He then refused to eat certain foods and mourned for three weeks. Why did he do this? What can we learn from his example here?
6. To have a visit from a heavenly being was a very unusual occurrence. Why do you think God went to this length to communicate with Daniel?
7. Daniel was dramatically affected by this. What does this teach us about the way in which God deals with each one of us?
8. What lasting effects do you think Daniel's experience had on his relationship with God?

9. God reveals to Daniel that there is a spiritual battle going on behind the scenes of His people. What evidence is there in the passage of the effect Daniel's prayer had on this spiritual battle in the heavenly places?

10. Daniel does not directly fight with the satanic forces (referred to "the prince of the Persian Kingdom", "the prince of Persia", "the price of Greece"). How does this reassure us when we think about spiritual warfare?

11. We know the end of the story. What is it?

