



Teach  
ME TO  
Pray

BIBLE STUDY  
PARENTS GUIDE

# WEEK 1 – WHAT IS PRAYER?

## Day 1 – Study Questions:

1 – What do you think prayer is? Write down your own definition.  
(own answer)

2 – How many times down James use the word pray/prayer in these few verses? Who does he call to pray?

-In verse 13 (*anyone*)

-In verse 14 (*the elders*)

-In verse 15 (*those who are faithful*)

-In verse 16 (*everyone*)

-In verse 16 (*the righteous*)

Circle the categories that you believe you fall into.

If you circled one or more of your answers above than you can be sure that God invites you to pray!

3 – Write down this prayer on a piece of paper, doctorate if you would like, and put it somewhere you can see it, read it and pray it each day this week.  
Dear Lord, teach me to pray. I praise You for this great gift of prayer. I thank You for the invitation to pray and talk to you, our creator and Lord. Help me to draw closer to you each day.

(leave a space here, the same number of lines as it took you to write the above prayer)

Amen.

## Day 2 – Study Questions:

1 – James gives us 4 examples of situations when we should pray. What are they?

1-*in trouble*

2-*when happy*

3-*when sick*

4-*when sinned*

Think of 5 more times when you think should pray to God.

1-5 *own answers*



2 – Are there any times, that you can think of when it is not necessary to pray? Or times when you should not pray? List them here and discuss with your family.

*The short answer is 'no.' Discuss any ideas your children come up with and guide them to the understanding that you can pray to God anytime, anywhere and about anything.*

3 – Add these lines to your prayer for this week, remember to put it somewhere where you can read and pray it each day.

*I think you Lord that I can pray in and through all circumstances in my life. When I am joyful and when I am in trouble.*

### **Day 3 – Study Questions:**

1 – We can sometimes read scriptures in small bits and get a false view of what the scripture means. If you read just this passage: “the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well” what could you conclude? Then if you believe hard enough, God will do what you want. Do you think this is a good way to read scripture? Why/Why not?

*It is not good. Taking small chunks of scripture without reading the verses before and after, and without having a basic, overall understanding of God’s Word, can lead to false thinking. Passages such as Philippians 4:13 as an example. I have heard people quoting this passage in reference to being able to DO ANYTHING they want, like get a promotion or ace an exam. This completely out of context. Read verse 10-12 and you will see what Paul can do through Christ.*

2 – We know from our experience that sometimes when we pray, God does not always say yes to our requests. But we can be sure that this does not mean that God is not listening, or that God does not care. The bible assures us over and over that God hears our prayers. We will be looking at this more in week three, but for now think about these 2 questions:

1-When have you prayed for something/someone and God has said yes, and that thing happened?

*Own Answer*

2-When have you prayed for something/someone and you have not gotten an answer, or the thing did not happen?

*Own Answer*

3 – Add these lines to your prayer for this week, remember to put it somewhere where you can read and pray it each day.

*Increase my faith in knowing the You always hear and answer my prayers.*



# WEEK 2 – WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE PRAY?

## Day 1 – Study Questions:

1 – Do you ever find yourself anxious about something specific? Write it down here, and describe why you worry about this thing.

*Own answer*

2 – What do you think is the main reason for this worry? (eg. Fear of losing someone/something, fear of a wrong choice being made, fear of missing out). If you can think of several reasons, write them all down.

*Own Answer (Note: almost all worry comes from a fear of something, so if you are stuck start there)*

3 – Write out a prayer to God about this thing, and then pray this prayer each day. Some things to include in your prayer

- details about the worry
- why you are worried
- what outcome/resolution you desire
- God's will to be done

## Day 2 – Study Questions:

1 – Paul says to pray 'with thanksgiving.' When we are worried or anxious about something it can be hard to find things to be thankful about, especially in regards to a specific situation. Can you think of any things to be thankful about in regards to the situation you described yesterday? If yes, write them down here. If no, ask your family to help. Sometimes others, who are not in the situation themselves, can see God's blessings when we cannot. Write down their suggestions here.

*Own Answer*



2 – Why do you think it is sometimes hard to see things to be thankful for, when we are worried about something?

*Own answer. If needed give the illustration of the teacher writing the 6 times tables on the board, and getting one wrong. Or the illustration of 5 animals and their sounds, only one animal makes the wrong sound. We immediately focus on the wrong answer or the wrong sound. It takes conscious effort to see the 9 correct answers or the 4 correct sounds. Seeing blessings in the midst of worry is the same. It takes effort, but is not impossible.*

3 – Write out your prayer again here, and include thanksgiving to God.  
*Own Answer*

### **Day 3 – Study Questions:**

1 – Paul tells us that when we pray we will experience the Peace of God. The Bible explains this peace as being beyond our understanding and as something that grows over time. Write down a few sentences about what God's peace is to you.

*Own Answer. Prompts could centre around calmness, not worrying, knowing it will be ok, seeing light at the end of a tunnel.*

2 – Paul tells us here that God's peace will 'guard your hearts and minds.' When we worry, our worry is in our heart and our mind. How do you think God's peace guards us?

*Worry and Peace are like oil and water or like day and night. They cannot exist together. When we pray and invite God's peace into our heart and mind, there is no longer any room for worry. Though we know it sometimes keeps trying to barge in and push out peace.*

3 – Write out your prayer again here. Include a petition to God asking for His peace in your heart and mind about the situation.

*Own Answer*



# WEEK 3 – DOES GOD REALLY HEAR ME?

Day 1 – Study Questions:

1 – Read through Psalm 121 and highlight (underline or circle) all the words/phrases about causing harm. Then using a different colour/method highlight all the words/phrases that tell you something about God. Make a list of all the parts of your life that you believe fall under Gods care according to this verse.

*'let your foot slip'*

*'needing shade'*

*'harm by sun'*

*'harm by night'*

*'from all harm'*

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*'maker of heaven and earth'*

*'will not slumber'*

*'neither sleeps not slumbers'*

*'watch over your life'*

*'watch over your coming and going'*

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*Own Answer*

2 – Read verse 7 out loud. Do you think this means that when we have trouble in our lives (or are harmed), God has decided not to care about us anymore? Why/Why not?

*Own Answer*

3 – Write down a time when you know God was showing care for you. Then ask your parents to share a time when they knew God was caring for them or the family.

*Own Answer*



## **Day 2 – Study Questions:**

1 – Read John 15:7b. In Week 1: Day 3 we discussed the dangers of taking a very small piece of God’s Word and not looking at the verses around it. This is good example of that. There have been people who quote just verse 7b and then, when God does not do what they asked, they decided that He will not or cannot answer their prayers. Now read the whole passage, verses 5-8. What important truth are these people missing?

*We need to remain in Christ. Apart for Christ we can do nothing. Our prayers and the answer to them are deeply linked to Christ and our relationship with Him.*

2 – In this passage Jesus is speaking about remaining in Him and keeping His words in us. What does it mean to remain in Jesus?

*To remain in Jesus is to continually seek to know Him more, to study His teachings through God’s Word and to see to become more like Him every day.*

3 – What does it mean to have Christ’s words remain in us?

*To have Christ’s words remain in us is to allow His words and teaching to be in our minds at all times, informing our actions, decisions and speech.*

*(Junior/Middle Schoolers)*

*2- Eg answer. This means to study God’s Word and Pray so we can know Jesus more and more every day.*



### Day 3 - Study Questions:

1 – Multiple times in Scripture we are told that our purpose is to glorify God. We do this by bearing good fruit, Godly fruit. This must be of utmost priority in our lives, as it is the very life purpose of the Christian. It must be our priority. And there is a direct link between what our priorities are and how we pray. Think about the people below and list the things you think they would pray about.

a) Someone whose top priority is making money would pray about?

*Getting more money, being richer, having a bigger house.*

b) Someone whose top priority is revenge would pray about? *Bad things happening to the other person.*

c) Someone whose top priority is popularity would pray about? *Being prettier/more handsome, having better clothes, being the best at something, being 'cooler.'*

2 – Now think about the people below.

a) Someone whose top priority is a strong faith would pray about? *Making more time for bible reading, knowing Christ more, trusting God more.*

b) Someone whose top priority is being a Godly influence would pray about? *Having a godly character, being more Christlike, having patience with people God sends their way.*

c) Someone whose top priority is loving others biblically would pray about? *Showing more grace to people, developing a spirit of kindness, growing in the Fruit of the Spirit.*

3 – Read verses 7-8 out loud. What do you think about verse 7b, after studying it over the last 2 days?

*Own Answer*



# WEEK 4 – HOW CAN I PRAY?

## Day 1 – Study Questions:

1 – In verse 5-8 Jesus contrasts 2 different groups of people. The hypocrites/pagans with 'you'. Who do you think Jesus is referring to here, when he uses the words, 'you' and 'your.'

*Each of us, who follow Christ.*

2 – Write down some of the phrases that Jesus uses to describe how the:  
a) hypocrites/pagans behave

*Pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen, keep on babbling, use lots of words.*

b) 'you' are to behave

*go into your room, close the door and pray, in secret, your Father knows what you need.*

3 – Why does Christ say to not be like the hypocrites/pagans?

*They want the praise of people, and that is the whole rewards they will receive. They also think that they can make God do what they want by using the right words, or using lots and lots of words.*

## Day 2 – Study Questions:

1 – Write out The Lord's Prayer section by section under each heading.

- Reverence of God

*"Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,*

- Praying for His Will  
*your kingdom come,  
your will be done,*

*on earth as it is in heaven.*

- Seeking His Word/Provision

*Give us today our daily bread.*

- Showing Biblical Love

*And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

- Resisting Sin

*And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.'*



2 – Thinking about your own prayers, which do you find yourself doing most often? Why do you think that is?

*Own Answer (eg. Easiest is Reverence for God, because I find it easy to tell God how wonderful He is. eg. Easiest is Showing biblical love, because I'm a people person and I just want to be friends with everyone.)*

3 – Thinking about your own prayers, which do you find is often left out, or the hardest to remember? Why?

*Own Answer (eg. I often leave out praying for His will, because I am unsure what that is most of the time. eg. I often leave out resisting sin, because I have a hard time recognising when I sin.)*

### **Day 3 – Study Questions:**

1 – Today we are going to write our own prayer that we can pray based on the model of The Lord's Prayer. For each section below, answer the question, then you can write out your prayer onto a sheet of paper for your wall, or to fold and put into your bible.

*1- Think of 3 amazing things about who God is and put them into a sentence.*

*2- Think of 1 thing that you would like for God to do or provide. Ask yourself if this thing will bring glory to God or glory to you. If it will bring glory to God, write it out in a sentence. If it will bring glory to you, try and think of something else.*

*3- Think about 2 things you need at the moment. Choose one spiritual need and one material need. Write a sentence for each and tell God what and why.*

*4- Think of one person who has done something to hurt/upset you. Write a sentence tell God what they did and asking Him to help you forgive them. Next write a sentence asking God to show you to show that person biblical love.*

*5- Think of one thing that you would like to ask God's forgiveness for. Write a sentence saying sorry, and asking for forgiveness.*

