

# PRAY

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The following is an outline that is helpful for teaching the command of Jesus to pray.

## PART ONE Looking back



## PRAYER



Begin the time in prayer together.

# ACCOUNTABILITY



Ask questions about commitments that were made.  
For example, ask:

- Did you share the story from last time with anyone?
- Did you read or listen to the Bible daily?
- How did you obey what God taught you?
- Do you have any prayer requests or stories you would like to share?

**PART TWO**  
**Looking up**



## STUDY



Teach about the command of Jesus to pray by studying the Bible together. First read a time when Jesus gave the command and discuss a true story which illustrates what obeying the command can be like.

Luke 18:1-8:

And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’ For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’” And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to

him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

As followers of Jesus, we ought to always pray and not lose heart. We are given the privilege to pray night and day and in every place. Our prayers move God to act quickly.

Matthew 6:5-15:

“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this:

“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 also have forgiven our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
    but deliver us from evil.

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

After reading the story, review the story in one of these ways:

- Tell the story from memory.
- Talk about the story. What happened?
- Tell or read the story again.
- Do a drama illustrating the story.
- Draw pictures illustrating the story.

After reviewing the story, discuss the following questions based on the story:

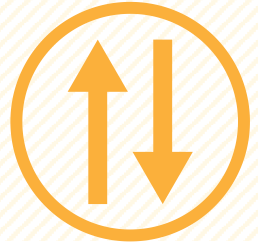
- What do we learn about God?
- What do we learn about man?
- What should we not do?
- What should we do?

After discussing these generic questions, the following may be helpful for this specific story.

Discuss the following:

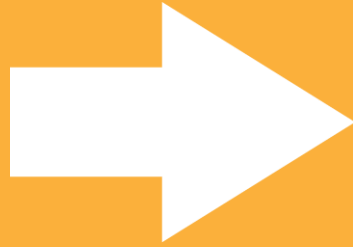
- What is prayer?  
Prayer is talking with God.
- Why do we pray?  
God hears us and our prayers are effective. If desired, read James 5:13-18.
- How do we pray?  
We pray by simply talking with God. We can talk to God at any time or place. We can pray for needs, forgiveness, protection, justice, guidance, and other desires of our heart.

## PRACTICE



Practice praying with each other.

## PART THREE Looking ahead



## COMMITMENT



Discuss what to obey from the story and the command of Jesus. Some ways to obey before meeting next are:

- Begin and end every day in prayer, giving thanks to God and presenting your requests to him.
- Tell the story (Matthew 6:5-15) to other people.
- Study the Bible every day.

## **PRAYER**



Close the time in prayer together.  
Pray for the commitments everyone made.



*For Kingdom Growth*

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