

PRAYER: LEADER'S GUIDE

Congratulations! If you've been having weekly meetings with your prospective disciple then this marks about a month of meeting together! It's a great milestone, and you're halfway through the first part of the Be a Disciple Lessons focused on the Wheel illustration.

PURPOSE

- To show your prospective disciple why prayer is important.
- To teach them what kinds of things they should pray about.
- To show them how to keep a prayer list, and get them started praying over it.

PLAN

1. Before you start, be sure to pray! It would be ironic to get into a lesson on prayer without first praying yourself.
2. With each of the five points, share personal stories about how prayer has impacted your life. As we say in Challenge, personal is most powerful!
3. Going through the PRAY acrostic, share examples of what each point looks like. They may have never prayed before, or prayed like this before, so setting an example is key to developing a foundation of prayer.
4. Finally, help them create their own prayer list! Have them come up with a mix of short-term and long-term prayer requests. If it's full of tiny prayers, then their vision for the world will stay small. However, if it's only massive prayers, then they may never see God answer prayer and get discouraged.

KEY ILLUSTRATION

The P.R.A.Y. acrostic

1. Write out the acrostic, PRAY, vertically and in big letters. Explain that this acrostic reminds us of what kinds of things we should pray about.
2. Write "Praise" out of the P. Explain that it's important to acknowledge God for who He is and what He has done in your life. It's a great time to express thankfulness to God.
3. Write "Repent" out of the R. Explain that it's important for us to repent of sins we've committed because they get in the way of our relationship with God. Remind your disciple that as we do this, God is always faithful to forgive us.
4. Write "Ask" out of the A. Explain that we can ask God for anything, and trust that He hears us! (1 John 5:14-15)
5. Write "Yield" out of the Y. Explain that we put our trust in God's plan, even if it's different from our plan.

PRAYER

Memory verse checklist:

- 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Joshua 1:8
- Psalm 119:11

VERSE OF THE WEEK: Philippians 4:6 “Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.”

THROUGH PRAYER, WE CAN COMMUNICATE TO GOD DIRECTLY!

What causes stress in your life?

According to this verse, what should we do instead of worry?

What kinds of things do you want to talk to God about?

WHY DO WE PRAY?

- 1. Connection: It connects us with God**
“The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.” - Psalm 145:18
- 2. Blessings: He answers our prayers and takes care of us**
“You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive; because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.” - James 4:2-3
- 3. Joy: We experience fulfillment and happiness regardless of our circumstances**
“Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.”
- John 16:24
- 4. Peace: God takes care of us, and we don't have to live in anxiety and worry.**
“Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.” - Phil 4:6-7
- 5. God's Glory: We bring God glory when He blesses us and we praise Him for it.**
“And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.” - John 14:13

Which of these reasons to pray motivate you most?

BE A DISCIPLE

GETTING STARTED: A PLAN FOR PRAYER

1. Set time aside to pray. Start with ten minutes a day.
2. Write out a list of prayer requests and log them in a journal. Keep track of when God answers those prayers.
3. Follow the **PRAY** acrostic. This tool is great for guiding you through prayer. Based on “The Lord’s Prayer,” it’s simple four-part approach is easy to remember, and helps guide you through prayer.

Let’s try starting a prayer list!

PRAYER ASKED - DATE	PRAYER ANSWERED - DATE

DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE: Start praying over your prayer list every day. Continue doing your SOAPS.
Memorize: Philippians 4:6