

BELOVED DISCIPLES LEARNING COURSES

PRAYER

Quick Resources to Watch:

- Pastor Kevin's sermon, "I DO, YOU DO, WE DO"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nc6laR04yKk>
- Kent Hughes' sermon, "Prayer"
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/sermon/1bcaabc6-ba9b-4a43-8bdf-f22f630bfd0d/>

Quick Resources to Read:

- "How to Help a Child Pray," by Marty Machowski
<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/how-to-help-a-child-pray>
- "The Three Most Important Words in Prayer," by Marshal Seagal
<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-three-most-important-words-in-prayer>

Recommended In-Depth Readings:

- "Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God," by Timothy Keller
<https://www.amazon.com/Prayer-Experiencing-Awe-Intimacy-God-ebook/dp/B00INIXGIO/>
- "A Praying Life: Connecting with God in a Distracted World," by Paul Miller
<https://www.amazon.com/Praying-Life-Connecting-Distracting-World-ebook/dp/B06Y195TG9/>



“Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God,” by Timothy Keller

Reading Discussion Guide

Introduction

1. Reflection Question: What are your initial thoughts on the concept of prayer as presented by Keller in the introduction?
2. Reflection Question: What do you hope to learn about prayer through this book?

Chapter 1: The Necessity of Prayer

1. Reflection Question: Why does Keller argue that prayer is necessary for a vibrant spiritual life?
2. Reflection Question: How does understanding the necessity of prayer change your approach to it?

Chapter 2: The Greatness of Prayer

1. Reflection Question: What does Keller mean by the "greatness" of prayer?
2. Reflection Question: How does this chapter deepen your appreciation for the role of prayer in your life?

Chapter 3: What Is Prayer?

1. Reflection Question: How does Keller define prayer in this chapter?
2. Reflection Question: How does this definition align with or challenge your current understanding of prayer?

Chapter 4: Conversing with God

1. Reflection Question: What insights does Keller provide about prayer as a conversation with God?
2. Reflection Question: How can you apply these insights to make your prayer life more conversational and relational?

Chapter 5: Encountering God

1. Reflection Question: What does it mean to encounter God through prayer according to Keller?
2. Reflection Question: How can you create space in your life to encounter God more deeply through prayer?



Chapter 6: The Biblical Understanding of Prayer

1. Reflection Question: What key biblical teachings about prayer does Keller highlight?
2. Reflection Question: How can these biblical teachings shape and inform your own practice of prayer?

Chapter 7: The Prayer of Prayers

1. Reflection Question: Why does Keller refer to the Lord's Prayer as the "prayer of prayers"?
2. Reflection Question: How can you incorporate the principles of the Lord's Prayer into your daily prayer routine?

Chapter 8: The Disciplines of Prayer

1. Reflection Question: What disciplines does Keller suggest for developing a consistent prayer life?
2. Reflection Question: Which of these disciplines can you commit to integrating into your life, and how?

Chapter 9: Prayer as Communion

1. Reflection Question: How does Keller describe prayer as a form of communion with God?
2. Reflection Question: What steps can you take to deepen your sense of communion with God through prayer?

Chapter 10: Prayer as Kingdom-Centered

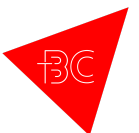
1. Reflection Question: What does it mean for prayer to be kingdom-centered?
2. Reflection Question: How can you align your prayers more closely with God's kingdom purposes?

Conclusion

1. Reflection Question: Reflect on your overall experience reading the book. What are the most impactful lessons you've learned about prayer?
2. Reflection Question: How will you apply the insights and principles from this book to your prayer life?

Personal Reflection:

- Reflection Question: Write a personal reflection on how this book has influenced your understanding and practice of prayer.
- Reflection Question: Identify one or two key takeaways that you will implement to enhance your prayer life.



Group Discussion:

1. Reflection Question: What was the most surprising or enlightening part of the book for you?
2. Reflection Question: How can we support each other in applying the principles discussed in this book to our prayer lives?

Prayer and Commitment:

1. Reflection Question: Spend some time in prayer, asking for guidance and strength to apply the teachings of this book to your life.
2. Reflection Question: Consider making a commitment to regularly review and discuss the principles from this book with a trusted group of friends or within a small group.



“A Praying Life: Connecting with God in a Distracted World,” by Paul Miller

Reading Discussion Guide

Introduction

1. Reflection Question: What are your initial thoughts on the concept of "A Praying Life" as presented by Paul Miller in the introduction?
2. Reflection Question: What do you hope to gain from reading this book about prayer and its role in a distracted world?

Part 1: Learning to Pray Like a Child

Chapter 1: What Good Does It Do?

1. Reflection Question: How does Miller address the common doubts about the effectiveness of prayer?
2. Reflection Question: How do these insights challenge or reinforce your current perspective on the value of prayer?

Chapter 2: Where We Are Headed

1. Reflection Question: What vision does Miller set for a praying life in this chapter?
2. Reflection Question: How does this vision align with your own desires for your prayer life?

Chapter 3: Become Like a Little Child

1. Reflection Question: What does it mean to pray with a childlike faith according to Miller?
2. Reflection Question: How can you cultivate a more childlike approach to your prayers?

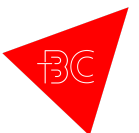
Chapter 4: Learn to Talk with Your Father

1. Reflection Question: How does Miller suggest we develop a conversational relationship with God?
2. Reflection Question: What practical steps can you take to make your prayer life more conversational and relational?

Part 2: Learning to Trust Again

Chapter 5: The Pattern of Distrust

1. Reflection Question: What patterns of distrust does Miller identify that hinder our prayer lives?
2. Reflection Question: How can you overcome these patterns in your own life?



Chapter 6: Why We Can't Trust

1. Reflection Question: How does Miller explain the reasons behind our difficulty in trusting God?
2. Reflection Question: Reflect on your own struggles with trust and how they impact your prayer life.

Chapter 7: Understanding Cynicism

1. Reflection Question: How does cynicism affect our ability to pray sincerely?
2. Reflection Question: What steps can you take to combat cynicism in your prayer life?

Part 3: Learning to Ask Your Father

Chapter 8: Asking Like a Child

1. Reflection Question: What does it mean to ask God for things with the simplicity and confidence of a child?
2. Reflection Question: How can you incorporate this approach into your prayers?

Chapter 9: The Spirit of Jesus

1. Reflection Question: How does the Holy Spirit influence and guide our prayers according to Miller?
2. Reflection Question: How can you become more attuned to the Holy Spirit in your prayer life?

Part 4: Living in Your Father's Story

Chapter 10: Understanding Your Father's Story

1. Reflection Question: How does Miller describe the concept of living in God's story?
2. Reflection Question: How can you shift your perspective to see your life as part of God's larger narrative?

Chapter 11: Surrender Completely

1. Reflection Question: What does it mean to surrender completely to God in prayer?
2. Reflection Question: How can you practice this level of surrender in your daily life?

Part 5: Praying in Real Life

Chapter 12: Keeping Track of the Story

1. Reflection Question: How does Miller suggest we keep track of God's work in our lives through prayer?



2. Reflection Question: What practical methods can you use to remember and reflect on answered prayers?

Chapter 13: Watching a Story Unfold

1. Reflection Question: How can we develop the patience to watch God's story unfold in our lives?
2. Reflection Question: Reflect on a time when you saw God's hand at work over a long period. How did it impact your faith and prayer life?

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