



First Baptist Student Ministry - Wednesday, February 6, 2019

RightNow Media Video = "Session 4: The Power of Prayer" (21:08)
<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/1231?episode=4>

(Title pic) Tonight we conclude this series on Prayer by talking about the power of prayer and Francis mentioned the boldness all of us need in our lives. I'm excited to dive into a new series next called BOLD (about just that). But before we finish... let's ask and answer the tough questions about prayer tonight:

Have you ever experienced an answered prayer? Can you tell us about it? **(Students share)**

Tough question now = Have you ever prayed for something that you didn't get? **(Students raise hands)**

So let's ask the question on some of your minds: **Does prayer work?**
The answer to that question might depend on what you expect prayer to do. A lawn mower might be great at cutting grass, but you don't want to use it to cut your hair.

If you expect prayer to be Aladdin's lamp, with a genie who grants every wish, forget it! That's not what prayer is. The first guy we met in the video, Garrick, discovered this, praying for his dad to be healed and then being devastated when his dad died.

As we've been learning, prayer is about communication within a relationship. When we pray, we connect with our powerful God. We talk and we listen. We tell God what we want, and he tells us what he wants. Sometimes he uses his amazing power to work miracles that we've requested. Sometimes he has better ideas.

Let's take some advice from Paul, one of the awesomest dudes in the Bible, but he struggled too... he calls his struggle his "thorn in the flesh":

2 Corinthians 12:7b-10 = "So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud. 8 Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. 9 Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. 10 That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (NLT)

So, did God answer Paul's prayer? How? **(Students share)**

- No = God did not take it away from him

What did Paul want? = to be rid of this ailment that made him weak

What did God want? = to demonstrate his own power through Paul's weakness (it was about Paul trusting God's grace)

Let's take a deeper look at one of the coolest prayer meetings in all of history found in Acts 4:

Acts 4:24-31 = "When they heard the report, all the believers lifted their voices together in prayer to God: "O Sovereign Lord, Creator of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them— 25 you spoke long ago by the Holy Spirit through our ancestor David, your servant, saying, 'Why were the nations so angry? Why did they waste their time with futile plans? 26 The kings of the earth prepared for battle; the rulers gathered together against the Lord and against his Messiah.' 27 "In fact, this has happened here in this very city! For Herod Antipas, Pontius Pilate the governor, the Gentiles, and the people of Israel were all united against Jesus, your holy servant, whom you anointed. 28 But everything they did was determined beforehand according to your will. 29 And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word. 30 Stretch out your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus." 31 After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness." (NLT)

What did they pray about? What things does this prayer contain? **(Students share)**

- They praised God as the Creator.
- They quoted Scripture back to God.
- They applied Scripture to their current situation.
- They asked God to empower them.
- They asked God to work miracles.

Look at **verse 31** one more time = What happened after they prayed? **(Students share)**

- "The place where they were meeting was shaken." Then, it seems, they went out, empowered by the Spirit, to preach more about Jesus.

As we conclude this series, let's be honest. Many of you do not like to pray out loud, maybe that's because you are not sure about how to pray. Let's look at some examples (handout) as we learn that prayer is...

More Than Words

- Volunteers to read the following (each title on screen)
- Nehemiah 1:5-11 (wondering what he can do about a national crisis)
- Psalms 19:12-14 (trying to make a greater commitment)
- Psalms 42:1-5 (in a time of personal depression)
- Isaiah 37:14-20 (threatened by a powerful enemy)
- Jonah 2:1-9 (in the belly of the beast)
- Acts 4:24-30 (prayer for future boldness)
- Eph 1:15-21 (Paul's prayer for the believers in Ephesus)
- Phil 1:9-11 (Paul's prayer for the believers in Philippi)

What different types of prayers do you see here? (Students share)

Do you see any similarities among these prayers? (Students share)

How does the situation affect the nature of the prayer? = Life is full of different seasons, and should be full of different prayers. POWERFUL!

Now, I want you to write out your own prayer (on the bottom or back of your handout) based on whatever season you are in right now in life.

(Blank slide = Play worship music in the background)

(Lady fishing pic) While Josh McDowell was attending seminary in California, his father went Home to be with the Lord. His mother had died years earlier, but Josh was not sure of her salvation. He became depressed, thinking that she might be lost. Was she a Christian or not? The thought obsessed him. "Lord," he prayed, "somehow give me the answer so I can get back to normal. I've just got to know." It seemed like an impossible request.

Two days later, Josh drove out to the ocean. He walked to the end of a pier to be alone. There sat an old woman in a lawnchair, fishing. "Where's your home originally?" she asked. "Michigan -- Union City," Josh replied. "Nobody's heard of it. I tell people it's a suburb of --" "Battle Creek," interrupted the woman. "I had a cousin from there. Did you know the McDowell family?" Stunned, Josh responded, "Yes, I'm Josh McDowell!"

"I can't believe it," said the woman. "I'm a cousin to your mother." "Do you remember anything at all about my mother's spiritual life?" asked Josh. "Why sure -- your mom and I were just girls -- teenagers -- when a tent revival came to town. It was the fourth night -- we both went forward to accept Christ." "Praise God!" shouted Josh, startling the surrounding fishermen. (Our Daily Bread.)

Highlighted = text or picture on screen. Study adapted from RightNow Media
Albertville First Baptist Church - AlbertvilleFBC.church - Justin Worden © 2019

FBSM Small Group Leader Guide



Date: Wednesday, February 6, 2019

Read: "All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer." (Acts 2:42, NLT)

Review: As we conclude this series about prayer, tonight we were reminded of how prayer is both a form of communication and a very powerful force. This should change the way we view the prayers we pray and the God who answers those prayers!

React: How would your prayers be answered if you truly believed in the power of prayer? How would your prayers look different if you truly believed in the power of prayer?

Leader's Notes:



First Baptist Student Ministry - Wednesday, January 30, 2019

RightNow Media Video = "Session 3: The Pursuit of Prayer" (19:43)
Skip intro video, start at 1:52
<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/1231?episode=3>

(Title pic) So, let's answer those questions together tonight. Are you just giving God your to-do list when you pray? Or, is your ultimate goal through prayer to know Him more intimately?

A. When We're Guilty

Taylynne, like many of us, faced a difficult sin and struggled with the guilt of that sin (sexual sin with her boyfriend). Let me remind us what she said:

"Even though I was praying to him, I still felt that guilt. I would just feel empty. I wouldn't feel anything. So I would always just be wondering if God is really hearing me. I just didn't know what to do, and I felt so lost and I felt so broken and God can never love me again. He thinks that I am just a bad person and he will never forgive me."

Have you ever felt guilt about some sin in your life like that? **(Students raise hands)**

Here's a tough question... if you feel guilty about sin in your life, should you just keep praying as if there's no problem? **(Students share)**

Not exactly. Sin is a problem, and you have to deal with it. It's like when you and a friend have a fight. You can kind of hang out for a while, pretending everything's okay, but it won't be okay until you talk about it. In the same way, you need to bring these guilty feelings to God. Tell him you're sorry.

Get your Bibles and turn to **Psalm 51**. Here we have a great example of King David coming back to God after he sinned. Here's what he says:

Psalm 51:1-12 = "Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins. 2 Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. 3 For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night. 4 Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just. 5 For I was born a sinner - yes, from the moment my mother conceived me. 6 But you desire honesty from the womb, teaching me wisdom even there. 7 Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. 8 Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me - now let me rejoice. 9 Don't keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt. 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me. 11 Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you." (NLT)

Whenever you feel far from God and don't know your way back, let David's words (in this psalm) show you the way!

B. When We Don't Understand

Sometimes in life things happen that just don't seem fair... like Phil shared about his sister dying in a car accident... tragic. "Why, God?"

Is it okay to be angry with God (like in times like this)? **(Students share)**

I believe so. If you're angry with God, tell him so. It might seem wrong to do that, but remember that biblical heroes like Abraham, Moses, David, Job, Jeremiah, and Paul argued with God and, as a result, seemed to grow in their relationship with him. God wants to hear from you, even if you're upset. It's okay to be angry with God at times, but not okay to continue to hold a grudge with Him, even when you don't understand the "why".

Isaiah 55:9 reminds us "For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts." (NLT)

C. When Worry Takes Over

Lastly, we need to be reminded of the pursuit of prayer whenever we're overwhelmed with worry. Listen to this passage:

Philippians 4:6-7 = "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. 7 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." (NLT)

What should we be worried about? (Students share) = Nothing!

But, let's be honest, what are you worried about right now? (Students share openly and honestly) = Examples: Grades? Getting into college? Making the team? Getting a girlfriend or boyfriend? Breaking up with a girlfriend or boyfriend? Dealing with bullies at school? Learning to drive? Pimples? Losing weight? Gaining weight? Coping with your parents? Hiding something from your parents? Keeping yourself from murdering your little brother?

Instead of worrying, what are we to do (according to this verse)? = Pray! Thank Him for what He has already done!

Why do you think thanking God is such an important part of not worrying? (Students share) = remember what He's done, recognize He's in control

And, verse 7 reminds us the result is His PEACE! Yes!!

Closing Activity = handout (Principles of Prayer)

Let's close by looking at a few of the verses on your handout and what they have to teach us about prayer (I dare you to do the rest on your own later).

Volunteers read verses (letters A-G together)

Examples (after Scripture is read out loud):

- A. Deuteronomy 4:29 = Seek the Lord with all your heart and soul, and you will find him.
- B. 2 Chronicles 7:14 = Prayer should be made humbly and with a commitment to do right.
- C. Psalm 27:4 = Prayer involves an intimate interaction with the Lord.
- D. Psalm 40:1 = Prayer requires patience, but it's worth it.
- E. Psalm 145:18 = Prayer should be full of truth, accompanied by obedience, and offered in love.
- F. Isaiah 29:13 = Some people pray with their lips but not their heart.
- G. Jeremiah 33:3 = God shows us amazing things when we pray.

Last Word

(Napoleon pic on screen) The beginning of anxiety is the end of faith, and the beginning of true faith is the end of anxiety. George Muller Massena, one of Napoleon's generals, suddenly appeared with 18,000 soldiers before an Austrian town which had no means of defending itself. The town council met, certain that capitulation was the only answer. The old dean of the church reminded the council that it was Easter, and begged them to hold services as usual and to leave the trouble in God's hands. They followed his advice. The

dean went to the church and rang the bells to announce the service. The French soldiers heard the church bells ring and concluded that the Austrian army had come to rescue the town. They broke camp, and before the bells had ceased ringing, vanished. (Source Unknown.)

(Title pic) This is the power of prayer... even at the pursuit of prayer in your life, Satan runs and know he will be defeated. Beyond your guilt, beyond understanding, beyond your worry... pursue prayer!

Highlighted = text or picture on screen. Study adapted from RightNow Media
Albertville First Baptist Church - AlbertvilleFBC.church - Justin Worden © 2019

FBSM Small Group Leader Guide

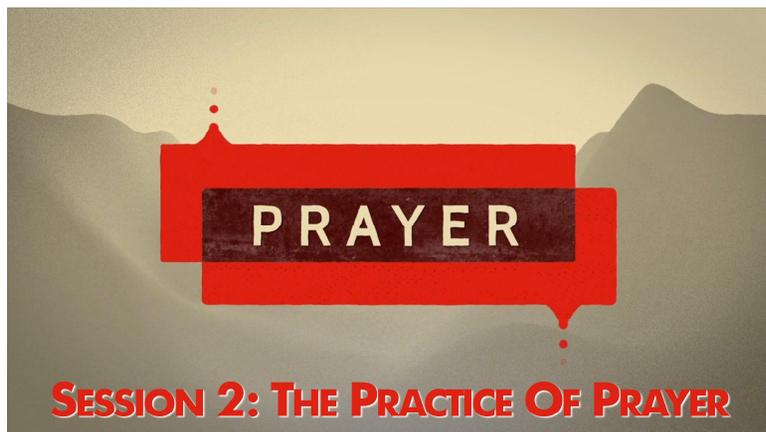


Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2019

Read: "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done."
(Philippians 4:6, NLT)

Review: As we continue our series on prayer tonight, we all realize there are all sorts of things that can get in the way of prayer. We can be distracted or ashamed or selfish. Whatever the case, this is a relationship worth working at.

React: What do you think about Francis' statement from the video tonight = "I can't live without being close to God... It drives me nuts if there is any separation between you and me... This is what makes life worth living"? Share your thoughts.



First Baptist Student Ministry - Wednesday, January 16, 2019

RightNow Media Video = "Session 2: Practice of Prayer" (19:24)
<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/1231?episode=2>

(Title pic) Let's continue our discussion on our prayer lives tonight by thinking about the practice of prayer. Ask yourself, how often do you "practice" prayer?

Think about Tanner's story at the end of that video... he learned the power of prayer and how prayer brought Him back to a relationship with God. Remember, he said: "[It] really changed my whole outlook, and it really brought me back into my relationship with God. And it changed how I prayed."

How do you think it changed the way he prayed? **(Students share)**

- He knew God was listening.
- He was not distant from God anymore.
- He knew God could answer those prayers.
- Do you pray believing that?

"You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed." (John Bunyon)

Someone once said, "We are often the answers to our own prayers." What does that mean? Do you think it's true? **(Students share)**

- Think about Melody and her inappropriate relationship with her boyfriend, she prayed and had to take action
- Think about Alex and her insecurities about praying out loud and how that held her back from praying at all.

Bible Journey

Let's see what the Bible says about this practice of prayer:

Matthew 6:1 = "Watch out! Don't do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven." (NLT)

What behavior is Jesus criticizing here? Should we not be righteous? **(Students share)**

- No, it's not about showing off, but doing it for God!

Then Jesus talks about our prayer lives (what to do and what not to do):

Matthew 6:6-7 = "But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you. 7 When you pray, don't babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again." (NLT)

So, how should we pray (v.6)? **(Students share)** = in private, why?

How should we not pray (v.7)? **(Students share)** = "babbling like pagans"

Then we get to a very familiar passage... known as The Lord's Prayer (or The Model Prayer):

Closing Activity = handout **(Talk This Way)**

Now it's your turn to preach to me, let's look at each of these verses and you tell me what you think this prayer really means to our prayer lives.

Matthew 6:9-13 = "This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us today our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'" (NIV)

We will use some of these questions together and I would love for you to make notes, but other questions will be unused that I hope you will go back to later.

Let's look at verse 9, someone read that loudly please.

What does hallowed mean? **(Students share)**

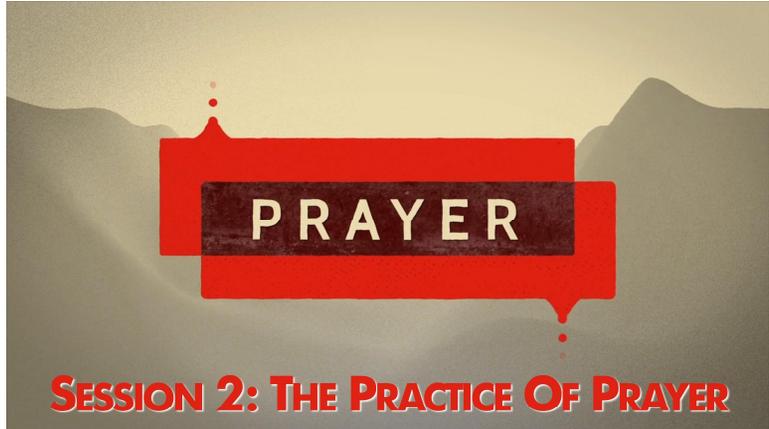
- "made holy" or "holified"

In what ways is God our Father? **(Students share)**

- As Father, He is the authority & also has a loving relationship with us

Someone read verse 10.

FBSM Small Group Leader Guide



Date: Wednesday, January 16, 2019

What does Jesus mean by the "kingdom" of God? (Students share)

- God's Kingdom is anywhere where God is King!

In what ways could the Kingdom of God come to earth? (Students share)

- Listen to **Matthew 4:17; 26:39** = "From then on Jesus began to preach, "Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.'... He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."

Someone read verse 11.

How would you define "daily bread" (Students share)

- Our ongoing needs (physical, emotional, social spiritual, etc)

Someone read verse 12.

If we don't forgive others, does God withhold our forgiveness? (Students share)

- "Forgiven people forgive others."
- **Matthew 6:14-15** = God withholding his forgiveness (scary stuff)

Someone read the final verse, verse 13.

Why would God "lead us" into temptation? Or is this mean something else? (Students share)

- The difference between trial and temptation in the Bible is not always clear. The general wisdom is that God would not tempt us to sin (see James 1:13), but he does test our faith (like we see in the story of Job)

Last Word

Regardless of how well you think you can pray, can I just remind you that God answers prayer!?

(Cattle on hills pic) In its early days, Dallas Theological Seminary was in critical need of \$10,000 to keep the work going. During a prayer meeting, renowned Bible teacher Harry Ironside, a lecturer at the school, prayed, "Lord, you own the cattle on a thousand hills. Please sell some of those cattle to help us meet this need." Shortly after the prayer meeting, a check for \$10,000 arrived at the school, sent days earlier by a friend who had no idea of the urgent need or of Ironside's prayer. The man simply said the money came from the sale of some of his cattle! (Today in the Word, MBI, January, 1990, p. 36)

Listen to one more verse in light of prayer = **Matthew 6:33** says, "Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need." (NLT)

Highlighted = text or picture on screen. Study adapted from RightNow Media
Albertville First Baptist Church - AlbertvilleFBC.church - Justin Worden © 2019

Read: = "When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. 6 But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you." (Matthew 6:5-6 NLT)

Review: Tonight we looked at how we view prayer. In prayer, we are speaking with God, but we get in our heads that we have to impress Him or people around us with the way we pray. When you think about it, that's pretty silly!

React: Think about the part of the Lord's Prayer that says: "Your kingdom come. Your will be done". How often do you pray that (and mean it in your own life)?

Leader's Notes:



First Baptist Student Ministry - Wednesday, January 9, 2019

RightNow Media Video = "Session 1: Purpose of Prayer" (19:18)
<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/1231?episode=1>

(Title pic) Welcome to 2019 and our new series on prayer. Tonight we will talk about the purpose of prayer.

Did you grow up in a home where prayer was included? Do you have any sort of prayer tradition with our family? Grace before meals? Bedtime prayers? Family devotions? **(Students share)**

Keeping in mind that you can bypass others and talk straight to God, do you pray harder with the "big things"? (Like Tyler mentioned about his dad's cancer) **(Students share, show of hands)**

Francis Chan, who will walk with us through this series, via video, the next 3 parts (4 weeks) said prayer is sometimes like "throwing words up in the air". Ever feel like that?

Imagine your best friend coming over and, instead of having real conversation, you say, "My friend who art next door, it's good to see thee. Give me this day the five bucks you owe me, and lead me not into temptation. Amen." That friendship may not last long. Why do we talk to God this way?

Remember what Olivia said in the video? = "Before I started going to church, I didn't realize...that I could pray to someone about [my experiences that I was going through], that he could actually help me. When I started going to church, I realized that I could talk to him. He could help me through every single day. The past experiences that I had gone through, I didn't have to go through it alone."

We need not forget the opportunity we have to talk to God (like a marriage relationship)... got to keep communicating with Him (like me with my wife)!

Bible Journey

Romans 8:15 = "So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, 'Abba, Father.'" (NLT)

If you were only God's slaves or servants, not His children, what would your attitude toward God be like? **(Students share)** = Fear, anxious to please Him

What pray can we now pray, as His children, in this verse? = "Abba, Father" (Daddy = personal relationship)

Relationship with your dad? Rough, good, non-existent? (Many struggle)

Imagine if Sara Pope went home and said to her father, "Good day, Mr. Pope. I hope everything is to your liking." That's not right at all! She says, "Hey, Dad. Good to see you." Sara's not just a servant; she's in the family. There's a relationship there, and that comes through in the way they talk.

Does this mean Sara doesn't respect his father? Not at all. There's respect, but there's also love. And that's the way it is with God. He is amazing, awesome, Creator, Savior, and all that, and we have the utmost respect for him. But for those of us who trust him, he has brought us into his family, and so we can speak to him with tender love. Abba, Father, "Daddy."

If you struggle with praying in the first place, you need to know this...

Romans 8:26-27 = "And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. 27 And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will." (NLT)

He prays for us, He speaks on our behalf, he hears even your simplest prayers!

Closing Activity = handout ("Pray as you go")

We've been talking about what prayer is and what it isn't. It's not a magic spell. We don't order God around. But the Spirit helps us tell God how we feel. One place where we see this playing out is in the Psalms. You can think about the book of Psalms like 150 different song lyrics. And most of them are prayers. David wrote many of the Psalms, but there were other authors too. Together, they show us a wide range of examples of what prayer can be.

Let's do the first one together and then I challenge you to try two more later...

Examples of types of psalms/prayers = [read from list on handout](#)

First Psalm = #31 ([begin reading or volunteer read vv.1-15](#))

Type of prayer? = Cry for help, trust/commitment

What was the psalmist feeling? = Fearful, overwhelmed, attacked, trapped, hopeful, trusting in the Lord's protection

What can you guess about the situation in this psalm? = attacked, discouraged

What verse best expresses the trust/commitment part? = v.15

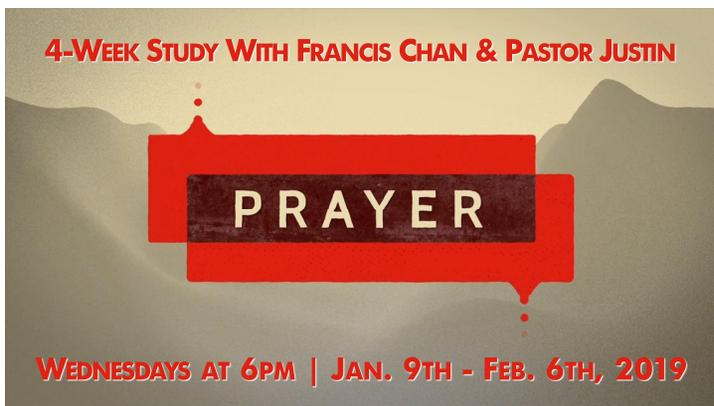
Now you try another, like from Psalm 1, 61, 91, 121, etc.

Last Word

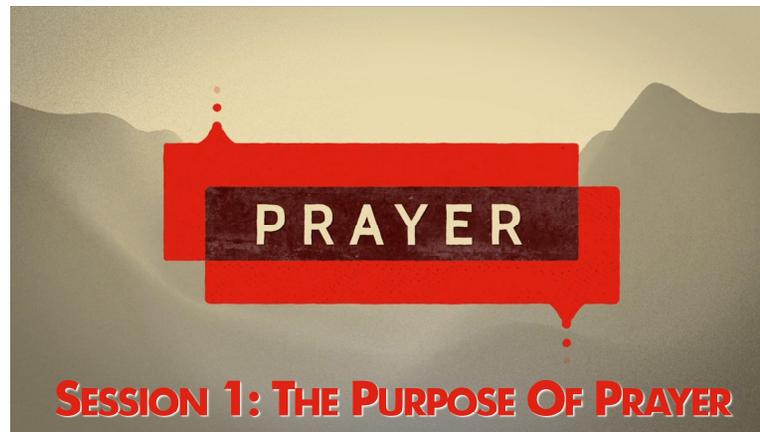
In closing, listen to [1 Thessalonians 5:17](#) = "pray without ceasing" (NKJV).

What are we to do? = pray! When are we supposed to do it? Always, non-stop!

[\(African trail pic\)](#) Early African converts to Christianity were earnest and regular in private devotions. Each one reportedly had a separate spot in the thicket where he would pour out his heart to God. Over time the paths to these places became well worn. As a result, if one of these believers began to neglect prayer, it was soon apparent to the others. They would kindly remind the negligent one, "Brother, the grass grows on your path." (Today in the Word, June 29, 1992)



FBSM Small Group Leader Guide



Date: Wednesday, January 9, 2019

Read: = "And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will."
(Romans 8:26-27 NLT)

Review: Tonight we began our new 4-week series all about prayer by seeking to understand the purpose of prayer. We looked at how to talk to God and how we should see God as we seek to pray.

React: How is your prayer life (on a scale of 1 to 10) right now? Do you believe it is possible to "pray without ceasing" (all the time) like the Scripture says? Why or why not?

Leader's Notes:

*Highlighted = text or picture on screen. Study adapted from RightNow Media
Albertville First Baptist Church - AlbertvilleFBC.church - Justin Worden © 2019*