

Pray First

Small Group
MEMBER GUIDE

 **church**_{on the} **rock**

PrayFirst

Week 1

CATCHING UP

What are you hoping to get out of this study, Pray First?

Focus Verse

And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

Luke 11:1 KJV

What does it mean to Pray First?

- 1 Praying first is having a **lifestyle of prayer**.
- 2 Praying first is our _____ to life circumstances.
- 3 Praying first is **speaking** the **Word of God**.

What is my prayer life connected to?

- 1 My **spiritual** _____ and **stamina**.
- 2 My **sustaining power** through every season of life.
- 3 My **joy levels**.

And he spoke a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

Luke 18:1 KJV

If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.

Proverbs 24:10 KJV

What is prayer?

Prayer is **communication with God**.

Jesus said, "We ought to have a prayer life and it ought to be **d i s _____** and **s _____**

In our relationship with God, we need the Word and we need prayer.

Discovery Questions

- 1 What does it mean to Pray First?

- 2 What are ways you remove obstacles that hinder your prayer life?

- 3 What can you do this week to be more disciplined, intentional, organized, and structured in your prayer life?

Diving Deeper

- Read the Focus Verse, Luke 11:1, every day this week as part of your daily devotions. Challenge yourself to have the verse memorized before your next Small Group meeting.
- Share with someone outside of your Small Group one thing that you learned this week.
- Invite a friend to your next Small Group meeting.
- Invite people from your Small Group to sit together during a Sunday service.

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Week 2

CATCHING UP

Share one meaningful thing that you learned last week from this study, Pray First.

Focus Verse

And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

Luke 11:1 KJV

What is prayer?

Prayer is **communication with God**.

My faith will never be any stronger than my prayer life.

My faith is on the same level of my fellowship with God. My faith level will never outgrow my fellowship level.

For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless, I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

2 Timothy 1:12 KJV

Takeaways

Having strong faith starts with knowing, then believing, and being fully persuaded.

Every success in life has to be built on the foundation of prayer.

Ways to build a strong prayer life:

- 1 Need a _____ to pray every day.
- 2 Need a **certain** _____ when you pray.
- 3 Need a _____.
- 4 Need a _____. The Lord's Prayer is a pattern.
- 5 Need a _____.

- 9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
- 10 Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
- 11 Give us this day our daily bread.
- 12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
- 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Matthew 6:9-13 KJV

Discovery Questions

1 What are some ways you build your faith through prayer?

2 How can you develop a stronger prayer life?

3 What does your Personal Growth Plan look like?

Diving Deeper

- Read the Focus Verse, Luke 11:1, every day this week as part of your daily devotions. Challenge yourself to have the verse memorized before your next Small Group meeting.
- Journal ways you are building a stronger prayer life.
- Find a Bible Reading Plan and commit to it.
- Invite people from your Small Group to sit together during a Sunday service.

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Week 3

CATCHING UP

Share one thing that you applied last week to develop a stronger prayer life.

Focus Verse

And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

Luke 11:1 KJV

How to have an effective prayer life:

- 1 Know who God **is**.
- 2 Know what God _____.
- 3 Know God's _____.
- 4 Know how God **works**.

If ye _____,
and _____,
ye shall ask what ye will,
and it shall be done unto you.

John 15:7 KJV

Takeaways

When you know how God operates, you get answers to your prayers.

God's word is God's will.

How to know God more:

- 1 Know God through **fellowship**.
- 2 Know God through **His Word**.

¹³ These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

1 John 5:13-14 KJV

Discovery Questions

1 How are you developing an effective prayer life?

2 What does "fellowship with God" mean to you?

3 How do you build momentum in your prayer life through being consistent?

Diving Deeper

- Read the Focus Verse, Luke 11:1, every day this week as part of your daily devotions. Challenge yourself to have the verse memorized before your next Small Group meeting.
- Journal ways on how you are developing an effective prayer life.
- Designate an area in your home to be your personal "prayer closet" or "prayer room."
- Be contagious and invite one person to get plugged into a Small Group with you.

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Week 4

CATCHING UP

Share one thing you implemented last week to build momentum in your prayer life.

Focus Verse

And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

Luke 11:1 KJV

What does prayer do?

- 1 Prayer **moves** the **hand of God**.
- 2 Prayer **opens the door** for God to move.

And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, _____, ye shall receive.

Matthew 21:22 KJV

What is a **believing** prayer?

A **believing** prayer starts with the **right thinking**.

If ye _____, and _____, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

John 15:7 KJV

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, _____ that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Mark 11:24 KJV

Takeaways

When you pray first, you are inviting God to get involved.

The prerequisite for receiving from God is believing.

You believe when you pray.

Discovery Questions

- 1 How does praying open the door for God to move in your life or circumstances?

- 2 What does a "believing prayer" mean to you?

- 3 What is the prerequisite for receiving from God?

Diving Deeper

- Read the Focus Verse, Luke 11:1, every day this week as part of your daily devotions. Challenge yourself to have the verse memorized before your next Small Group meeting.
- Read scriptures from the Bible that promise provision.
- Write three scriptures in your journal that promise provision. Say the scriptures out loud daily.
- Invite a friend to your next Small Group meeting.

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Week 5

CATCHING UP

Share one way praying first changed the way you respond to situations.

Focus Verse

And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

Luke 11:1 KJV

What are **enemies** to prayer?

- 1 _____
- 2 Strife
- 3 Envy
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Mark 11:24 KJV

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9 KJV

Takeaways

There are all kinds of enemies to prayer, but you need to know what hinders your prayer life so you can observe it, see it, recognize it, and not let it stop or stifle answers to your prayers.

When you pray, you get to forgive.

Discovery Questions

1 How can the “enemies to prayer” hinder your prayers or prayer life?

2 What does “when you pray, you get to forgive” mean to you?

3 What can you do to recognize the enemies to prayer and not allow them to stop your prayers from being answered?

Diving Deeper

- Read the Focus Verse, Luke 11:1, every day this week as part of your daily devotions. Challenge yourself to have the verse memorized before your next Small Group meeting.
- Read scriptures from the Bible that focus on forgiveness.
- Journal how God is answering your prayers. Praise God by thanking Him for answered prayers!
- Invite a friend to your next Small Group meeting.

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Week 6

CATCHING UP

Share one thing that you have learned from the "Pray First" study and are applying to your daily prayer life.

Focus Verse

And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

Luke 11:1 KJV

How to energize your prayer life:

- 1 Focusing on the _____ of God.
- 2 Focusing on God's _____.

The Lord's Prayer Focuses on the nature and attributes of God.

- ⁹ After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
- ¹⁰ Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
- ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.
- ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
- ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Matthew 6:9-13 KJV

Takeaways

When you pray and you personalize it, it's more powerful.

Focus on the attributes of the Father and you'll want to be with the Father.

Prayer gives God permission to work in your life.

Scriptures to pray daily.

- 1 Pray **Psalm 5** in the **morning**.
- 2 Pray **Psalm 4** in the **evening**.

Discovery Questions

- 1 What are ways that focusing on the nature and attributes of God energizes your prayer life?

- 2 Pastor shared that when you pray and personalize it, it's more powerful. How do you personalize your prayers to make them more powerful?

- 3 Pastor shared that consistency builds and creates momentum. What is one way you are committed to being consistent in your prayer life?

Diving Deeper

- Study and memorize the Lord's Prayer.
- Journal how you are energizing your prayer life by focusing on the nature and attributes of God.
- Invite a friend to attend a Sunday service with you.