

Curriculum



SAMPLE *Prayer*

Focus in Prayer
Surrender in Prayer
Develop in Prayer
Myself in Prayer
Others in Prayer

A sample of the Prayer curriculum begins on the following page.



LEARN: Overview

Biblical Business Training (“BBT”) equips people to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and empowers leaders in a small-group Bible study setting to apply Biblical principles at work. Our mission is [Faith for Work](#) – and our vision is [Leadership for Life!](#)

To find out more, visit www.B-B-T.org.



Curriculum: The BBT 1-2-3™ Format

BBT curriculum is rooted in Scripture and applicable the day you study it. The *BBT 1-2-3™* format enables the group to have a consistent Biblical basis for discussion.



Agenda – Introduces applicable Biblical principles



Group Leader Guide – Facilitates discussion and allows for shared leadership



Recap – Encourages community and application



LIVE: Sample Prayer

Transform your prayer life with this 5-lesson study. Topics include:

1. **Focus in Prayer**
2. **Surrender in Prayer**
3. **Develop in Prayer**
4. **Myself in Prayer**
5. **Others in Prayer**

No book is needed.



LEAD: Start a small-group Bible study

Start leading today! [Learn more.](#)



PRAYERS



LEARN

His Will

Jesus lived His life oriented toward the Father. So, for us to know the Father better we must get to know Jesus better. At the age of 12 Jesus said to his distraught biological mother and adoptive father, “Did you not know I had to be about my Father’s business?” That affirmation would shape the rest of His ministry. To His first disciples by a well in Samaria He said, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me.” To the religious leaders and scholars, He said again and again, “I only do what I see my Father do; I only say what I hear my Father say.” This study will examine the power such an attitude has on our prayer life.

Love and Trust

The more we get to know Jesus as Son, the more we discover and enjoy His passion to reveal His Father. Jesus loved and found joy in His Father. John 5:19-20 (NASB) says, “The Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing.” The Father loves the Son and the Son loves the Father. And Jesus’ greatest desire is to explain the Father to us, so that we too will love, delight in, and trust the Father the way He does.

To Pray

Did you know that the only thing the disciples are recorded to have asked Jesus is to teach them to pray? Not teach us to lead or heal or to counsel others. Just, “Lord, teach us to pray.” Why? Because the disciples could see that Jesus’ leading, healing, counseling, and preaching emerged out of His relationship with the Father, through prayer. What this study will reveal is that “Lord, teach us to pray” meant more than, “Lord, teach us some new techniques.” It meant, “Lord, teach us what you know about the Father that makes you want to pray.”



LIVE

Discussion questions: Read the text and scriptures below, and prepare to answer the questions.

1. Read Mark 1:35, Luke 5:16 and 6:12. What motivated Jesus to pray? Is this the same thing that motivates you to pray?
2. Read Luke 11:1-13. What does this passage tell you about God? Does it make you want to communicate with Him? Why or why not?
3. Re-read the parable in Luke 11:5-8. This parable is about whom?
4. Read 1 Samuel 12:22 and Isaiah 43:25. How do these verses help reinforce our understanding of the nature of God and His promises?
5. Re-read Luke 11:9-13. Are these verses about persistence or something else?

Application Question: Often when we pray, we focus on things or outcomes that we need, but this study reveals many more reasons to pray. What will you focus on this week as you study how to pray?



PRAYERS

Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer



PRAYERS

Opening Prayer & Prayer Requests



LEARN

Before you begin, read the AGENDA LEARN introduction together and review the APPLICATION QUESTION from the previous meeting's RECAP.



LIVE

Discussion Questions: Have someone read each Bible verse aloud and then ask the corresponding question. Be sure everyone has enough time to find the Scripture before the verse is read.

1) Read Mark 1:35, Luke 5:16 and 6:12. What motivated Jesus to pray? Is this the same thing that motivates you to pray?



Jesus loved his Father and wanted to know His heart and simply be in touch with Him. Other motivations might be love for God, fear of God, etc.



“Prayer is communication with God. Because God is personal, all people can offer prayers. However, sinners who have not trusted Jesus Christ for their salvation remain alienated from God. So, while unbelievers may pray, they do not have the basis for a rewarding fellowship with God. They have not met the conditions laid down in the Bible for effectiveness in prayer...Prayer cannot be replaced by devout good works in a needy world. Prayer involves faith, worship, confession, adoration, thanksgiving, dedicated action and requests.” (Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary). As it says in James 5:16, “Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”



Facilitate a brief discussion. You may want to ask: “We discussed our motivations for prayer, but what are the greatest barriers for you to pray?” Examples could be time, not sure how, afraid God won’t listen, no desire to know Him, etc.

Notes:

2) Read Luke 11:1-13. What does this passage tell you about God? Does it make you want to communicate with Him? Why or why not?



He deserves to be worshiped; He is a ruler, a provider, a forgiver, and helps us avoid temptation. God values persistence and wants to answer our seeking. He is a giver of good gifts.



The Father has many names, but the name above every name is Yahweh: “I AM WHO I AM.” Not “I AM WHO I AM” in a philosophical sense, or “I AM WHO I AM, so don’t bother me,” but “I AM WHO I AM” in the relational sense; “I AM the one who is there with you and for you.” Yahweh is the covenant name, and in every covenant that Yahweh makes, there is this phrase: “I will be your God, and you will be my people.” The idea is that I am placed at your disposal; all that makes me God I give to you. Jesus is saying God will always honor that name. The Father will never shame that name – God has gone public with the name. And God

has placed this name on his people. God has said, “I AM there with you and for you.” And he does not want to have the rumor go around in the morning that someone came asking for help and was told to go away.

Notes:

3) Re-read the parable in Luke 11:5-8. This parable is about whom?



The parable is not about us who ask; the parable is about the God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ. It teaches that the Father has *anaideian* or avoidance of shame. Therefore, the Father always acts in a way that honors His name. He will never shame His name.



The Greek word in verse 8, *anaideian*, which is usually translated *persistence*, did not have that meaning until after the third century A.D. It meant *shamelessness*, in the sense of avoidance of shame at all costs. In the Middle Eastern culture, shamelessness is a positive quality and their culture is governed by it. That leads us to the observation that in the parable, *anaideian* does not apply to Mr. A, who is asking for bread; it applies to Mr. B, who is being asked for bread. Even if Mr. A inside hates Mr. B outside, he is going to get up and give him as much as he needs, because he does not want the story to go around the village the next morning that he did not help and extend hospitality. This avoidance of shame is what we need to understand – it is something that goes beyond friendship and love. Mr. B will get up because of his avoidance of shame, because he will honor his name, because he doesn’t want anything to damage his reputation. This parable gives us wonderful assurance in prayer. Yes, the Father loves us. But even if He did not, there is something deeper going on – it is that He loves His name. He has avoidance of shame. And Jesus is saying, you can count on that – the Father always hallows His name.

Notes:

4) Read 1 Samuel 12:22 and Isaiah 43:25. How do these verses help reinforce our understanding of the nature of God and His promises?



God made us His very own. He will never abandon us. He always keeps His promises, even if we do not.



God will not dishonor His own name, detract from His glory or contradict His character. Even when we sin against Him, he “blots it out” for His sake, not ours because it is for His glory that we are forgiven.



Facilitate a brief discussion. You may want to ask: “How different is this from our sinful human nature. When someone sins against us, are we likely to bring it back up? Have you abandoned someone? Do you always keep your promises?” Translate this to work – How can you reflect more of His nature at work? Why would you want to do this?

Notes:



5) **Re-read Luke 11:9-13. Are these verses about persistence or something else?**



These verses are about the assurance of God – who He is and what He promises when we trust in Him.



In verse 9 Jesus says ask, seek, and knock. Why? Because we have to persist and wear God down? No, it's an assurance: Ask, seek, and knock, because you receive, you find, and the door is opened. That's why Jesus says to keep on doing it. And when we ask for anything in prayer, you receive the Holy Spirit (v. 13). St. Augustine said the Holy Spirit is the embodiment of the love relationship between the Father and the Son. The Father loves the Son and delights in the Son, and the Son loves the Father and delights in the Father. The Holy Spirit is the embodiment of that love and that delight, and the Father and Son have gone public with the promise to give the Spirit.

Notes:

Application Question: Often when we pray, we focus on things or outcomes that we need, but this study reveals many more reasons to pray. What will you focus on this week as you study how to pray?



PRAYERS

Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer



LEAD

Ask Yourself: Why do I pray and what is my focus when I do pray? Try this week to pray like Jesus, simply spend time with God out of your love for Him.



PRAYERS

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LEARN

Jesus prayed out of love for God, to seek God's will, and to spend time in relationship with Him. The parable of the persistent neighbor shows that while people will do the right thing to save face, God is ready to give richly to us out of love simply because God is God. Jesus encourages his disciples to go to God in prayer because He sends the Holy Spirit, the embodiment of divine love, to those who ask.

Scripture References for this study: Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16, 6:12, 11:1-13; 1 Samuel 12:22 & Isaiah 43:25



LIVE

- The Son's motivation for prayer
- The Father's reputation in prayer
- The Holy Spirit's revelation through prayer

Application Question: Often when we pray, we focus on things or outcomes that we need, but this study reveals many more reasons to pray. What will you focus on this week as you pray?



LEAD

Ask Yourself: Why do I pray and what is my focus when I do pray? Try this week to pray like Jesus, simply spend time with God out of your love for Him.