

Prayer...

The Bible is full of teaching on prayer - following is a selection of passages to study, read through each verse and make note of:

- Who is speaking
- When or why we're told to pray
- Any instruction on how to pray
- Any indication of what we may achieve through prayer
- What impacts you about the prayer lives of these Biblical characters

Before you begin:

- **Ask..** God to speak to you through the words in the bible
- **Note...** anything that impacts you as you read
- **Dwell..** on the passage for as long as you have time for, and allow God to meet with you

#1 - Matthew 7:7-11 (ESV)

⁷ "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ⁹ Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? ¹¹ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

Questions/Thoughts

1. What does this tell us about our posture before God?
2. What does this tell us about the character of God towards us?
3. So, is God a vending machine... or a butler? Do we always get what we want?

#2 - Romans 8:34 (ESV)

³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

Questions/Thoughts

1. How do you find approaching God in prayer?
2. Do you feel unworthy or that your prayers are irrelevant to God? Why?
3. What do you think this verse means that Jesus is *interceding* for us?

#3 - Matthew 9:37-38 (ESV)

³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

#4 - Hebrews 5:7 (ESV)

⁷ In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence.

Questions/Thoughts

1. Are you being obedient to Jesus instructions to *pray earnestly* to the Lord to raise up & send out labourers into *His* harvest field? Are there any barriers to you doing this?
2. Could you start playing your part in going into the harvest with others? *How? When? Who with?*
3. We see in Hebrews 5:7 that Jesus heart breaks for those who are far from God. Do you feel like Jesus? Or do you feel numb or ambivalent? (choose your own words)
4. Take a moment to invite the Holy Spirit to highlight any areas in your life that aren't aligned with Jesus.

#5 - Philippians 1:3-4 (ESV)

³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,⁴ always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy,

Questions/Thoughts

1. Do you currently pray for others in the church? If so, how often?
2. Could you start to commit to pray for those in your new HOPE GROUP?
3. What would personally help you to do this?

#6 - Mark 11:25 (ESV)

²⁵ And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."

Questions/Thoughts

1. How do you feel about forgiveness? Why?
2. Are there any people, or situations, that you need to speak forgiveness over?