



Lynchpin

#newpointechurch

Week 1

1 of 1

September 3, 2017

Bottom Line: A regular prayer life will make my relationship with God personal and powerful, and will change my perspective.

Icebreaker: Did you grow up in a home where prayer was a normal exercise? If so, when did the family pray together? Were there any prayers you memorized as a child?

Key Verse: *The Lord is close to all those who call on him, yes, to those who call on him in truth.* Psalm 145:18

How did prayer get so complicated? Probably it is the top area where most Christians feel like they fail to live up to expectations. There have been so many classes and courses on how to pray, the correct order for our prayer topics, in whose name we should pray, and more, that many Christians just assume they'll never get it right.

Now, some people DO have the gift of intercession, which is a special and intense form of interceding or pleading on behalf of the needs of other people. But for most of us, we are missing the point about prayer when we are trying so hard to "get it right." Prayer is a dialogue, a conversation, between us and the one who loves us most. Jesus Himself told us that when we pray, we should call Him our Father. The sample prayer He taught us to pray is simple: a conversation between a father and a dearly loved child.

We are commanded to pray, true. But even more than that, we are privileged to pray. He invites us to come to Him with confidence because we know He loves us with a tender love, but has all the power and wisdom to do what is best, as well. Children don't need to be told how to talk to a father who loves them dearly. They just need to spend time with him, and communication begins to flow. That's the way it works with our heavenly Father as well. Just spend time with Him. Open your heart and your mouth, and start talking. Share your heart with Him, and then listen quietly. You will learn to recognize His voice as He speaks to your own heart. He is close to everyone who calls out to Him. He's your Father.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most specifically from the weekend message?

Why do you think humans have a tendency to package prayer into a formula, with "steps" and right and wrong ways to do it?

Prayer involves dialogue, not just monologue. "While God wants us to talk to Him about our problems, plans, and concerns, there are also times when we should be silent before Him so that we can be sensitive and receptive to His desires and direction." What makes the silent part difficult?

How do you believe a person can recognize when God is speaking to him/her?

We should pray because God commands it and rewards it. How does He reward prayer?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

The Lord's Prayer, the prayer Jesus taught as a sample prayer for talking to our Father, gives us a few vital communication topics for our regular conversations with God. Where are you weak? Where are you strong?

Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. (Talk about His greatness and thank Him.)

May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. (Start with you. Surrender your will to God. Talk specifically.)

Give us today the food we need, (Share your needs with Him.)

and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us.

And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one. (Acknowledge your need for peace, pardon, relational help, and protection.)

NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

1. Agree on three specific prayer requests the group will share for the church during the campaign.
2. Perhaps identify a time during the day when everyone will stop for one minute and pray together.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: A regular prayer life will make my relationship with God personal and powerful, and will change my perspective.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Day 1: 2 Chronicles 7:14

Day 2: Matthew 6:7-8

Day 3: Romans 12:2

Day 4: Matthew 7:11

Day 5: Romans 8:26-27

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.
(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)