

SESSION 2

HOW TO PRAY WITH CONFIDENCE

CHECKING IN

Was there an insight from your Daily Prayer Journal that was especially meaningful to you this week?

KEY VERSE

Cast all your care upon him, for he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7 NKJV

_____ Watch the video lesson now and follow along in your outline. _____

Jesus taught us to pray, “Our Father in heaven.” One of the words in the Bible for “father” is “Abba,” which simply means “daddy” or “papa.” Abba is a term of endearment, love, intimacy, and security. Jesus was telling us that when you pray to God, you’re talking to your Dad.

When you truly know and understand your heavenly Father, it will radically change your prayer life. It will enable you to pray with more confidence than ever before.

1. God is a _____ Father.

“Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!” Isaiah 49:15 NIV

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38–39 NIV

Cast all your care upon him, for he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7 NKJV

2. God is a _____ Father.

There is nothing deceitful in God, nothing two-faced, nothing fickle. James 1:17 MSG

“I the Lord do not change.” Malachi 3:6 NIV

Even when we are too weak to have any faith left, [God] remains faithful to us and will help us, for he cannot disown us who are a part of himself, and he will always carry out his promises to us. 2 Timothy 2:13 TLB

[God] will never go back on his promises. Romans 11:29 TLB

My God is changeless in his love for me. Psalm 59:10 TLB

3. God is a _____ Father.

"I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. I will not, I will not, I will not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let you down or relax my hold on you. Assuredly not!" Hebrews 13:5 AMP

How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered! I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! Psalm 139:17–18 NLT

- God is never _____.

Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me.
Psalm 27:10 NIV

- God loves to _____.

"If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"
Matthew 7:11 NIV

- God is _____.

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.
Psalm 34:18 NIV

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble.
Psalm 46:1 GW

4. God is a _____ Father.

"Nothing is impossible for God!" Luke 1:37 CEV

[God] is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of—infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes.
Ephesians 3:20 TLB

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined the things that God has prepared for those who love him. 1 Corinthians 2:9 GW

Are you certain that God is your Father?

To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. John 1:12 NIV

When you place your faith in Jesus Christ, then God becomes your caring, consistent, close, competent Father, and you can pray with confidence the way Jesus taught us to pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name."

You are all God's children by believing in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:26 GW

Discovery Questions

Please don't feel pressured to discuss every discovery question. It's okay to choose the questions that are right for your group. The point is not to race through the session; the point is to take time to let God work in your lives.

- Did anyone pray the Salvation Prayer with Dwight? If so, take time as a group to congratulate and pray for that person.

- In this session, we learned that God is a caring, consistent, close, and competent Father. Which of these characteristics has the greatest meaning to you, and why?

- Read Ephesians 3:20 in the outline above. Think of your biggest problem, your greatest dream, your most daunting challenge or fear. Not only can God handle it, He can do more than you can even imagine. What are you asking God to do? Is there something you're afraid to ask for or dream of? God can handle it all.

- Psalm 34:18 says, *"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit"* (NIV). Has this been true for you? If so, share your experience with the group.

Putting It into Practice

We don't just want to be hearers of the Word—we also need to be doers of the Word (James 1:22). This section contains suggestions for your group and for you individually to apply the things you are learning. Be sure to leave time each week to review this material.

In Your Group – Pray together.

Take this time to pray with confidence for anyone in your group who may be in a season of heartbreak or experiencing a crushed spirit. You can record your prayer requests in Our Prayers & Praise on page 97 of this study guide. This is also a great time to pray for other people in your lives who may be in the midst of a challenging life circumstance or problem.

In Your Life – Pray with confidence.

Turn to the Ephesians 3:20 Exercise on page 83. Take a few moments to soak in the truth that God can do more than you can ever ask or imagine. Journal your response to this Scripture. Take your time with this. We will encourage you to share your thoughts with your group as you start the next session.

Daily Prayer Journal

Starting on page 24 you will find Bible verses and daily prayer journal prompts for How to Pray with Confidence. Take a few minutes each day to read the verse several times, slowly. Emphasize a different word or phrase each time you read the passage. Underline key words or phrases that are especially meaningful to you. Follow the prompts and write down your responses in the journal space provided. Finish with a prayer.

Before You Go

Update the Small Group Calendar on page 99 of this study guide, as needed. Where you will meet each week, who will facilitate your meeting, and who will provide a meal or snack? Note any changes to your calendar. Also add contact information in the Small Group Roster on page 100 of your study guide for new members of your group.

Daily Prayer Journal

DAILY PRAYER JOURNAL

Day 8

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38–39 NIV

What did you hear?

What did God say to you as you read today's Bible passage?

What word or phrase was most meaningful to you?

What do you think?

What does this passage mean to you? How does it apply to your life?

What is your prayer?

This is where you turn your thoughts into prayer. It could be a prayer of gratitude or praise. It could be a prayer of confession or a request for God's help. It's up to you. But take a minute to write a prayer of response to God.

DAILY PRAYER JOURNAL

Day 9

Even when we are too weak to have any faith left, [God] remains faithful to us and will help us, for he cannot disown us who are a part of himself, and he will always carry out his promises to us. 2 Timothy 2:13 TLB

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DAILY PRAYER JOURNAL

Day 10

"I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. I will not, I will not, I will not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let you down or relax my hold on you. Assuredly not!" Hebrews 13:5 AMP

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DAILY PRAYER JOURNAL

Day 11

How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered! I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! Psalm 139:17-18 NLT

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DAILY PRAYER JOURNAL

Day 12

"If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"

Matthew 7:11 NIV

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What word or phrase was most meaningful to you?

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DAILY PRAYER JOURNAL

Day 13

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined the things that God has prepared for those who love him. 1 Corinthians 2:9 GW

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What word or phrase was most meaningful to you?

What do you think?

What does this passage mean to you? How does it apply to your life?

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DAILY PRAYER JOURNAL

Day 14

*To all who received him, to those who believed in his name,
he gave the right to become children of God. John 1:12 NIV*

What did you hear?

What did God say to you as you read today's Bible passage?

What word or phrase was most meaningful to you?

What do you think?

What does this passage mean to you? How does it apply to your life?

What is your prayer?

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