

BELIEVE SERIES Lesson Twelve

PRAYER

VIDEO TEACHING NOTES

Key Question: How do I grow by _____ with God?

Key Idea: I pray to God to _____ him, to _____ direction for my life and to _____ my requests before him.

“Watch _____ and then simply do what he does.”

It is completely _____ for us to lay our requests before God.

Like Jesus, we should seek to _____ our lives to God’s will, versus asking God to align his life to our will.

Key Verse: “If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; but God has surely listened and has heard my _____. Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!” (Psalm 66:18-20)

(Key Application) I _____ to align my life to God’s will.

(Key Application) I pray to lay my _____ before God to find peace.

(Key Application) I won’t make any major decision in my life without _____ God through prayer

GROUP DISCUSSION

As a group, discuss your thoughts and feelings about the following declarations. Which statements are easy to declare with certainty? Which are more challenging and why?

- I seek God’s will through prayer.
- I regularly confess my sins to God.
- Prayer is a central part of my daily life.
- I seek to grow closer to God by listening to him in prayer.

Choose 2-3 questions that will lead to best discussion about the Key Idea

1. What aspect of prayer do you find to be the most challenging? Helpful? Rewarding?
2. How has the act of prayer helped you know and understand God better?
3. In what ways have you seen and experienced the power of prayer at work?
4. As a group, describe the different ways you have seen God answer specific prayer requests.

Read Mark 1:32-35, Luke 6:12-16, and Matthew 26:36-39 and choose 1-2 questions to discuss.

1. What specifically inspires you when you examine Jesus’ dependence on, confidence in and commitment to unceasing prayer?
2. In what ways has prayer helped you navigate the tough decisions that life throws at us?
3. What is one aspect of Jesus’ prayer life that you would like to emulate?

OTHER PASSAGES

Psalm 66:16-20

Mark 1:32-35

Luke 6:12-16

Mark 6:39-46

Matthew 26:36-46

Psalm 13:1-6

Psalm 77:1-20

Eccl. 5:1-7

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Judges 6:1-7:25

Psalm 25:1-22

Genesis 18:20-33

2 Kings 20:1-11

Luke 11:1-13

Philippians 4:6-9

CLOSING PRAYER

PERSONAL QUESTIONS FOR NEXT WEEK

Read Believe, Chapter 32: Bible Study and/or read the following passages:

Deut. 6:1-25; 31:9-13

Joshua 1:1-9

Neh. 7:73-9:3

Psalm 19:7-14

Psalm 119:9-24, 33-40, 97-112

Matthew 13:1-23

John 14:15-27

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

1 Timothy 4:1-16

2 Timothy 2:14-16

Hebrews 5:11-63

Answer the following questions

1. What are the benefits of studying God's Word in community?
2. What is the difference between studying God's Word and hiding it in our hearts? What is the difference between reading God's Word and meditating on it day and night?
3. Jesus refers to four types of soil on which the seed of his Word falls. Which type best describes you right now? Was there a time when you would have answered differently?
4. As you read the passages from John 14 and 1 Corinthians 2, look for the ways the Holy Spirit helps us understand Scripture.
5. Reflect on the key verse at the beginning of this chapter. According to Hebrews 4:12, the Word of God is like a double-edged sword; it gets under our skin and speaks directly to our hearts. In what ways have you experienced this?

Key Verse: "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)

Key Idea: I study the Bible to know God and his truth and to find direction for my daily life.

Personal Application

1. How could this practice express itself in your life?
2. What visible attributes can be found in someone who regularly engages in Bible study?
3. What is impeding your ability to consistently engage in Bible study? How can you overcome this obstacle?
4. What action step can you take this week to make Bible study a greater part of your daily life?