

Let's Pray

Session Four: Types of Prayer

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Ice Breaker: Briefly share one way God is blessing you during this season of life.

Psalm 91:15 (NIV®)
He will call upon me, and I will answer him.

I. A Portfolio of Prayers

READ ALOUD

As we grow spiritually we become more comfortable with spiritual things. As we begin to pray with others, we will become more conscious of the depth of needs in the lives of those around us. This awareness leads to a desire to pray more effectively. Thus we want to develop skill with a variety of kinds of prayer. God will use your life if you are willing to cooperate.

Luke 11:1-2 (NIV®)
One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come . . .'"

1. Label each line of the Lord's Prayer with the type of prayer it represents.

Deliverance	Provision	Yielding	Praise and worship
Direction	Intercession	Repentance and forgiveness	

"When you pray, say . . ."

Our father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name.

Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation.

Deliver us from evil.

For thine is the Kingdom and the glory forever and ever, amen.

2. What does it mean to be an intercessor?
3. Jesus gave us permission to pray for God's provision in our lives. What are you trusting God for today?
4. How does forgiving others allow you to be more aligned with God's plan for you?
5. Pastor Allen reminds us that holding on to unforgiveness or being unwilling to repent will keep us in bondage. When we forgive we choose to cancel the debt that someone owes us. Use the prayer below and pray as a group to forgive anyone who comes to mind.

READ ALOUD

Father, I thank you that you called me to grow up in the Lord. I ask you to forgive me of all my sins, and I receive your forgiveness. I also choose to forgive those who have sinned against me. I cancel the debt they owe me. I ask you to bless them in Jesus' name, amen.

II. The Power of Being Thankful

Psalm 100:4 (NIV®)

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV®)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

READ ALOUD

Gratitude must be cultivated; it originates from a decision. Circumstances do not make us thankful. We can be ungrateful while surrounded with blessings. Determine to become a more thankful person—it is rooted in your will, not your emotions. If we will cultivate thankfulness it will have a profound impact on our response to life.

6. As a group list ten things you are thankful for today.
7. Discuss a time when you were going through a difficult situation but you chose to be thankful anyway. Did your circumstances change? Did you change?
8. Have you ever felt a peace from God that was completely beyond your understanding?

Let's pray together!

Heavenly Father, teach us to pray. Grant us an awareness of Your presence and majesty. We offer ourselves for Your purposes. We choose to lay aside our will and our demands to accept your purposes for our lives. We delight in the Lord our God. You have delivered us from darkness, opened our hearts to Your Kingdom, and set us on a path of victory. Blessed be the name of the Lord. Let the name of Jesus be lifted high throughout all creation, amen.