

How Jesus Prayed (And What He Said About It)

There's much to be gained when we listen to what Jesus said about prayer and look at how Jesus prayed: his priority on getting time with God, his teachings to encourage us in resilient prayers, and even the intimate prayers recorded in the Gospels between God the Father and God the Son. It's all there for us to experience communion with God when we follow Jesus into the secret place of prayer.

Week 3: Anything In My Name

1. **Read Matthew 21:21-22 and John 15:7-8.** There's no getting around it: Jesus made some big claims about the power of prayer. **He tells us that prayer is powerful and effective.** Do you have a testimony about the power of prayer (*perhaps from your own life or someone you know*)? If so, share it with the group. *Follow up:* Stories like these encourage us, and yet many wonder **why doesn't prayer always work?** If someone asked you that question, how would you answer?
2. As we ask questions about prayer, it's worth asking a question of ourselves: do we understand what Jesus said and what he meant? **Read Mark 11:22-25.** What does it mean to **pray in faith**? How does the rest of Scripture help us understand this statement from Jesus?
3. **Read John 14:13-14; 15:16; 16:23-24.** Jesus makes a repeated promise with a repeated instruction – “ask in my name.” What does it mean to pray “in Jesus' name”? (*see Acts 19:13-16 for what it doesn't mean*). Taken together, these verses are all in the larger context of being told to remain in Jesus as the vine. What does that tell us about praying in His name?
4. **Jesus knows the pain of unanswered prayer. Read Mark 14:34 and Mark 15:36.** We are not alone in our unanswered prayer. And though we still have questions, **faith and trust will take us where understanding never could.** Finish praying as a group in these two ways: 1) lament with anyone who is grieving an unanswered prayer from the past, and 2) intercede with anyone who is in the midst of a season where they are asking God for healing, help or deliverance.

*Note: for those who want to go deeper into the topic of unanswered prayer, we recommend *God on Mute* by Pete Greig as a helpful place to start.*

