

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 4: The Prayers of Jesus

- 1. Read John 11:41-42 and Matthew 11:25-26.** Jesus prayed, **“Thank you, Father.”** What’s happening in context - the funeral of a friend, being second guessed by a loved one, and dismissed by whole communities - are natural places for gratitude. But Jesus shows us that gratitude isn’t born from what’s happening around us, but who God is in the midst of it all. What of God’s nature is revealed in these prayers? In John 11, Jesus says, “You always hear me.” What are other ways you could finish this prayer, “Father, I thank you that you always _____.”
- 2. Read John 12:27-28 and John 17:1-3.** Jesus prayed, **“Glorify your name.”** Jesus wants God to get what God deserves: glory. This is a prayer Christians can pray and that they can help answer in their lives (*see Matthew 5:16 and John 15:8*). If you were going to explain the concept of glory to someone brand new to faith, what would you say? How is praying, “*Glorify your name*” an act of surrender?
- 3. Read John 17:4-26.** Jesus prayed, **“May they be one.”** In this profound prayer, Jesus prays specifically for his followers and for all people who would follow him. What does Jesus pray would result from a unified church? Why is unity a witness to the world? What other things does Jesus pray for believers besides unity?
- 4. Finish your time praying together.** Let Jesus’ prayers guide your time in prayer. You can guide the group by starting each section and allow space for others to join, or ask for members to lead different sections of the prayer:
Father,
Glorify your name. *(Honor and Adoration)*
We thank you. *(Gratitude)*
Make your people one, *(Unity)*
with you & one other.
Amen.

