

Leader Copy

## **“PRAY”**

*[Please remember to forward your group attendance to the church office!]*

Ice Breaker (Target time: 10 minutes – Allow time for new introductions)

What is your “preferred method of communication:” E-Mail, Telephone/Cell Phone, Texting, or In-Person Conversation? How do you most often communicate with others (on a daily basis)?

Centering on Jesus’ Presence (Target time: 5 minutes)

*[Ask the group to close their eyes and focus on God’s faithfulness. Then, after a moment, read Psalm 25 aloud and ask them to make it the group’s prayer.]*

Psalm 25

Applying the Scriptures (Target time: 40 minutes)

*[Play the DVD...Session III...PRAY...5 minutes]*

Read Matthew 6.5-15.

This passage contains a prayer that is known as “the Lord’s Prayer.” Why do you think it has been given this description? *[Leader: Jesus taught His disciples to pray in this way.]*

What does the Lord’s Prayer teach us about prayer? *[Leader: Prayer can be short and simple, focusing on basic things like glorifying God, seeking His will, asking for essential needs, requesting forgiveness, and finding strength to combat temptation and evil.]*

How should we use the Lord’s Prayer in our personal prayer life? How should we use it in our congregation’s prayer life? *[Open Discussion]*

Read again Matthew 6.14-15. Why do you think Jesus mentions the subject of forgiveness after teaching His disciples about prayer? What is the relationship between forgiveness and prayer? *[Open Discussion]*

Read James 5.13-16. When should a follower of Jesus pray? *[Leader: We should pray if we are in trouble, and we should pray for others who are sick. We should pray for one another as we confess our sins and struggles to each other, and we should sing songs of praise to God when we are happy.]*

Read James 5.17-18. Why does James mention that “Elijah (the Old Testament prophet) was a man just like us” when discussing the subject of prayer? *[Leader: Every follower of Christ can pray, and he or she can pray powerfully.]*

In I Thessalonians 5.17, the Apostle Paul tells followers of Jesus to “pray continually.” How can a Christian live out this instruction? *[Open Discussion]*

How does gathering in a small group help followers of Jesus grow in prayer? *[Leader: It reminds us to pray for more than just our own needs, and it holds us accountable to pray regularly.]*

Have you ever been (or are you currently) a part of a prayer group or prayer ministry? What were the best things about your experience? Did you experience anything negative? *[Open Discussion]*

Take a few moments of silent prayer and ask God’s leading on this question: “Are you calling me to start a new chapter in my prayer life? Are you calling me to pray with others in a particular setting? Are you calling me to pray for specific needs right now?”

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Prayer time:

\* How can we specifically pray for our congregation this week? *[Leader: If someone in the group is not a part of our congregation, be sure to allow them to share need of which they are aware. You may want to offer a prayer after a time of sharing, or you may want to ask a group member to close in prayer after you open the prayer time.]*

Vision Moments (Target time: 5 minutes)
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*[Again, let the group members know about upcoming topics; explain the way the lessons are tied to the Sunday sermons and to the church’s mission/vision of making disciple of Jesus. Remind everyone of the congregation’s prayer ministry and invite them to call the church office when they discover prayer needs that ought to be shared with the staff/congregation, or that should be printed in the weekly prayer list.]*