



Riverwood-Punchbowl Anglican Church

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PRAYERS

FROM

THE GOSPELS

9 Studies on prayer

by Bruce Southwell

Week 1

THEME: “Our Father ...”

Day 1 Matthew 6:1

What is the warning given? Why is the warning important?

Day 2 Matthew 6:2-4

Write a list of qualities that you think should be present when we give. Why is this important?

Day 3 Matthew 6:5-8

How are our prayers to be different from the prayers of the hypocrites and the pagans?

Day 4 Matthew 6:9-13

How is this prayer an example of the lessons of verses 5-8?

Day 5 Matthew 6:14-15

What is the proof that we really are forgiven and belong to God?
See Matthew 18:23-35 and Ephesians 4:32

PRAY that we will ask God confidently for those things of the kingdom which affect both God and us.

STUDY PASSAGE: Matthew 6:9-13.

1. The Bible has many exhortations to pray and has many numerous promises associated with prayer. What, then, might make it so difficult for us to pray?
2. The Lord's Prayer reflects the concerns and priorities of those who belong to God's new society. What are those concerns and priorities?
3. Try to summarise in your own words what you think each of the six requests is about.
 - “Hallowed be your name”
 - “your kingdom come”
 - “your will be done”
 - “daily bread”
 - “forgiveness”
 - “temptation/evil”
4. If we used each of the six ideas as a heading, what things could be prayed for under each heading? How might you use the Lord's prayer as a model for your prayer life?
5. How has this study changed your view of prayer?

Week 2

THEME: "Pray the Lord of the harvest..."

Day 1 Matthew 9:35-38

How did Jesus feel when He saw people ignorant, hopeless, helpless, dying and unprepared for death? What was His response?

Day 2 Matthew 10:1-15

List the things Jesus asked His twelve disciples to do, and then try to summarise the general meaning of what He said.

Day 3 Matthew 10:16-23

What does Jesus say are the difficulties His disciples may experience as they obey Him, and what are the promises He gives?

Day 4 Matthew 10:24-33

What encouragement is there in these verses to witness to others about the Lord Jesus?

Day 5 Matthew 10:34-42

How can we encourage other Christians to continue in their Christian walk?

PRAY that God will send people from our church into His harvest field. (Who might these people be?)

Week 3

THEME: “... only by prayer”

Day 1 Mark 9:2-13

On the mountain the three disciples are given a glimpse of Jesus’ glory. What are they reminded about (v7, Mark 1:9-11)?

Day 2 Mark 9:14-27

What attitude or response does Jesus commend (verses 23-24)?

Day 3 Mark 9:28-32

How does Jesus answer the disciples question, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?”

Day 4 Mark 9:33-37

How did Jesus answer the question, “Who is the greatest?”

Day 5 Mark 9:38-41

Why did the disciples want to stop the man from driving out demons?

PRAY that God will help our unbelief so that we will be confident to pray.

STUDY PASSAGE: Mark 9:14-32

1. Share a time when you had a significant need and prayed about it. How did God respond to your prayer?
2. Describe the manner of Jesus' approach to the father of the boy with the evil spirit (verses 21-24). What does it teach us?
3. How do we have access to God's power (verses 23, 29)? Discuss these comments of Jesus.
4. What are some things that might hinder your prayer life. For each hindrance suggest a possible remedy.

Note: Some translations have for Mark 9:29 "... only by prayer and fasting." The better manuscripts do not have "and fasting" and it is believed that here and in Matthew 17:21 these words were added by later scribes to agree with the practices of their day.

Week 4

THEME: "... a house of prayer or a den of thieves"

Day 1 Mark 10:46-52

What caused Bartimaeus to be healed (verse 52)? What results followed on from his faith?

Day 2 Mark 11:1-11

To whom does the crowd compare Jesus, and why do they make the comparison?

Day 3 Mark 11:12-19

What is it that scandalizes Jesus (verse 17)?

Day 4 Mark 11:20-26

What are the two things that are to characterize a living congregation of Christian believers?

Day 5 Mark 11:27-33

How does Jesus turn the religious leaders' questions back on them?

Pray that we will have a faith that leads to a strong prayer life, and that this will be reflected in the lives we live in our communities.

STUDY PASSAGE: Mark 11:12-26

1. What do/would you do to a tree in your garden which didn't grow healthily?

2. What could Jesus expect to find on the fig-tree (verses 12-14)?
What did He find? How is this similar to the temple at Jerusalem?

3. Look up the two Old Testament passages quoted in verse 17 to see what light they shed on the events.
 - (a) Isaiah 56:4-8. What was God's purpose for the temple?

 - (b) Jeremiah 7:1-11. Who was Jeremiah prophesying against?
What were these people doing wrong?

4. How does Jesus define *faith in God* (verses 22-26)?

5. How would you relate prayer, the fig-tree, the temple, faith, and the nations to each other?

Week 5

THEME: “What do you want ... ?”

Day 1 Luke 18:1-8

Why did Jesus tell this parable (verse 1)?

Day 2 Luke 18:9-14

Which of these two prayers was heard, and why?

Day 3 Luke 18:15-17

At this time children were considered to be low in the social pecking order. What is the significance of Jesus’ attitude to them?

Day 4 Luke 18:18-30

Do you find it difficult to believe verse 24? Why or why not?

Day 5 Luke 18:35-43

What did the man want Jesus to do for him?

PRAY that we will faithfully follow Jesus through life, whatever the cost.

STUDY PASSAGE: Luke 18:35-43

1. Share some of the “big” things you are praying for at this time. What makes them so “big”?

2. What did Bartimaeus know about Jesus? Who was the one who would open the eyes of the blind (Isaiah 35:5)?

3. Why do you think Jesus asked the man to say what he wanted Jesus to do for him? If Jesus knows what we need before we ask, why does he want us to pray?

4. (a) How did Bartimaeus and the crowd of the people respond when Bartimaeus received his sight?

(b) Think about how you respond when God answers your prayers, and share this with your group if you’d like.

5. Bartimaeus’ prayer was “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me.” How was that prayer answered?

Week 6

THEME: “Glorify your Son ... ”

Day 1 John 17:1-5

What work (v 4) did Jesus do to glorify His Father?

Day 2 Philippians 2:5-11

How is God the Father glorified?

Day 3 Matthew 28:18-20

On what basis do you think that Jesus has been given “all authority in heaven and on earth”?

Day 4 Mark 14:35-36

Notice that Jesus says “if possible”. What do you think this means?

Day 5 John 12:23-26

Jesus uses images here of death and life. How do you see this image being related to Jesus being glorified?

PRAY thanking God that He gave His Son authority over all people so that He might give us eternal life.

STUDY PASSAGE: John 17:1-5

1. Jesus prays for Himself. At what stage of His life is this prayer prayed? What does Jesus mean by the words “the time has come” (verse 1)?
2. The cross was an instrument of shame to men. How can it be that to Christ it was the means of sheer glory?
3. What do these verses say is “the work God gave Christ to do” (verse 4)? How does Jesus define eternal life?
4. In verse 5 Jesus prays again that the Father will glorify Him. What is Jesus’ present glory and what is His past glory?
5. In what ways can this prayer of Jesus be an example for our prayer?

Week 7

THEME: “I pray for ... those you have given me”

Day 1 John 17:6-12

What is Jesus’ prayer for His disciples (verse 11)?

Day 2 John 17:13-19

From whom does Jesus specifically want His disciples protected?

Day 3 Psalm 133:1-3

How is unity described in this Psalm?

Day 4 1 John 2:12-14

How does John here show that he remembers His Master’s prayer (John 17:15)?

Day 5 Ephesians 6:10-12

How do Paul’s words and Jesus’ prayer (John 17:6-12) reflect spiritual warfare?

PRAY that we might give Jesus’ word to others just as Jesus gave His Father’s word to us.

STUDY PASSAGE: John 17:6-19

1. The disciples have depended very heavily on Jesus' presence with them. Why do they need Jesus prayer for them so much at this time?

2. What do you think is the danger to the disciples leading Jesus to pray the following?
 - (a) "Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name--the name you gave me--so that they may be one as we are one." (v11)

 - (b) "My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one." (v15)

 - (c) "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth." (v17)

3. List the times when your friends have special need of your prayers, and discuss a possible way of praying for them.

Week 8

THEME: “I pray for ... those who will believe in me”

Day 1 John 17:20-26

What is the theme running through verses 20-23? How is this similar to the relationship between the Father and the Son in verses 1-5?

Day 2 Matthew 24:9-14

Where does Jesus say witnesses will spread the wonderful word of the gospel?

Day 3 Matthew 16:15-20

What does Jesus say He will achieve through Peter?

Day 4 John 14:8-14

How does Jesus see the relationship between Himself and His Father, and between Himself and His followers?

Day 5 John 15:1-17

What do you think is the fruit Jesus wants us to bear?

PRAY that through our love and unity with each other, people may know that we are following Jesus and come to follow Him too.
(John 13:34-35)

STUDY PASSAGE: John 17:20-26

1. Who is Jesus praying for in these verses (verse 20)? In what way is it a prayer for us?

2. In verse 21 Jesus prays for unity. How is this unity to be shown
 - (a) between fellow Christians?

 - (b) between a Christian and the Father and the Son?

3. In verses 22 Jesus prays that we will have His glory. Where did Jesus' true glory come from (see verse 4)? From where does our glory come?

4. In verse 24 Jesus prays that we will be with Him. How can this be?

5. What do you think is Jesus' great desire (verses 25-26)? How can we show that desire in our prayers?

Week 9

THEME: “Father forgive them ...”

Day 1 Luke 23:26-31

Why would someone have to help Jesus to carry the cross?

Day 2 Luke 23:32-34

What did Jesus pray? How did they not know what they were doing?

Day 3 Luke 23:35-43

Name the people in these verses? What were their attitudes to Jesus?

Day 4 Luke 23:44-49

Write out Jesus’ prayer? What are the three responses to Jesus seen in these verses?

Day 5 Luke 23:50-56

What seems to be the attitude to Jesus’ death? But what happened (chapter 24)?

PRAY that God will have compassion on those who are close to us and who are rejecting God, that He will forgive them and draw them to Himself.

HOW TO USE THESE NOTES

- 1.** Read the daily Bible readings on the left hand side of the double page, and think about the question for the day. Make a note of the answer, and any queries you have.
- 2.** The questions on the right hand side of the double page are designed for group discussion. Think about these questions before you go to your discussion group.
- 3.** The study passages are linked with the morning and evening sermon series. You may find it helpful to take notes of the sermons.
- 4.** Please don't be frustrated if you can't understand or answer the questions: the important thing is that you read God's word. Take your questions and comments to your home group.
- 5.** Use this guide for family or personal Bible reading, and if you would like to join a discussion group, please see one of the ministers.

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