




# COMMUNITY GUIDE

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## WEEKLY APPLICATION

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**TAKEAWAY:** The question is not so much why we pray, but rather how and to whom.

**HEAD CHANGE:** Keep prayer simple. Keep prayer real. Keep prayer consistent.

**HEART CHANGE:** God wants to spend time with you more than you want to spend time with Him and He's already waiting for you in your "thin place" with a smile on His face

**LIFE CHANGE:** The truest prayer is not so much something we say, nor is it something we do: It is something we become. Not transactional, but relational.

## OVERVIEW

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Prayer is a vast subject, of which there are no experts (besides Jesus, of course). As a community, we are spending the next four weeks on prayer while recognize that we could easily spend forty weeks on this subject. Therefore, we want to narrow this down a bit. This series is aimed at new Christians and ordinary followers of Jesus who may not have studied theology and do not consider themselves Jedi prayer warriors but would like to still grow and go a bit deeper in their relationship with God. In the words of Abraham Heschel, "Prayer is our humble answer to the inconceivable surprise of living." Our English term for prayer comes from the Latin word; *precarious*. We pray because life is precarious. So, the question is not so much why we pray, but rather how and to whom. Let's begin there.

*"When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen."  
-Matthew 6:6-*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. Where can you begin to establish a "thin place" for consistent prayer?
2. Do you struggle to keep prayer simple? Why or why not?
3. The best way to start praying is actually to stop praying. To pause. To be still. To do this long enough to remember that prayer is more relational than transactional. How does it change the way you pray when you first reflect on who God is who you are in relationship to Him?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER

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Father, thank You for hearing us when we pray. We praise you for being all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-forgiving. You are an amazing God! Help me to establish a consistency in prayer and to pray even when I don't feel like it. We believe you can do anything, and we trust you with all of the unknowns in our lives. Strengthen our faith as we walk with you. In Jesus' name, amen.

**IN THIS TOGETHER!**