

Know God Deeply™ Studies

Precept



The Purpose of Prayer

A Collection on Prayer, Volume One

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Lesson One: Introduction



It is no secret that relationships take work. They need time, intentionality, and effort. They must be cultivated and nurtured. Relationships require constant humility and forgiveness. But at their best, they are worth it.

The same is true for our relationship with God. We are invited into deep intimacy with the Father because of all Jesus has done for us. Through His teaching and example, Jesus showed us a way to foster this nearness with the Father—prayer.

But even for lifelong Christians, prayer can become elusive, boring, or obligatory—and sometimes, all three. We believe we *should* pray. We may even *want* to pray. But we become lost in the *how* and *why* of it.




The goal of this Collection on Prayer is to return to the basics and explore all aspects of prayer. *What* is prayer? *Why* do we pray? And *How*? In this first volume, we will get to the heart of the matter—the purpose of prayer. Together we will turn to Scripture to uncover the reason we pray.

As you study, our prayer is that you will encounter the heart of the Father, grow in a loving relationship with Him, and find ways to commune with Him each day.

THE METHOD

We believe that relationship with God comes through knowing His Word. Studying the Bible allows us to know God deeply and live differently, being transformed into the image of Jesus.

We approach Bible study with a hands-on method. The Bible is thousands of years old, and it becomes easy to skim over strange stories or familiar verses without true understanding. To help you explore Scripture for yourself, we rely on the Precept Bible Study Method:

-  **Observe:** What does the text say?
-  **Interpret:** What does the text mean?
-  **Apply:** How should the meaning affect my life?

Taken together, these three components help you slow down, discover meaning, and find connections to your daily life.



WELCOME TO PRECEPT!

Scan the QR code to view a welcome video from one of our Precept team members.

precept.org/leaders/

Lesson Two: I Am the Vine; You Are the Branches



JOHN 15

Prayer begins with relationship. We will explore the purpose of prayer in the Gospel of John. In this passage, Jesus speaks some powerful words about being in relationship with Him and His Father. We will build our understanding of why we pray on this foundation.

Read John 15:1-17.

In the Appendix, you will find an Observation Sheet with the text of John 15.

As you read, mark each of the following:

- 1 //** references to *the Father* (including pronouns such as *he*, *him*, and *his*) with a purple triangle
- 2 //** references to Jesus (including pronouns such as *I*, *me*, and *my*) with a red cross
- 3 //** the word *fruit* with an orange box

It may help to read through the passage multiple times, marking each reference or word one at a time. Or, if you prefer, you can mark them all during a single read-through. Do what works best for you.

Let's observe what Jesus teaches.

1 // Jesus uses an analogy in this passage. What does He compare Himself to? His Father? Each of us?

2 // Based on this analogy, what is the nature of the relationship between each of these?

3 // How do the branches bear fruit?

4 // Make a list of everything that happens when we bear fruit.

5 // What do we learn about Jesus' relationship with His Father?

6 // Why does Jesus tell us that He has spoken these things?