

The Purpose of Prayer

A Collection on Prayer, Volume One

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WEEK

Lesson One: Introduction



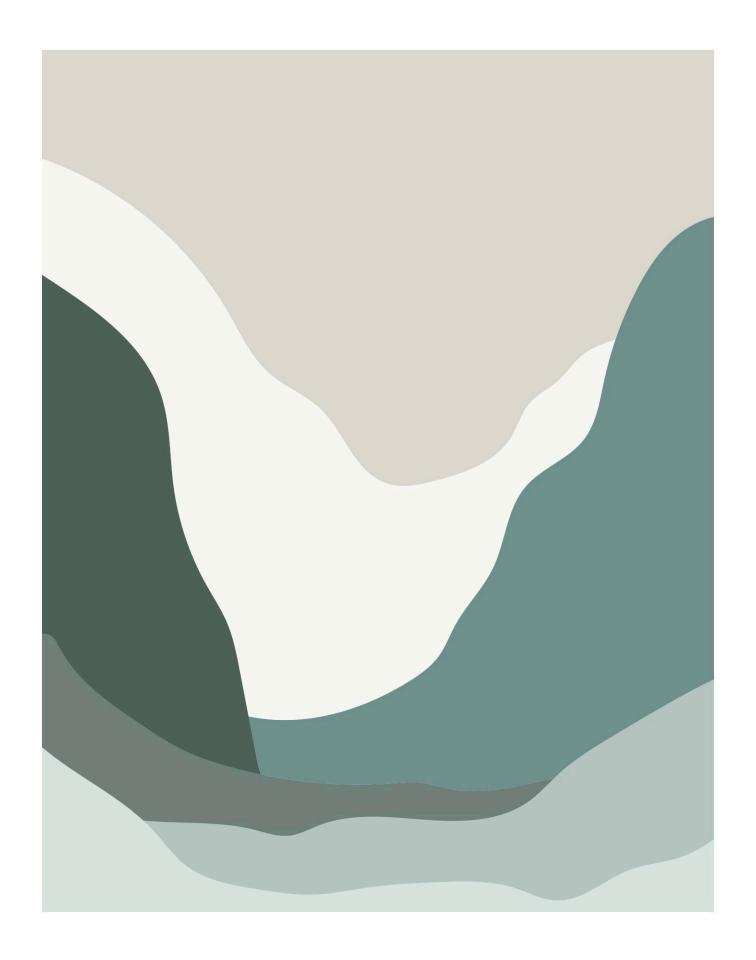
It is no secret that relationships take work. They need time, intentionality, and effort. They must be cultivated and nurtured. Relationships require constant humility and forgiveness. But at their best, they are worth it.

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.



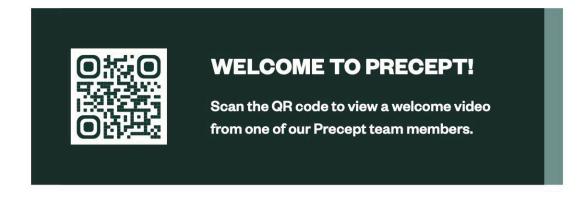
THE METHOD

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.



precept.org/leaders/

OPENING GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

We have seen that genuine transformation and growth often involve other people. We encourage you to study alongside a group of believers. This study provides discussion questions along the way. As you begin your group this week, discuss your answers and reflections from the "Pause and Reflect" section on page 13 of your study.

Opening Questions: What are your hopes as you begin this study? What questions do you have for God regarding prayer?

- 1// How do you pray? What do your rhythms and routines of prayer currently look like?
- 2 // Why do you pray?
- **3** // Think of the most important relationship in your life. Perhaps it is a family member, a best friend, or a spouse. What makes this relationship so special? How do you nurture it so that it grows and thrives? Why do you nurture it? How is this similar or different to how you treat your relationship with God?
- 4 // What are some obstacles or challenges to prayer in your life?

Closing: End your time together by asking each member of your group to share their personal prayer requests. Then, spend time praying for one another. Commit to praying for each other throughout the week.



LEADING GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Scan the QR code to learn more about facilitating group discussions during your time in this Bible study.

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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.

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?

Let's observe what Jesus teaches.

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