



Leader Guide

United in Prayer

February 12, 2023

Main Passage: Luke 11:1-4; Acts 1:12-14

Theological Theme

Prayer is vital in the life of Christ-followers. It is spoken about, preached about, and taught about often, yet Christians still struggle with this discipline.

Introduction

- ? What are your common practices when it comes to refueling your car?
- ? Have you ever had a fuel mishap? What happened?

1. United in Prayer (Acts 1:12-14)

At the end of the forty days following Jesus's resurrection, His disciples obeyed His final instructions and met together in an upper room to wait for the Holy Spirit. There was no delay in their actions, and we don't read anything about them questioning Him. They trusted their Savior and believed what He promised would happen. Even though He was no longer with them physically, they chose to obey what they heard from Jesus.

- ? Why do we struggle to trust, believe, obey, and apply what Jesus tells us to do instead of primarily questioning His instructions?
- ? What would you say is required for a group to find unity?
- ? Application: How much does our group model the actions of the early followers of Christ? How might we do that to a greater extent?

2. Powerful Prayer (Luke 11:1)

Have you ever heard someone pray and felt like they had a better connection to God than you? Maybe their prayers seem more powerful and effective than yours. In this verse, the disciples saw Jesus praying and recognized there was something different and powerful about how He talked to the Father. Imagine them standing there, watching Him pray as was His custom. They were eyewitnesses to the relationship between Jesus and God the Father, and they recognized the power of His prayer.

- ? Who have you noticed praying that seems to have a better connection to God than you do? What is different about the way they pray?
- ? Why does it matter who you seek to learn from for your spiritual walk? What have you learned from this experience?
- ? Application: How can you get started praying more rather than just thinking about it theoretically?

3. Model Prayer (Luke 11:2-4)

Although these verses are often referred to as the Lord's Prayer, they can also be labeled as the Model Prayer. Jesus gave a pattern of prayer that we can also put into practice in our lives. It is not a precise ritual or specific formula that must be followed. This model prayer is exactly that—a model to consider when you converse with God and want it to be effective and powerful. It is simple and brief because God is not impressed with the number of words we use but rather cares about the manner in which we approach Him and the posture of our hearts.

- ❓ Why is it important to consider Jesus's words as a model and not a formula or ritual?
- ❓ Why does it matter how you address the Lord when you pray?
- ❓ Application: An often used outline for prayer is ACTS: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication. Have you ever practiced the ACTS outline for prayer? Consider assigning different people in the group one letter each of ACTS.

Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

1. What does this passage say?
2. What did this passage mean to its original audience?
3. What does this passage tell us about God?
4. What does this passage tell us about man?
5. What does this passage demand of me?
6. How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
7. How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

*Adapted from Seven Arrows by Matt Rogers pastor of The Church at Cherrydale, Greenville, SC

Here's How to Become a Christ-Follower:

Read the following verses and ask after each one: "What does this say to me?"

- **All have sinned:** Romans 3:23 & 1 John 1:8
- **The wages of sin:** Romans 6:23 & John 3:18
- **But while we were sinners, salvation was provided:** Romans 5:8
- **Become a Christ-follower:** Romans 10:9-10 Confess and Believe

Accepting Christ is Just the Beginning:

Next Steps:

- Publicly profess your faith by being baptized (Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 3:21; Romans 6:4).
- Join a church which follows the Bible, where you can grow in your faith through prayer, Bible study and fellowship with other Christians.
- Get involved in groups for encouragement and accountability.
- Begin a daily personal worship experience with God where you study the Bible and pray.
- Share with others what Jesus has done for you. Tell your story (Romans 10:14; Matthew 28:19-20).
- Begin to live for God (Romans 12:1-2, 9-18; James 1:19-27).