

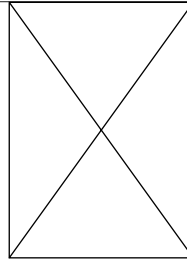
# C O N T E N T S

Introduction	i
Recommended Lessons	ii
I. Basic Doctrine	
<b>THE HOLY SPIRIT</b>	<b>1</b>
II. Bible Character	
<b>JESUS CHRIST: A MAN OF PRAYER</b>	<b>9</b>
III. Bible Study	
<b>THE LORD'S PRAYER</b>	<b>13</b>
IV. Bible Study	
<b>II TIMOTHY</b>	<b>19</b>
V. Christian Living	
<b>PRAYER:</b>	
<b>THE BREATH OF OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE</b>	<b>25</b>
VI. Christian Living	
<b>PRAYER WITH UNDERSTANDING</b>	<b>33</b>
VII. Christian Living	
<b>PRAYER OF THE SAINTS</b>	<b>37</b>

*“Therefore, if any one is in Christ,  
he is a new creation;  
the old has passed away, behold,  
the new has come.”*

(2 Cor 5:17)

*H*allelujah! Praise God for the new life that he has given us at the cost of shedding his precious blood. The moment we received baptism, we left our old self and began a new life which belongs to the One who paid a ransom for our sins. Thus, we call Jesus our “Lord” because we are no longer our own. However, how do we carry on with our new lives in an acceptable manner to God? The Bible supplies us with plenty of answers to this question. We hope that through each Student Spiritual Convocation, we can learn as much as possible concerning how to live for Christ.



About Book 1:

# *A Life of Prayer*

*“I call upon thee,  
for thou wilt answer me, O God;  
incline thy ear to me,  
hear my words.”  
(Psalm 17:6)*

**Prayer has been spoken of as the very breath of spiritual life.** Without it, we are powerless, unable to be filled with the fullness of God’s Spirit. Prayer is a Christian’s way of communicating with God. Through it, we can praise, confess, petition, intercede and give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and mercy. The Bible records the prayers of many of the saints which demonstrate its power and how it can change lives and even

nations. Moses prayed on behalf of the Israelites time and again; Jesus prayed for all sinners; Paul continually interceded for the churches. We, too, can learn from these examples so that prayer is not only a privilege but becomes an integral part of our spiritual lives. Hopefully, through these lessons, we can all come to lead a true life of prayer.

## SIX—BOOK SERIES

### *Student Spiritual Convocation*

#### **Book 1**

#### **A Life of Prayer**

#### Book 2

#### A Life of Love

#### Book 3

#### A Life of Servitude

#### Book 4

#### Living in the Words of God

#### Book 5

#### Living in Holiness

#### Book 6

#### Family Life

**All Bible quotations are in RSV.**

# Recommended Lessons for Each Level

## Elementary 2

1. Holy Spirit
2. Jesus Christ: A Man of Prayer
3. Prayer: The Breath of Our Spiritual Life

## Junior 1 & 2

1. Holy Spirit
2. The Lord's Prayer
3. Prayer: The Breath of Our Spiritual Life
4. Prayer With Understanding

## Senior

1. Holy Spirit
2. II Timothy
3. Prayer With Understanding
4. Prayer of the Saints

## A Word to the Instructors:

### LESSON PLANS

We recommend the above lessons for each respective class level. If you would like to use lessons other than those recommended, please make appropriate modifications when necessary.

### ASSIGNMENTS/QUIZZES

Please be reminded that the purpose of assignments and quizzes is NOT to keep your students busy. Rather, they serve as a tool to reinforce what you have taught them and a way to assess how much your students know about the subject. Therefore, be sure to give your students feedback, as soon as possible, on all the assignments and quizzes so that they may learn from their work.

### QUESTIONS

Questions are provided at the end of each lesson. These are divided into three levels of difficulty. Questions in Level 1 are informational and students can usually find the answers from reading the text. Questions in Level 2 require some explanation. Questions in Level 3 involve analysis, comparison, or application. Depending on the class level you are teaching, you may use any combination of questions from each difficulty level. We advise that you assign more Level 1 and 2 questions to Elementary 2 students and more Level 2 and 3 questions for older students.

Every lesson can be tailored to a specific class depending on how you mix and match the questions.

### GROUP DISCUSSION/ACTIVITY

We encourage the students to be involved in the class as much as possible through group discussions. If possible, you may ask other instructors or adult counselors to participate in the group discussions as well. Group reports or presentations can help your students remember the material better. At the same time, they provide opportunities to foster fellowship and cooperative learning.

If the group discussion or activity is not possible for any reason, you may modify it into an individual writing assignment.

## Basic Doctrine

# THE HOLY SPIRIT

## I. THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

### A. THE WORKS OF CREATION

1. During creation, the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters (Gen 1:2).
2. "When thou sendest forth thy Spirit, they are created;..." (Ps 104:30).
3. "By his Spirit (wind or breath) the heavens were made fair..." (Job 26:13).
4. "The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life" (Job 33:4).

## B. SUPERNATURAL ABILITIES IN MEN

1. Joseph: the ability to rule (Gen 41:38-41)
2. Joshua: the ability of leadership  
(Num 27:18-20; Dt 34:9; cf. Josh 4:14)
3. The seventy elders: to rule over Israel  
(Num 11:16, 17)
4. Bezalel and others: ability, intelligence,  
knowledge and craftsmanship  
(Ex 31:2-6; 35:30, 31)
5. Samson: extraordinary strength  
(Judg 14:6, 19; 15:14; 16:28-30)

## NOTES



6. Daniel: the gift to interpret dreams  
(Dan 4:8-10; 5:14; cf. Dan 1:17-20)

### C. PROPHETIC ABILITIES

1. David: to speak for God (1 Sam 16:13; 2 Sam 23:2; 1 Chr 28:12)
2. Azariah: to exhort King Asa (2 Chr 15:1-7)
3. Jahaziel: to foretell the victory of Judah to King Jehoshaphat (2 Chr 20:14-17)
4. Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada: to warn Joash (2 Chr 24:20)
5. Other references: Neh 9:30; Heb 1:1; Zech 7:12; 2 Pet 1:21

## II. THE PROMISED HOLY SPIRIT

### A. THE PROMISE FORETOLD

1. In the Old Testament
  - a. God would pour his Spirit upon the descendants of Israel (Is 44:3; 32:15).
  - b. God would pour his Spirit upon all the flesh (Joel 2:28, 29; cf. Ezek 11:29, 30; 36:26, 27).

## 2. The promise of Jesus Christ

- a. Those who believe in him would have the living water flowing from their innermost being (Jn 7:37-39).
- b. Jesus asked the Heavenly Father to send the Comforter (Counselor) to the disciples (Jn 14:16-18).
- c. Before his ascension, Jesus promised to empower the disciples with the Holy Spirit from the Heavenly Father (Lk 24:49). "...But before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 1:4, 5, 8).

## B. THE PROMISE FULFILLED

1. While Jesus was still in the world (Jn 7:37-39) and at the time of his ascension (Acts 1:4-5, 12, 14), the promise was not yet fulfilled.
2. The Holy Spirit was first given on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4, 16-18).
3. In the apostles' time, those who believed in Jesus and prayed for the Holy Spirit were given the Holy Spirit (cf. Lk 11:13).
  - a. The Samaritan believers (Acts 8:14-20)
  - b. The household of Cornelius (Acts 10:44-46; 11:15-17)
  - c. The believers at Ephesus (Acts 19:1-7)

### C. THE HOLY SPIRIT CEASES TO POUR DOWN

1. Prophecies concerning the fall of the early church and the termination of the Holy Spirit:

## NOTES



- a. Bad grapes abounded in the vineyard of God; therefore, God commanded the clouds not to give rain (Is 5:3-7).
- b. God refrained from giving rain to the wicked King Ahab and his people. This event prefigured how God would not give the Holy Spirit to a fallen church (1 Kgs 16:29-17:7).

## 2. Confirmation by history

- a. church history reveals that the church declined spiritually toward the end of the apostolic era.
- b. The Holy Spirit was completely severed from the churches around the third century (cf. Rev 2, 3; Gal 1:6-9; church history).

#### D. THE "EARLY AND LATTER RAIN"

1. "Rain" symbolizes the Holy Spirit. The two periods of rain in Palestine represent how the Holy Spirit would be given in two historical periods. The Holy Spirit in the early church is called the "early (autumn) rain," whereas the Holy Spirit given in the end-time is the "latter (spring) rain" (Jer 6:24; Dt 11:14).
2. Prophecies and promises
  - a. God would give the autumn and the spring rain (Joel 2:23).
  - b. God would give the timely rain: the autumn and the spring rain (Jer 5:24).
  - c. Farmers would harvest the precious crops if they waited patiently for the autumn and spring rains (Jas 5:7).

### 3. Fulfillment of the prophecies

- a. After a drought which lasted for three and a half years, rain resumed in the time of Elijah. This event typifies how the Holy Spirit would come again after a period of silence (1 Kgs 18).
- b. According to his promises and prophecies, the "latter rain" Holy Spirit has already come in the end-time. Those who believe in the name and salvation of Jesus Christ and ask for the Holy Spirit will receive it. God is reviving and expanding his church to the likeness of the early church by those who are filled with the Holy Spirit (Is 58:12; Amos 9:11; Zech 10:1). This church in the end-time is the true church, the body of Christ.
- c. The splendor and glory of the true church in the end-time will be greater than those of the former temple (Hag 2:9; Ezek 47:1-7).
- d. The church, which comes from the east, is sealed with the Holy Spirit and will spread the true Gospel throughout the world (Rev 7:2-4; 14:1-5; Mt 24:14).

### N O T E S



## III. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

### A. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT AND SALVATION

1. To enter the kingdom of God, we must be reborn by the Holy Spirit (Jn 3:5; Tit 3:5).
2. The Holy Spirit gives us eternal life (Rev 22:17; Jn 4:14; Ezek 37:14).
3. The Holy Spirit confirms that we are the children of God (Rom 8:15, 16; Gal 4:6, 7).
4. The Holy Spirit is the guarantee of the Heavenly Kingdom (Eph 1:13, 14; 2 Cor 1:20-22).

### B. THE WORKS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN A CHRISTIAN'S LIFE

1. Enables us to know the Lord Jesus (1 Cor 12:3; Acts 16:14; Mt 16:16, 17).
2. Convicts us of sins (Jn 16:7, 8; Acts 2:37).
3. Reveals the truth (Jn 16:12, 13; 1 Cor 2:11).
4. Prays for the saints (Rom 8:25, 27).
5. Gives strength and power (Acts 1:8; 13:9-12; Lk 24:49).
6. Helps us bear spiritual fruit (Gal 5:22, 23, Rev 22:1, 2).

7. Sanctifies the believers (Rom 15:16; 2 Thess 2:13).
8. Grants various spiritual gifts (1 Cor 12:4-11).
9. Governs the church (Acts 8:8, 29-35; 10:19-22; 13:2-4).
10. Unifies the believers (Eph 4:2-6; Acts 2:44-46).

## IV. RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

### A. THE MOVEMENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Being moved by the Holy Spirit differs from being baptized by the Holy Spirit. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the down pouring, immersion and indwelling of God's Spirit (Jn 14:16, 17). To be moved by the Holy Spirit is only temporary and is insufficient to save a person from his/her sins.
  - a. The Holy Spirit moved people to know Jesus (1 Cor 12:3).
  - b. The Holy Spirit moved Peter to recognize Jesus as the Christ (Mt 16:15-17).
  - c. The Holy Spirit inspired Lydia to understand the Gospel (Acts 16:14).
  - d. On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit spurred thousands of people to believe and repent (Acts 2:37-41).

## N O T E S

### B. THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Visible and audible manifestations (Acts 2:33)
  - a. To believe in the Lord Jesus and to receive the Holy Spirit are two separate occasions (Acts 19:1-7).
  - b. To be baptized and to receive the Holy Spirit are two separate occasions (Acts 8:15, 16).
  - c. A good, charitable person does not necessarily have the Holy Spirit. Example: Cornelius (Acts 10:2, 22, 44).
  - d. Being zealous is not necessarily an indication of having received the Holy Spirit. Example: Peter (Mt 19:27; Acts 1:13-15).
2. Evidenced By Speaking In Tongues
  - a. When the apostles received the Holy Spirit, they spoke in tongues (Acts 2:1-4).
  - b. Cornelius and his household spoke in tongues when they received the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:44-46; 11:15-18).
  - c. The brethren at Ephesus spoke in tongues as the apostles did (Acts 19:6, 7).
  - d. The members of the True Jesus church have received the Holy Spirit and it is manifested by speaking in tongues (Cf. Mk 16:17).
3. Bodily Movement
  - a. Some people ridiculed the receiving



of the Holy Spirit as drunkenness (Acts 2:23).

- b. Sometimes people ridiculed the manifestation or receiving the Holy Spirit as madness (1 Cor 14:33).
- c. The place where the believers gathered shook when they were filled with the Holy Spirit in prayers (Acts 4:31).

### C. SPEAKING IN SPIRITUAL TONGUES

1. Speaking in spiritual tongues is a sign, verifying that the believer has received the baptism of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 14:22).
2. Speaking in spiritual tongues is the utterance of the Holy Spirit. It is called "glossalalia" in Greek, meaning the vibration of the tongue when moved by the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4; 19:6).
3. The tongues are either words or monotones under the direction of the Holy Spirit. They are not comprehensible to people (1 Cor 14:2, 14, 16) unless God opens the ears of the listeners (Acts 2:5-11).
4. Spiritual tongues are not earthly languages (1 Cor 14:10, 11, 13).
5. There are two functions of speaking in tongues: **a)** to edify oneself (1 Cor 14:4) and **b)** to edify the congregation during an assembly, with interpretation of the tongue (1 Cor 14:5, 12, 26-28).

### N O T E S



6. Speaking in tongues during prayer for self-edification is a sign given to all believers who have received the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 14:22). However, speaking in tongues for the edification of the congregation is a spiritual gift that only a few possess (1 Cor 12:7-11).
7. Interpreting spiritual tongues is another spiritual gift that only a few believers are endowed with (1 Cor 12:10). Those who speak in tongues may interpret by him/herself, or by someone else who has the gift of interpreting spiritual tongues (1 Cor 12:30; 14:5, 13, 28).
8. Those who have received the Holy Spirit should pray in the Spirit at all times, so as to edify their spirituality and request more spiritual gifts (1 Cor 14:4, 18, 39, 40; 12:7-12).

### D. PRAYING FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Believe the Lord's promise (Jn 14:15-17; Acts 1:4,5).
2. Believe and follow the "gospel of salvation" (Eph 1:13; Acts 2:38, 39; 5:32).
3. Receive water baptism for the remission of sins (Acts 19:2-5; 2:38).
4. Spirit-filled ministers may help by laying of hands (Acts 8:14-17; 19:6).
5. Persevere in continuous and importunate prayers (Acts 1:14; Lk 11:5-13).



## V. DISTINGUISHING THE HOLY SPIRIT FROM THE EVIL SPIRITS

Do not believe all the spirits. We must pray to God for spiritual discernment (1 Jn 4:1; 1 Cor 12:10).

### A. MANIFESTATIONS OF RECEIVING THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Spiritual tongues flow from within, or the innermost part (Jn 7:38).
2. Spiritual songs are melodious and pleasing (Eph 5:19; Rev 19:2, 3).
3. Those filled the Holy Spirit are always subject to sensible actions, being conscious and having orderly body movement (1 Cor 14:32, 33, 39, 40).
4. Upon receiving the Holy Spirit, the believer's physical movement and voice often become tremendous. Additionally, he often experiences inner peace and joy (Rom 14:17).
5. With the fullness of the Holy Spirit, people naturally utter praise and thanksgiving to the Lord Jesus (Acts 10:46).
6. Those who have received the Holy Spirit often change their lives for the better. They have become new beings in Christ and bear all kinds of good fruit (1 Sam 10:6; Gal 5:22-23; Acts 2:44, 47).

## N O T E S

### B. MANIFESTATIONS OF RECEIVING EVIL SPIRITS

1. The demoniac may scream, behave violently or even hurt themselves (Mk 5:1-5).
2. Sometimes, they are "slain" or struck down by the evil spirit and lay on the floor. They become pale, their limbs turn cold and they foam at the mouth. Usually, those who are possessed "blank out" and are left in agony (Lk 9:39-42; Mk 5:1-5).
3. They often resist common sense and become rebellious (1 Cor 14:32-33).
4. They become proud and arrogant, claiming to be agents of God, some great saint or even Jesus himself (1 Tim 3:6).
5. Evil spirits use the possessed to spread heresies (false teachings) and cause division and confusion within the church (Gal 1:6-9; Rom 16:17-20; 2 Tim 2:17-18; Jude 19).

### C. WHEN SOMEONE IS POSSESSED BY EVIL SPIRITS, WE SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CAST THEM OUT IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST. ASK HIM OR HER TO STOP PRAYING. REBUKE HIM OR HER WITH THE WORDS GOD SO THAT HE OR SHE CAN REGAIN THEIR SENSE (LK 10:17; MK 1:25, 26).



**D. SATAN OFTEN DISGUISES HIMSELF AS AN ANGEL OF LIGHT AND TRIES TO CONFUSE THE TRUTH AND THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. WE SHOULD PRAY FOR THE GIFT OF SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT TO GUARD AGAINST THE DEVIL'S ATTACK.**

## VI. QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- 1a. List the three (3) ways the Holy Spirit worked in the Old Testament and provide an example for each.
- 1b. When were the prophecies concerning the first coming of the Holy Spirit finally fulfilled?
- 1c. What does the word "rain" symbolize?
- 1d. List five (5) ways the Holy Spirit works in a Christian's life.
- 2a. What is the relationship between the Holy Spirit and our salvation?
- 2b. What is the difference between receiving the Holy Spirit and just being moved by it?
- 2c. What are the evidence of having received the Holy Spirit?
- 2d. Explain the difference between the "early" and "latter rain". What is the significance of the "latter rain" for us?

## N O T E S



*Holy Spirit*

- 3a. What was God's purpose for sending his Spirit to certain people in the Old Testament period? Did it have anything to do with their salvation?
- 3b. Why did the Holy Spirit cease to come at the end of the apostolic era? What can we learn from this event?
- 3c. What is the significance of speaking in spiritual tongues?
- 3d. How can we distinguish whether someone has received the Holy Spirit or has been possessed?

## GROUP DISCUSSION/ACTIVITY

### PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT

Objective: to demonstrate the understanding of the doctrine of the baptism of the Holy Spirit through role-playing.

1. Write the following scenario onto index cards or write it on the board.

#### Person 1:

(non-TJC member) The prayer just now was really loud and it sounded kind of scary. Do you guys always pray like that?

#### Person 2: (TJC member):

Yes, we pray in tongue.

#### Person 1:

Why do you do that? What's wrong with just talking to God with regular English?

**Person 2:**

Continue this conversation...

- 2. Have each student pair up with a partner, preferably someone they haven't worked with very often.
- 3. Then ask each pair to role-play the situation that has been outlined. They can use their imagination but remind them to remember what they have learned. They will have 5 minutes. Also ask them to record any unanswered questions.
- 4. The instructor should walk around to monitor the conversations to ensure that they are on track and to provide assistance.
- 5. After the time is up, ask the students to gather together and debrief the activity. As a large group, brainstorm some answers they can provide to truth-seekers or friends in the future who may ask about speaking in tongues. Encourage all the students to participate.
- 6. Conclude and pray.

**N O T E S**



# Bible Character

# JESUS CHRIST

## A MAN OF PRAYER

**Since the beginning of his ministry,** the life of Jesus was filled with constant prayers. We can see the intimate relationship between the Heavenly Father and his Son as time and space did not constrain Jesus from praying. Now, let us learn from the prayers of Jesus at four different locations.

## I. JESUS PRAYED IN THE WILDERNESS

Entering into a place of peace and tranquility, Jesus constantly communed alone with God in secrecy (Ps 91:1; Is 30:15; 63:1, 5, 6).

**A. JESUS PRAYED BEFORE DAYBREAK (MK 1:35) AND HIS DESIRE RESULTED IN LESS SLEEP (PS 73:25).**

### B. AWAY FROM THE MULTITUDE (LK 5:15, 16)

1. He realized that glory and admiration from men was not beneficial (Prov 25:27; 28:21).
2. Prayers offered to God served as the real source of blessing and power.

### C. BEFORE THE TEMPTATION (MT 4:1-11)

1. It is a process of cultivation for workers of God to discipline their minds and offer long, fasting prayers (Dt 9:18).

## NOTES



2. Fasting and praying with the correct attitude enables a person to grow spiritually and to overcome the attacks and temptations of Satan (Lk 2:36, 37; Mt 17:19-21).

## II. JESUS PRAYED IN THE MOUNTAINS

We should uplift ourselves to a spiritual plateau, drawing closer to God (Ex 24:1, 2; Rev 8:3, 4) and transcend our focus from the world to enter the realm of the Spirit (Heb 3:1-3).

### A. BEFORE WALKING ON THE SEA

1. "Jesus went up on the mountain by himself to pray" till the fourth watch (Mt 14:22-24).
2. At the completion of a holy work, we need to withdraw ourselves and pray for the fullness of the Holy Spirit (1 Kgs 19:1-8).
3. It was after long prayer that Jesus gained such great power to walk on the sea (i.e. transcended the world) and to perform miracles (Mt 14:25, 34-36).

## B. ALL NIGHT LONG

1. "Jesus went out to the mountain to pray;

and all night He continued in prayer to God" (Lk 6:12-16).

2. When we face a major challenge in our life, we need to offer long prayers in order to clearly understand the will of God (Acts 22:17-21; Rom 12:2).

### C. ON THE MOUNT OF TRANSFIGURATION

1. "And as he was praying, the appearance of his countenance was altered" (Lk 9:28, 29).
2. Praying with a pure heart enables us to see the face of God (Mt 5:8; 2 Tim 2:20-23).
3. If we see the face of God often, we will naturally reflect God's holy character (Ex 34:29-35; 2 Cor 3:18).

### III. JESUS PRAYED AT GETHSEMANE (MT 26:36-44)

Jesus overcame the most painful moment in his life through the power of prayer.

#### A. THREE DEEP PRAYERS

1. The first time Jesus went to pray, he instructed his disciples to keep watch (Mt:35-39; 14:35-36; Lk 22:41-44).
2. After rebuking his disciples for falling asleep, Jesus prayed to the Father, asking that God's will be done (Mt 26:42).
3. In agony, Jesus prayed one last time

#### N O T E S

(Mt 26:44) before he was to be betrayed and taken away.

4. After the prayers, Jesus was willing to sacrifice himself for humanity's sins in order to fulfill the will of God (Mt 26:39, 42, 44).
5. He was determined to endure all sufferings for our sake (the most powerful spiritual weapon) (1 Pet 2:21; 3:18; 4:1,2); finally, he overcame the greatest battle between flesh and Spirit.

### IV. JESUS PRAYED ON THE CROSS (MT 27:45-50; LK 23:33-46)

Jesus continued praying till the very last moment of his life.

- A. "FATHER, FORGIVE THEM; FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO" (LK 23:34). THIS PRAYER DEMONSTRATED JESUS' GREAT LOVE AS HE PRAYED FOR THOSE WHO PERSECUTED HIM (MT 5:44-48).
- B. "ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?" (MT 27:46). JESUS HAD BORNE ALL THE SINS OF HUMANITY AND HE TASTED THE GREATEST PAIN AND AGONY BEFORE DYING ON THE CROSS (MT 25:30).
- C. "FATHER, INTO THY HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT!" (LK 23:46). WHEN THE WORK OF SALVATION WAS FINISHED, JESUS RETURNED TO GOD IN PEACE, SPOTLESS AND BLAMELESS (2 PET 3:14; REV 14:13; 2 TIM 4:18).



## V. "TEACH US HOW TO PRAY" (LK 11:1)

- A. WITH ALL SINCERITY, ENTER INTO THE INNER ROOM AND SHUT THE DOOR (MT 6:5-6)
- B. PRAY FIRST FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS (MT 6:31-33)
- C. PRAY, SEEK AND KNOCK ON THE DOOR (MT 7:7)
- D. PRAY WITH IMPORTUNITY (LK 11:8)
- E. NEVER BE DISCOURAGED (LK 18:1-8)
- F. PRAY WITH REPENTANCE AND HUMILITY (LK 18:9-14)
- G. THE LORD'S PRAYER (MT 6:9-13)
- H. PRAY WITH A PERFECT SUPPLICATION FOR OTHERS (JN 17:1-26)

## VI. QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- 1a. Why did Jesus often choose to pray by himself and away from the crowds?
- 1b. Why did Jesus choose to pray in the mountains?
- 1c. Look up the following references that point out other times in Jesus' life when he prayed. Write down a brief summary of each occasion and the reasons why he prayed: **Lk 3:21-22**      **Mt 4:1-2**  
**Lk 5:16**      **Lk 10:21**

## N O T E S



- 2a. Can you think of another person who prayed in the wilderness? What circumstance was he or she facing at the time? What was the outcome of the prayer?
- 2b. Can you think of another person who prayed in the mountains? What happened during that time?
- 2c. Who else was praying with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane? What was their attitude toward prayer at that time?
- 3a. Jesus prayed on the cross and cried out, "My God, my God, why has thou forsaken me?". What was so unique about this prayer as compared to his other prayers?
- 3b. We know that Jesus is God himself manifested in the flesh. Why then did Jesus have to pray since he was the almighty God?
- 3c. Look at section V "TEACH US HOW TO PRAY" and select one area in which you would like to improve on. Briefly describe why you chose it and how you plan to improve .
- 3d. Jesus taught us many things about how and when to pray with his examples. Discuss one of them and share how it also applies in your life.

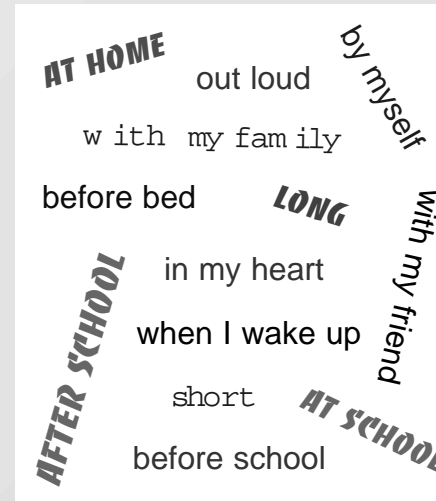
## GROUP DISCUSSION/ACTIVITY

### PRAYER POWER

Objective: to reflect on the students' praying habits and to prepare a plan to improve or maintain their relationship with Jesus through constant prayers.

1. Ask the students to think about each question truthfully and answer them honestly.
2. Have the students pair up (or in small groups, depending on the size) and share their responses with each other. In particular, for Question A, ask the students to think about excuses they may have given in the past about not being able to pray as often as they would like. An example would be "I have too much homework tonight". Do they pray because they "have to" or because they "want to"?
4. Ask each pair to think of one prayer "tip" to help someone maintain a praying schedule.
5. Gather all the students into the large group and discuss any issues. Also record all the prayer "tips" on the board. It is important to validate all their suggestions and to let them realize the power of prayer, even those of children and youths.
6. For the concluding prayer, ask the students to sit in a circle and hold hands. Each student is to think of a one-word prayer. An example would be saying "Thanks" or "Love". Give them each a minute to think of their word and then begin with the student to the teacher's right. When everyone has said their prayer word, the teacher should conclude with the word "Amen". If time permits, conclude with a longer prayer in Spirit.

#### A. How often do you pray other than at church or before meals? (Circle one)



- Never
- Rarely
- Once a month
- Once a week
- Several times a week
- Once a day
- Several times a day

#### B. Complete the following sentence: Usually I pray when...

#### C. The prayer of adults or ministers are more powerful and more important than the prayers of kids and youths (Circle one).

True

False

## Bible Study

# THE LORD'S PRAYER

### N O T E S

Although The Lord's Prayer is short, it is full of important truths and teachings. Please teach and learn it in depth and detail.

## I. "OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE THY NAME" (MT 6:9)

### A. "OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN" INDICATES THAT GOD IS NOT ONLY MAJESTIC AND HOLY BUT ALSO PERSONAL AND LOVING.

1. We pray to the Almighty
  - a. In fear (Ps 3:1-3)
  - b. In sorrow (Mt 26:37-39)
  - c. In tribulation (Ps 50:15)
2. God is our Father
  - a. He is almighty (Gen 17:1)
  - b. He is merciful (Ps 103:13)
  - c. He grants our requests (Lk 11:11-13)
3. Our heavenly home
  - a. Our life on earth is full of toil and trouble (Ps 90:10)
  - b. The home in heaven is more wonderful than the worldly one (Heb 11:13, 16)
  - c. Jesus has prepared a place with many rooms for us (Jn 14:2)



### B. "HALLOWED BY THY NAME" IS TO HONOR GOD'S HOLY NAME. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF WAYS TO HONOR HIM.

1. Worship no other gods (Ex 20:3-5).
  - a. Have courage even in the face of persecution (Dan 3:17, 18).
  - b. Do not worship men (1 Cor 3:4-7).
2. Do not take God's name in vain (Ex 20:7).
3. Do not blaspheme God's name (Rom 2:21-24).
4. Preach the gospel to the world.
  - a. Jesus commissioned us (Mk 14:15).
  - b. We are his witnesses (Lk 24:48).
  - c. Our good deeds can become a testimony to glorify God (Mt 5:16).

## II. "THY KINGDOM COME" (MT 6:10A)

### A. GOD'S SPIRITUAL REIGN

1. We do not control ourselves (Rom 7:18).
2. We were slaves to sin (Jn 8:34).



3. We find freedom in God (2 Cor 3:17).
4. We strive for the heavenly kingdom (Is 11:6-9).

## B. FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S KINGDOM

1. God's kingdom is present in our lives now within our hearts (Lk 17:21).
  - a. We have the presence of the Holy Spirit and its manifestation in miracles (Mt 12:28).
  - b. We need to complete our own spiritual cultivation (Rev 19:7, 8).
  - c. We should accomplish God's work entrusted to us (1 Cor 15:24).
2. God will establish a new heaven and earth (Rev 21:1)
  - a. Satan rules over our world now (Lk 4:5-7; Jn 14:30; 1 Jn 5:19).
  - b. Christ will rule the world (Rev 11:15; Ps 2:8; Mt 24:14).

## III. "THY WILL BE DONE" (MT 6:10B)

### A. GOD'S WILL IN HEAVEN WITHOUT HINDRANCE

1. Angels do God's will (Ps 103:19-21).
2. Those who do not follow God are cast out of heaven (Is 14:12-15; Ezek 28:12-17).

## N O T E S

## B. GOD'S WILL ON EARTH

1. Why do we obey his will?
  - a. We are servants of God (Lk 6:46).
  - b. Our relationship with God is that of a husband and wife (Eph 5:22-24).
  - c. We belong to him (1 Cor 6:19).
2. The Spirit of obedience
  - a. God is the king (1 Tim 6:15; Rev 15:3).
  - b. God's ways are not our ways (Is 55:8-9; Acts 8:5-17, 26).
  - c. We must conquer our weaknesses (Mt 26:39).
  - d. We need to be willing to give up our lives (Acts 21:10-14).
3. The outcome of obedience
  - a. We will receive blessing (Lk 11:27, 28).
  - b. We will have God's abidance in doing holy work (Jn 15:4; Acts 8:34-38).
  - c. We will be strengthened (Lk 22:42, 43; Gal 5:16).
  - d. We will receive the crown of life in the end (2 Tim 4:7-8).



1. He gave us life (Mt 6:25; Gen 1:11-13, 29).
2. He feeds even the birds and we are much more important than birds (Mt 6:26).
3. He provided for the Israelites in the wilderness (Ps 78:15, 16, 23-28).
4. He helped Elijah and the widow during a famine (1 Kgs 17:8-16).
5. God cares for his chosen ones (Jn 21:5, 6, 11).

1. Rely on God (1 Tim 6:17)
  - a. We depend on his power (Dt 8:17, 18).
  - b. We treasure the opportunities he gives us (Ecc 9:11; Gen 21:19).
  - c. We rely on God for our health (Rom 15:33; Dan 4:29-34).
2. Seek after God's kingdom and his righteousness (Mt 6:32, 33)
  - a. We must value the Word of God (Mt 4:4).
  - b. We must obey God's commands (Gen 26:1-3, 12, 13; Lk 5:4-7).

**V. "FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS AS WE ALSO HAVE FORGIVEN OUR DEBTORS" (MT 6:12; LK 11:4)**

1. All have sinned (1 Jn 1:8)
  - a. By disobeying the law (1 Jn 3:4; Jas 2:10, 11)
  - b. By showing favoritism (Jas 2:9)
  - c. By failing to do what is good (Jas 4:17)
2. Satan's accusation (Zech 3:1-5)
3. God's chastisement (Heb 12:10)

1. Conditions for forgiveness (Mt 6:14, 15; 18:21-35)
2. We must forgive others before we offer prayers to God (Mt 5:23, 24; Lam 3:40, 44)
3. How do we forgive others?
  - a. By understanding their ignorance (Lk 23:34)
  - b. By understanding their weaknesses (Lk 22: 31-34)
  - c. By being considerate (2 Sam 12:5, 6, 13; Lk 22:61, 62)



## VI. "LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL" (MT 6:13)

### A. TEMPTATION IS UNAVOIDABLE

1. The Lord was tempted often (Lk 4:13; Heb 4:15).
2. Because we live in this world (Jn 17:15).
3. The jealousy of Satan (Job 1:8-11, 2:3-5, 9).

### B. TYPES OF TEMPTATION (1 JN 2:16)

We face the same temptations as Adam and Eve did in the Garden of Eden.

1. Lust of the flesh
2. Lust of the eyes
3. Pride of life

### C. HOW DO WE OVERCOME TEMPTATION?

1. Know the truth (Eph 6:17; Ps 119:11)
2. Abide in God's will (Jas 4:7)
3. Be full of faith (Eph 6:16; 1 Jn 5:4)
4. Be filled with the Holy Spirit (Lk 4:1, 14)
5. Be watchful in prayer (Mt 26:41)

## N O T E S

## VII. QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- 1a. What are some of the ways to honor God and his holy name?
- 1b. Why do we obey God's will?
- 1c. When we choose to obey God's will, what are the results?
- 1d. How can we receive God's provision?
- 1e. We need forgiveness because we have sinned. How have we sinned?
- 2a. How is the kingdom of God both present in our lives now and also in the coming future?
- 2b. Look up a Biblical example of how God provides for our needs and briefly describe it.
- 2c. How can we forgive others who have hurt our feelings?
- 2d. Why is temptation unavoidable in this world?
- 2e. Find a Biblical example where God delivered someone from evil and briefly describe it.
- 3a. What power does the name of God possess?
- 3b. If God provides for all our needs, then why do we need to work or study?



- 3c. In your own words, define temptation.
- 3d. Give an example of each of the lusts in section VI under part B.
- 3e. Look up the story of Joseph when he worked for Potiphar (Gen 39:1-15). What was his reaction to temptation and what was his strategy to prevent sinning?

## GROUP DISCUSSION/ACTIVITY

## FIGHT TEMPTATION

Objective: to discuss and develop strategies to overcome temptations we face

1. Ask the students to pair up with someone they haven't worked with before.
2. Ask the partners to share some of their temptations in life.
3. Now ask a pair of students to join with another pair. They should share their ideas and thoughts with each other. Provide 10 minutes. When they have finished, ask them to come up with strategies for overcoming these temptations.
4. Now gather all the students into a large group. Have one person from each group of four list some of their strategies for overcoming temptations. Also discuss any issues that remain unanswered. Encourage



## NOTES

### *The Lord's Prayer*

the students to be frank about what they face each day. It will allow them to feel less isolated in their trials as a Christian.

5. Conclude with a prayer and ensure everyone recites the Lord's Prayer!

N O T E S



## I. BACKGROUND

### A. THE FORM OF PAULINE EPISTLES

1. Opening (sender, addressee, greeting/salutation)
2. Thanksgiving or blessing (often with intercession and/or eschatological<sup>1</sup> climax)
3. Body (introductory formula; often having an eschatological<sup>1</sup> conclusion and/or an indication of future plans)
4. Exhortations<sup>2</sup>
5. Closing (formulaic benedictions<sup>3</sup> and greetings; sometimes mention of writing process)

The letter form written by Paul was richer than all other letters in the New Testament. Paul's letters dealt with the complex relationship between the Christian church members on their new understanding of life and religion. Paul sought to bring his readers into a fuller experience of their new religion. His goal was to move the believers to new heights of responsive action. The letters incorporated elements of ongoing church life, such as liturgical<sup>4</sup> materials, sacred traditions as well as legal and moral guidelines.



## N O T E S

### B. PAUL AND TIMOTHY

1. A native of Lystra, Timothy was the son of a mixed marriage between a Jewish woman named Eunice and a heathen. Though young, he was well spoken of by the brethren at Lystra and Iconium (Acts 16:1-2; cf. 2 Tim 1:5; 1 Tim 4:12-16).
2. Timothy as Paul's emissary<sup>5</sup>
  - a. To Thessalonica to encourage the congregation under persecution (1 Thess 3:1-6; Acts 17:1-15).
  - b. To Corinth to confirm the faith of the members there (1 Cor 4:17).
  - c. Timothy's name appears with Paul's name in the salutations of seven epistles (2 Cor 1:1; Phil 1:1; Col 1:1; 1 Thess 1:1; 2 Thess 1:1; Phm 1:1; Rom 16:21).

### C. THE PURPOSE OF II TIMOTHY

This is a sincere pastoral epistle from a veteran missionary to a young colleague. In this epistle, Paul exhorts Timothy to endure as a preacher of the gospel and urges him to rekindle the gift of God within him. Timothy is not to be ashamed of witnessing for the Lord and is to take his share of suffering as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. As he encounters false teachings, he must endeavor to be a sound workman, handling the Word rightly.

### Bible Study

Paul further instructs Timothy to purify himself from what is ignoble, so as to be a vessel fit for the Master's use. Serving as Timothy's best example, Paul is now at the end of his career and awaits the crown of righteousness. Paul's farewell words are a moving testimony of Christian perseverance and hope in the face of certain martyrdom.

## II. GREETINGS (1:1-5)

### A. SALUTATION (1:1-2)

1. Paul's apostleship: through the will of God, with the promise of life in Christ Jesus.
2. Timothy as his beloved child

### B. THANKSGIVING (1:3-5)

1. Serving God with a clear conscience (Acts 24:16; 20:17-35; Rom 9:1-3)
2. Affection between Paul and Timothy
  - a. Remembering Timothy in prayer
  - b. Eager to see him with joy
3. Faith in Timothy's family (Dt 6:4-9; Ps 78:1-7)

## N O T E S

## III. FOUNDATIONS OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE (1:6-2:26)

### A. EXHORTATIONS (1:6-7)

1. Paul urges Timothy to rekindle the gift of God and use his gifts with boldness
  - a. Throughout the letter, Timothy is exhorted to have courage and endurance with the help of the Holy Spirit (Ref.: 1 Kgs 19:1-18).
  - b. The characteristics of the Holy Spirit are power, love, self-control/temperance (Gal 5:22-23; Mt 12:18-21; Acts 6:8-15, 7:59-60).

### B. SUFFERING FOR THE GOSPEL (1:8-2:13)

1. The "Gospel" (1:8-10) is:
  - a. A holy calling: God's purpose and grace (ages ago)
  - b. The message of salvation: the appearance of Jesus Christ who abolished death and brought life and immortality to us today.
2. Paul's personal encouragement (1:11-14)
  - a. Paul as the bearer of the gospel
  - b. The cost/reward and suffering/hope of discipleship
  - c. Follow the pattern of sound words in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.
  - d. Guard the truth by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us.



3. Paul's references to apostasy<sup>6</sup> (1:15–18).

- a. Believers in Asia, including Phygelus and Hermogenes, had deserted Paul and the faith.
- b. Onesiphorus was a positive example given to contrast those who opposed Paul's ministry.

4. Timothy should pass the faith on to others (2:1–7)

- a. The introduction comprises an exhortation that Timothy himself must become strong and he must pass on the tradition which he has received from Paul.
- b. When doing God's holy work the theme is total commitment and the vision is the hope of harvest. We should constantly reflect upon ourselves and the Lord will grant understanding (2:3–7).
- c. Paul makes reference to three metaphorical sayings (Ref.: 1 Cor 9:7) when illustrating a holy worker. We should be like a soldier who has no entanglement with everyday affairs but endures rigorous discipline. Secondly, he refers to an athlete who trains hard and competes according to the rules. Lastly, we should be like a farmer who completes the work.

5. Paul suffered for the gospel and endured everything for the sake of the elect (2:8–10).

N O T E S



6. A hymn confirming the promise of salvation (2:11–13; Rom 6:8).

If we have died—we shall live (Rom 6:8).

If we endure—we shall reign (Mt 24:13).

If we deny him—he will deny us  
(Mt 10:24–33).

If we are faithless—he remains faithful  
(to the covenant).

**C. KEEPING THE SOUND DOCTRINE  
(2:14–26)**

1. An approved workman rightly handling the word of truth (2:14–19)

- a. Avoid disputing about words and godless chatter.
- b. Stand firm for “the Lord knows those who are his.”

2. Purify ourselves from what is ignoble, be a vessel for the use of the Master (2:20–23).

- a. Purification—consecrated and useful...ready for every good work (Rom 6:12–13; 1 Cor 12:22–23).
- b. Shun youthful passions and aim for righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call upon the Lord from a pure heart (1 Tim 4:12–16).

3. Be a good teacher, forbearing, correcting those in opposition with gentleness (2:24–26).



## IV. GODLESSNESS IN THE LAST DAYS (3:1-4:8)

### A. FALSE DOCTRINES AND HERESIES (3:1-9)

1. The list of vices in the last days (3:1-5)
2. Heretics are specifically reproached as the ones who hold "the form of religion but deny the power of it" (3:5-6).
3. According to Jewish tradition, Jannes and Jambres were the magicians who argued against Moses before Pharaoh (Ex 7:11). But Moses defeated them, just as God will overthrow false teachers.

### B. FURTHER ENCOURAGEMENT FOR TIMOTHY IN TIMES OF PERSECUTION (3:10-4:8)

1. The sufferings of Paul as an example (3:10-12)
  - a. The integrity and uprightness in Paul's life (3:10).
  - b. The sufferings of Paul and the deliverance of the Lord (3:11).
2. The Scriptures—the foundation of Christian faith (3:13-17)
  - a. Sacred writings are all inspired by God.
  - b. It is useful for teaching and training in righteousness.

## N O T E S

3. Be a faithful minister in all circumstances (4:1-5)
  - a. Proclaim the message.
  - b. Be persistent.
  - c. Convince, rebuke and encourage with patience.
4. Solemn yet triumphant reflections of Paul's life (4:6-8).
  - a. "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." (4:7)
  - b. "Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing." (4:8)

## V. CONCLUSION (4:8-22)

- A. DESCRIPTION OF PAUL'S SITUATION (4:9-12)-HE IS ALONE WITH LUKE BECAUSE PAUL HAS EITHER SENT PEOPLE AWAY TO WORK OR THEY HAVE DESERTED HIM.
- B. INSTRUCTIONS FOR TIMOTHY TO BE CAREFUL (4:13-15).
- C. PAUL AFFIRMS HIS BELIEF IN THE PROTECTION AND LOVE OF CHRIST (4:16-18).
- D. GREETINGS AND VALEDICTION(4:19-22)



## VI. VOCABULARY

1. **Eschatology:** doctrines concerning the end of the world
2. **Exhortation:** words of encouragement
3. **Benediction:** blessing
4. **Liturgy:** an appointed form for the ceremonies of public worship
5. **Emissary:** person sent on a mission
6. **Apostasy:** abandonment of one's faith

## VII. QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- 1a. What was the relationship like between Paul and Timothy?
- 1b. List five (5) of the vices in the last days mentioned in 2 Timothy 3:1-5.
- 1c. What does Paul say about the importance of the Scriptures when it comes to our faith?
- 2a. Pick three (3) of the following and answer the question: What are Paul's views on these subjects?

\* **The Holy Spirit**

\* **Jesus Christ**

\* **Being a worker of God**

## N O T E S



\* **The end time**

\* **Godliness**

- 2b. How can we be a vessel for God?
- 2c. Find three (3) verses in 2 Timothy where Paul encourages Timothy to be strong. What does each point to as the source of strength?
- 3a. In verses 2:3-7, Paul used three metaphors or comparisons to describe the spirit of working for God. State the similarities these roles possess. How is suffering related to each of these comparisons?
- 3b. What kinds of persecution or sufferings might we face today?
- 3c. Paul declared to Timothy, "I know whom I have believed" (2 Tim 1:12). It was because of whom he believed that he was willing to work hard, suffer and even give up his life. Do you know whom you have believed? Describe in detail why you believe in him.

## GROUP DISCUSSION/ACTIVITY

### SOLDIERS OF CHRIST

Objective: to identify persecutions that we might face today and discuss strategies that we can use to combat them, remaining firm in our faith

1. As a large group, brainstorm the types of persecutions Christians face today. Are there any similarities or differences compared with the ones the apostles faced during their time?

*Bible Study*

2. After the discussion, ask them to gather into groups of 3 or 4.
3. They have 15 minutes to create a skit of one of the situations. They may also choose to come up with their own. The skit should be short, a few minutes long at the most. It should include the persecution the Christian faces and how he or she overcomes or deals with the situation. Encourage them to be creative but appropriate.
4. The instructor should walk around and offer assistance as needed. Ensure that they are on track.
5. Each group will then have an opportunity to perform their skit. After each skit, discuss any remaining issues or questions the students might have.
6. Conclude and pray.

**N O T E S**



### “LORD, TEACH US HOW TO PRAY.” (LK 11:1)

- To pray is to talk with God on behalf of ourselves, our church, and others. Its value surpasses all things in the world.
- Prayer is the first and the greatest work in the kingdom of God (Acts 6:2-4). The power generated from prayer is immeasurable.
- Prayer yields excellent spirituality (Dan 5:11, 12), establishes the church (Acts 1:3-5, 8, 14), and allows the kingdom of heaven to form on earth (Acts 2:46, 47).
- Christians who are weak in their life of prayer cannot please God, nor will they have the wisdom and strength to serve him.
- Let us continue to learn how to lead a life of prayer.

## I. THE PURPOSES OF PRAYER

### A. FOR OURSELVES

1. We can confess and repent of wrongdoing (Is 59:1, 2; Hos 5:15). We should make the determination to change, renew our covenant with God and

### N O T E S



improve our relationship with him  
(Jon 2:6-9; 3:5-10)

2. We are able to commune with God in the Spirit (1 Cor 14:2)
  - a. Seek after the fullness of the Holy Spirit (Jude 20; Eph 5:18).
  - b. Increase in spiritual wisdom (Acts 6:3, 10).
  - c. Understand God's will and its mysteries (Col 1:9, 10; Eph 3:1-6).
  - d. Press on to acknowledge and truly know him (Hos 6:3; Eph 1:17-19).
  - e. Reflect on the characteristics of God which are honesty, holiness, humility, gentleness, uprightness, righteousness, love and kindness (Ex 34:28, 29; Lk 9:28, 29; 2 Cor 3:17, 18).
  - f. Daniel communed with God daily in prayers (Dan 6:10; 5:10-12).
3. We can exercise spiritual discipline and subdue the flesh to edify the spirituality (1 Cor 14:4; 9:27)
  - a. Nail to the cross the lust of the flesh (Rom 8:13, 26, 27; Gal 5:16-21, 24; Lk 2:36-38).
  - b. Keep the heart in purity; prepare to serve the Lord in order to shoulder greater responsibilities (2 Tim 2:20-22).

- c. Strengthen the faith and spiritual power so as to overcome temptation and sin (Eph 3:16; Heb 12:4; Jas 4:7; Rev 3:4-5).
4. We are able to drink of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12:13) and bear all kinds of spiritual fruit (Gal 5:22, 23; Rev 22:1, 2).
5. We can obtain more blessings from God (1 Cor 12:4-11, 31; 14:1)
  - a. Preach the gospel and save souls (Acts 8:5-13).
  - b. Peter—this “fisher of men” was filled with spiritual gifts (Acts 2:37, 38, 41; 5:12-16; 9:32-42; 10:44-48).
  - c. Apollos—a man full of eloquence and spiritual knowledge; edified the church (Acts 18:24-28; 1 Cor 3:6).
  - d. Elijah—a mighty prophet who revived the faith of the Israelites (1 Kgs 18:30-39).
6. We need to pray for our own well-being
  - a. Health (2 Cor 12:7-8)
  - b. Education (Dan 1:17; Acts 7:22)
  - c. Career (Ps 37:5; 1 Sam 2:7,8)
  - d. Marriage (Mk 10:9; Gen 24:1-4, 12-14; 2 Cor 6:14)
  - e. Future (Jas 4:13-15; Prov 3:5-7)
  - f. All things throughout life (Ps 31:15; Phil 4:6, 7)

## N O T E S

7. We can give thanks to God (Col 4:2; Phil 4:6; Eph 5:20; Ps 95:2, 100:4).

## B. FOR THE CHURCH

1. Pray for the workers of God (1 Cor 1:11; 1 Thess 5:25)
  - a. To increase in wisdom and eloquence (Eph 6:19, 20; Col 4:2-4).
  - b. To have courage, boldness, and power (Acts 4:29-31; 8:5-13).
  - c. For the Holy Spirit to work with them and give them all kinds of gifts to edify the church (Acts 8:14-17).
  - d. To ask God to choose more workers (Mt 9:38)
2. Pray for the prosperity and growth of the church (Ps 122:6-9)
  - a. That the door of evangelism may be opened widely (Acts 2:47), that many souls will be saved (Mt 4:19).
  - b. That the Holy Spirit will work, performing miracles, casting out demons, revealing visions, and pouring down the Holy Spirit on many people, revealing all kinds of grace (Acts 5:12-16).
  - c. That the love of Christ fills the whole church and forms a big family of love (Rom 5:5, 1 Jn 4:11, 12).
  - d. That all the members of the church have one mind, one heart, working in unity (Jn 17:11, 20-23; Phil 1:3-6, 27).



### C. FOR OTHERS

1. The sick, the afflicted, and the troubled (Jas 5:15, 16, 19, 20)
2. The spiritually weak (Rom 15:1; Gal 6:1, 2)
3. The sinners (Ex 32:30-32; Dt 9:18-20; Job 42:8-10)
4. The salvation of souls (Gen 18:20-33; 19:29; Rom 9:1-3; 1 Tim 2:1-4)

## II. THE ACTUAL PRACTICE OF PRAYER

### A. WORDS IN PRAYER

1. Begin with "In the name of Jesus Christ" (Jn 14:13; 15:16; Eph 5:20; Col 3:17).
2. Hallelujah (Hebrew)—means "praise the Lord" (Rev 19:1, 3, 4-6; Ps 150:1, 6).
3. Prayer of understanding—using understandable language (Mt 6:9-15; Lk 22:42; Jn 17; Acts 4:24-30; 1 Cor 14:15).
4. Prayer with spiritual tongues—a strange utterance of tongue given by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 14:2, 4, 14, 15; Rom 8:26, 27).
5. Silent prayer (1 Sam 1:13; Neh 2:4).

### N O T E S



### B. POSTURES IN PRAYER

1. Kneeling down (Dan 6:10; Lk 22:41; Acts 20:36; Phil 2:9-10)
2. Prostrating (Num 16:22; Dt 9:18, 25; Rev 4:9, 10)
3. Standing (Ps 135:2; Mk 11:25)

### C. TIME OF PRAYER

1. At dawn (Mk 1:35; Ps 5:3; 88:13)
2. In the morning (Acts 2:1-4, 15)
3. At noon (Ps 55:17; Acts 10:9)
4. In the afternoon (Acts 3:1; 10:3, 30)
5. At night (Ps 77:2; Mt 14:23)
6. Before meals (Mt 14:19; Lk 24:30)
7. Before, during, or after work (Mt 4:1; Lk 5:15, 16; Mt 14:13, 23)
8. Any time (Eph 5:18; 1 Thess 5:17)

### D. PLACES OF PRAYER

1. The holy temple (church) (Is 56:7; Mt 21:12, 13)
2. The inner room at home (Mt 6:6; Acts 9:39, 40)

3. In the wilderness (Mk 1:35; Lk 5:16)

4. Anywhere (1 Tim 2:8; Jn 4:21-23)

#### E. THE PRAYER THAT GOD LISTENS TO AND REMEMBERS

1. Genuine prayer (Mt 6:5-8; 16-18)—We should pray sincerely to God in Spirit and in truth (Jn 4:21-23), not superficially or with the intention to show others (Lk 20:45-47).

2. Prayer offered with humility (Ps 10:17; Jas 4:6; Mt 5:3)—We should confess our sins and realize own weakness, unworthiness, inadequacy and incapability (2 Chr 20:3, 4; Dan 9:20; Lk 18:9-14).

3. Repentant prayer (Ps 51:17; Is 57:15; 59:1, 2)—We should pray with a contrite heart and with a determination to change (Jer 50:4, 5; Jon 2:6-9).

4. Prayer issued from a pure heart (Mt 5:8; 2 Tim 1:3; 2:22)—We need to purify the heart, preparing it to be the dwelling place for the Holy Spirit (Ps 73:1; Jer 4:3, 4, 14; 1 Cor 3:16, 17; Jas 4:8).

5. Prayer with singleness of mind

- Shut the door of the heart and separate ourselves from the world.
- Think only of the things we are praying for (Dan 6:10).
- Focus the mind on God only, center all the attention on Jesus and his love (Ex 24:15-18).

#### N O T E S

6. Prayer of faith (Heb 11:6; Mt 21:22)—We should pray with a simple heart and trust in all the promises, power and love of God (Rom 4:20, 21; Mk 5:25-34).

7. Prayer of pouring out the soul (1 Sam 1:15; Ps 62:8)—We need to cast all worries, burdens and requests upon God (Phil 4:6, 7; 1 Pet 5:7).

8. Earnest prayer (Dan 6:11; Jas 5:17)—We should pray with importunity, sweat, and tears (Lk 11:8; 22:44; Heb 5:7).

9. Pray unceasingly (Acts 1:14)

- Pray with a great fighting spirit; never being discouraged or losing heart (Lk 18:1-8; Is 42:4).
- Wait upon the Lord patiently (Ps 27:7; Ecc 3:1, 11:3).

10. Prayer of a longing and thirsty heart (Mt 5:6)

- Pray with the desire to reach the highest point (Ps 42:1-3; Jn 7:37-39).
- Pursue with all the heart for the blessings and grace of God (Gen 32:24-26; Hos 12:4, 5; Mal 1:2).

11. Believers should have good deeds and excellent character (Acts 10:2-4). God does not only want to listen to a good prayer. He searches the person's daily life to see whether he is holy and obedient to the Words of God (2 Kgs 20:1-7; 2 Chr 31:20, 21).



## 12. Pray according to the will of God (1 Jn 5:14, 15)

- a. Be determined to lay aside our own plan and let the Holy Spirit intercede for us and reveal the will of God (Rom 8:26, 27; Col 1:9, 10).
- b. Do not follow the desires of the flesh but only obey the will of God (Mt 16:21-23; 26:36-44).

## 13. Fasting prayer

- a. The Lord Jesus fasted for forty days and nights before he overcame Satan (Mt 4:1-11).
- b. Moses fasted for forty days and nights and his face reflected the glory of God (Ex 34:28, 29).
- c. The whole city of Nineveh fasted and repented before God. Therefore, God changed his mind and spared their lives (Jon 3:4-10).
- d. Esther and all the Jews in the city fasted three days and nights and God delivered them (Est 4:16).
- e. Fast and pray for the growth of our spirituality (Lk 2:37).
- f. Fast and pray for the spiritual power of healing and casting out demons (Mt 17:19-21).

## 14. Deep and long prayers

- a. Jesus prayed until the fourth watch (Mt 14:22-25).
- b. Jesus prayed all night (Lk 6:12, 13).

## N O T E S



## III. QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- 1a. Provide 5 purposes or reasons why we need to pray for ourselves.
- 1b. When we pray for the workers of God, what can we ask for in our prayers to help them?
- 1c. How should we always begin our prayers?
- 1d. Is kneeling down the only acceptable way to pray to God?
- 1e. When and where can we pray?
- 2a. Why do we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit when we pray?
- 2b. How does praying help keep our hearts pure?
- 2c. How can we pray for the salvation of others, especially if we don't know who they are?
- 2d. How can we pray according to the will of God?
- 2e. Find an example in the Bible when God answered a prayer. Why do you think God answered that person's prayer?
- 3a. Some church members seem to find joy in constant prayer while others regard prayer as a chore. Why do you think people react so differently toward prayer?



- 3b. Do you have a clear purpose each time you pray? Why or why not?
- 3c. What kind of attitude should someone have when fasting and praying?
- 3d. Why do most people feel closer to God in their prayers during Spiritual Convocations?
- 3e. Do you feel God listens to your prayers? Why or why not? Are you satisfied with your life of prayer? Is there anything you want to improve or focus on the next time you pray?

## GROUP DISCUSSION/ACTIVITY

DEAR \_\_\_\_\_ ,

Objective: to apply what the students have learned about prayer by giving sound advice to someone who thinks God is not listening to his prayer

1. Ask the students to get into pairs or groups of three (3).
2. Give them five (5) minutes to read through the first letter. It is a letter that is addressed to them (so they can fill in their names in the blank) from someone who is having doubt about whether God listens to his prayers or not.
3. After reading the letter through, discuss as a large group what was appropriate and also what was incorrect about Lucas' prayers to God.

## N O T E S

4. Then, ask the students to help Lucas by responding to his letter and giving him some helpful advice on how to pray to God. A letter has been started for them.
5. Have each group share their letter with another group and discuss any similarities or differences.
6. As the whole class, discuss any other questions that remain.
7. Individually, ask the students to complete their own prayer. Ask them to complete the unfinished prayer. Encourage them to continue to pray to God about anything and know that they can trust him to take care of everything.
8. Conclude and pray.



Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I am ready to QUIT. Prayer just doesn't work. A few months ago, my dad got a big promotion at work. But the new work place is in a totally different city. I don't want to move. I mean, I have my friends here and besides, it would mean that we would have to change churches. I am in the choir and I really like the Saturday classes. And I know that Mom doesn't really want to move.

So anyway, I prayed to God about it EVERY DAY! I promised him that I'd do all kinds of extra chores if we could just stay here. I even said that I wouldn't ever miss a church service ever again. I told God how I really felt, you know, that I am really happy here and how scared I am about moving to a new place. I begged God in my prayers to let us stay here, somehow. But it didn't work. God didn't even listen. How could he let us move? It's just not fair.

Love,

Lucas

A letter  
addressed  
to you

Your  
response

Dear Lucas,

Leaving your friends and moving to a new place will be hard. God didn't promise that things would always work out the way we want them to. But he did promise that he would always... (complete the sentence or paragraph)

Keep praying to God. He always listens. This time in your prayer, you might want to... (complete the sentence or paragraph)

Love,

\_\_\_\_\_

Dear God,

I am still waiting for you to answer my prayer about...

**(complete the sentence or paragraph)**

**Finish  
this  
prayer**

I pray that you will... (complete the sentence or paragraph)

Please let your will be done. In Jesus' name I pray,  
Amen.

## NOTES

- 

.....

.....

.....

5. Jesus offered prayers before his arrest (Jn 17).
6. The apostles praised and thanked God (Acts 4:23-31).

A prayer must have a theme so that the request will have a direction (Jn 17:17; Acts 4:30).

To let the congregation declare, in one accord,  
the abundant grace of God and to be resolved in  
one mind, one heart, and one faith among the  
congregation.

In addition to the prerequisite of one's faith in God, the following are principles to serve as a guide and to motivate members to appreciate the splendor of God.

1. Confess that God
  - a. is self-existing, eternal, who was, is, and will always be the only true God;

- b. is the controller of heaven and earth and the Creator of all things in the universe;
  - c. is merciful, just, and detests evil.
2. Confess that Jesus
  - a. is God, the “Word which became living flesh”;
  - b. sacrificed himself on the cross, resurrected on the third day, ascended to heaven, completed his work of salvation for mankind;
  - c. is interceding for us on the right side of God.
3. Confess that the Spirit
  - a. is God, the “Counselor” promised by Jesus;
  - b. descended on the day of Pentecost, and established the apostolic church;
  - c. would descend the second time to establish the true church before the end of time;
  - d. will live in our hearts, guiding us to believe, to know, and to fear the Lord;
  - e. will comfort us in trials and strengthen us when we are weak;
  - f. will give us power and wisdom;
  - g. serves as a guarantee of the inheritance of the heavenly kingdom.
4. Confess that the Bible
  - a. is the Truth inspired by God;

## N O T E S

- b. is the gospel of salvation;
- c. is the everlasting Word which never changes.

### III. EXAMPLES OF PRAYERS OF UNDERSTANDING

#### EXAMPLE 1:

#### GRACE BEFORE A MEAL AT CHURCH

##### Theme:

Remembering God’s blessings

##### Objective:

To remind everyone of the wonderful grace we have received from God, both materially and spiritually, and to offer our thanksgiving before partaking his blessings.

*In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray:*

*Our dear Father, we thank you for gathering us here today to nurture our spiritual lives and to have fellowship in love. May we remember that you have created all things on this earth: the sun for warmth, water for drink, plants for food, parents for love, and so many other things that we take for granted. There are people who are homeless, orphaned, hungry and oppressed; yet we complain that we do not have enough. There are people who are ignorant about the Truth, deceived and blinded by the world; yet we shy away from opportunities to share your grace.*

*We never show our gratitude to you. Please forgive your faithless children and let us learn how to love you more with a pure and simple heart. Please bless this food and let us receive it with gratitude.*

*Thank you, Lord Jesus. Amen.*



## EXAMPLE 2:

### PRAYER BEFORE AN E1 CLASS BEGINS

#### Theme:

The faith of Abraham

#### Objective:

To let the students agree concurrently with the importance of faith, and to ask the Lord to increase everyone's faith.

*In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray:*

*Merciful heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for bringing your children here to learn about your words. A long time ago, you set Abraham apart from among all the other people because Abraham believed in your words. He had faith in what you said to him even though it seemed impossible to others. And because Abraham believed with a simple faith, you gave Isaac to him when he was 100 years old. Today, you have set us apart from the world and made us as your chosen people. Therefore, we also want to have the same kind of simple faith as Abraham. Our Father, please increase our faith. We know that when we put our trust in your words, you will surely give us what you have promised to us.*

*Thank you for listening to our prayer. Amen.*

## EXAMPLE 3:

### PRAYER BEFORE A CAMPUS FELLOWSHIP

#### Theme:

To practice the love of Christ

#### Objective:

To indicate the purpose of the fellowship and the importance of building the body of Christ in love.

## N O T E S



*In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray:*

*Dear Lord, how wonderful it is to come together in your Name. Through your suffering and your death, we are made one in body and in spirit. You did not keep your love from us but poured it out abundantly. We have done nothing to deserve your grace and mercy; we are unworthy servants. You instructed us to love others as you have loved us, yet we often forget to give and only ask to receive. So, starting from today, may we think less of ourselves and more about our brethren. May others be able to tell that we are your disciples by our love for one another.*

*Our Lord Jesus, please bless this campus fellowship. Let us grow not only in the knowledge of you, but in the sharing of your love. Fill our hearts with your abundant love so that we can truly feel the oneness of God's family.*

*Thank you, Jesus. Amen.*

## IV. QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- 1a. Explain the difference between a prayer in Spirit and a prayer in understanding.
- 1b. How should a prayer of understanding always begin and end?
- 1c. When are some occasions when a prayer of understanding may be used?

- 2a. Look up one of the examples of prayers of understanding in the Bible and briefly describe what it includes.
- 2b. What are the important elements of a prayer of understanding?
- 2c. Pick one of the examples of a prayer of understanding provided in section III. Would you change or add anything to it? Why or why not?
- 3a. Why are understandings about the nature of God, Jesus, the Spirit and the Bible so important to our faith? What significance does each hold for us and our beliefs?

## GROUP DISCUSSION/ACTIVITY

### MY PRAYER

Objective: to help students plan and prepare a prayer of understanding

#### ASSIGNMENT:

1. Ask the students as a large group to brainstorm and think about occasions where they may have to say a prayer of understanding. Some of the possible occasions may be: grace before a meal, before a campus fellowship, before a Bible study group, or before a RE class.
2. Then ask the students to pair up and choose one occasion in which they may be asked to say a prayer.

## N O T E S

3. Give them fifteen (15) minutes to write and rehearse their prayer.
4. Then ask each pair of students to get together with another pair. They will then form different pairings with a new partner from the other group, with each student reciting their prayer to one another. Remind them that when presenting their prayer, they should avoid reading from their paper or totally memorizing it. Rather they should be as natural as possible. Remember that it is a prayer to God.
5. After they have each shared their prayers, gather all the students back together into the large group. If anyone would like to share their prayer because it was a very good example, allow time for that. Also discuss any questions that might remain unanswered and openly talk about how the experience felt to them. Hopefully, they will all become more confident in themselves.
6. Conclude and pray.



## I. ABRAHAM

1. Building an altar was a way to worship and seek after the Lord.
2. Abraham built altars wherever he went, and in doing so, God protected him and blessed him throughout his life (1 Tim 2:8; 1 Thess 5:17-18).
  - a. In Shechem, by the terebinth tree (Gen 12:6-7)
  - b. In a place between Bethel and Ai (12:8)
  - c. In Hebron, by the terebinth tree (13:18)

## NOTES



1. Abraham's good examples of prayer influenced his household (Gen 18:19).
2. The old servant was entrusted with the task of finding a bride for Isaac, praying as he went (Gen 24:11-14, 26-27, 50-52).



3. We should also set a good example, and guide our family to learn to trust in God and pray to him often (Phil 4:6-7; Ref. Job 1:5).

## II. ISAAC

**A. AS A YOUTH, ISAAC LEARNED FROM HIS FATHER, ABRAHAM, HOW TO BUILD ALTARS TO WORSHIP THE TRUE GOD (REF. GEN 22:7). IN FACT, HE CARRIED THE WOOD AND WENT WITH HIS FATHER UP TO MOUNT MORIAH AND WAS WILLING TO BE OFFERED AS A SACRIFICE (GEN 22:9-10), MARKING THE EVENT AS "THE LORD WILL PROVIDE" (GEN 22:14).**

**B. INTERCEDING FOR HIS WIFE (GEN 25:21-26)**

1. Isaac prayed to God on behalf of his wife's barrenness and the Lord granted his prayer.
2. Children are an inheritance from God (Ps 127:3; 1 Sam 1:10-11, 15-20).

**C. BUILDING ALTARS TO THANK GOD (GEN 26:24-25)**

1. Do not forget God's grace but remember to offer praises to the Lord (Heb 13:15; Ps 103:1-5).
2. We should set our priorities in life: **a)** "building altars", **b)** "building tents" and **c)** "digging water wells".

## N O T E S

**D. BLESSING HIS CHILDREN BY FAITH (HEB 11:20; GEN 27:27-29, 39-40)**

1. Likewise, we should bless all people (Ref. Num 6:22-27; Rom 12:14; Gen 12:3; 1 Pet 3:9).

## III. MOSES

**A. MOSES WAS WELL EDUCATED AND HIGHLY CAPABLE, CHOSEN BY GOD TO BRING THE ISRAELITES OUT OF EGYPT. YET HE WAS HUMBLE. WHEN THE PEOPLE SINNED AGAINST GOD IN THE WILDERNESS, HE PRAYED OUT OF HIS GREAT LOVE, SO THAT GOD WOULD TURN AWAY FROM HIS ANGER.**

**B. PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE IN DISTRESS**

1. After his first visit with Pharaoh, the people became even more heavily burdened. But Moses continued to pray to God (Ex 3:22-23).
2. During the plagues, upon Pharaoh's words of regret, Moses prayed to God to end the plagues (Ex 8:12-13, 30-31; 9:33; 10:18-19).
3. Facing the Red Sea and with the Egyptian soldiers pursuing them, Moses prayed to God to open a way (Ex 14:10-16).
4. After encountering bitter waters in Marah, Moses prayed to God to make the water sweet (Ex 15:24-25).



5. In the wilderness when the people were without food or water, Moses always prayed to God (Ex 16:1-35; 17:1-6; Num 20:2-9).
6. Likewise, we should always pray amid tribulations (Jas 5:13) and help and pray for one another in times of suffering (Rom 15:1; Prov 24:17-18).

#### C. MOSES' PRAYER WITH HIS HAND LIFTED UP (EX 17:8-16)

1. Moses and the Israelites defeated their enemies through prayer and reliance in God.
2. We can also overcome spiritual battles with prayer (2 Cor 10:3-5; Eph 6:10-13).

#### D. PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO SINNED AGAINST GOD (PS 106:23)

1. The people offended God by worshiping the golden calf. God wanted to destroy them, but through Moses' fasting prayer, the people's lives were spared (Ex 32:9-14, 30-32; Dt 9:8, 12-20, 25-29).
2. In Kadesh the people refused to enter Canaan and instead murmured against God. God intended to destroy them, but they were spared through Moses' prayer (Num 14:11-20).
3. Traveling through Edom, the people murmured because the journey was difficult. God sent poisonous serpents among them, killing many. Moses prayed

#### N O T E S



for them and built a bronze serpent to save them (Num 21:4-9).

4. We should also pray for those who have sinned and those who are weak (Gal 6:1; Jas 5:13).

#### E. PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO OPPOSED HIM

1. He prayed for Miriam (Num 12:1-15).
2. The rebellion of Korah angered the Lord, but Moses prayed for the people (Num 16:1-50).
3. We should pray with love for those who persecute us (Mt 5:44; Rom 12:14, 19-21).

### IV. JOSHUA

**A. JOSHUA SUCCEEDED THE WORK OF MOSES IN LEADING THE PEOPLE INTO CANAAN. HE SERVED WELL AS A MILITARY COMMANDER, A POLITICIAN, A LOYAL LEADER AND AN OBEDIENT SERVANT IN WHOM GOD MANIFESTED HIS GREAT POWER.**

#### B. ATTACKING JERICHO BY THE WILL OF GOD

1. Facing the strong walls of Jericho, God appeared and served as the commander for the Israelite army. Joshua bowed down to listen to God's instructions on conquering the city (Josh 5: 13-14).
2. Joshua obeyed and proceeded to circle the city, causing the walls to collapse (Josh 6:1-16, 20; Ref. 2 Cor 10:3-5).

### C. PRAYING AFTER THE DEFEAT IN AI

1. The defeat followed after Achan sinned and the people did not consult God for the battle (Josh 7:1-5).
2. Joshua and the elders of Israel prayed to God all day long, and God made known the cause of defeat and the way to deal with the situation (Josh 7:6-15).
3. After the sinner was put to death, they defeated the city by God's methods (Josh 7:24-26; 8:1-2).
4. The lack of prayer translates into lack of strength and power; God will not abide with sinners (Is 59:1-2; Jn 9:31).

### D. BATTLE OF GIBEON

1. Without inquiring the Lord, they made a covenant with Gibeon and were deceived (Josh 9:3-6, 14-15).
2. At the Gibeonites' request, they fought and defeated the five kings with the power of God (Josh 10:5-11).
3. God listened to Joshua's prayer by stopping the sun and moon for about one day (Josh 10:12-14).

## N O T E S

### E. BLESSING THE PEOPLE BY FAITH (JOSH 22:1-5; 23-24)

1. We should do all things by God's commandment, and God's promise will be fulfilled (11:15; 23:14).
2. Like Joshua, we should encourage and exhort all people to worship God wholeheartedly.

## V. SAMUEL

**A. SAMUEL SERVED GOD AS A PROPHET, A PRIEST AND THE LAST JUDGE OF THE ISRAELITES. HE WAS A KEY FIGURE IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATION. THROUGH HIS PRAYERS, SAMUEL BROUGHT ABOUT THE REVIVAL OF ISRAEL.**

### B. A PRAYERFUL MOTHER (1 SAM 1:9-18)

1. Samuel, meaning "the Lord has listened," was born through the prayer and vow of his mother (Ps 127:3).
2. Hannah brought the young Samuel to serve the Lord in the tabernacle as soon as he was weaned (1 Sam 1:26-28).

### C. LEADING THE ISRAELITES' RETURN TO GOD (1 SAM 7)

1. He encouraged the people to put away idols and serve the Lord only (1 Sam 7:2-4).



2. He offered sacrifices for the people and prayed to the Lord to bring victory over the Philistines (1 Sam 7:5-11).
3. He recovered captured lands, restored the strength of the nation, and allowed the people to live in peace (1 Sam 7:12-14).

#### **D. PRAYING TO GOD ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE'S REQUEST (1 SAM 8:4-6)**

1. He warned the people by God's command, and anointed Saul as the king (1 Sam 8:10-22; 10:17-24).
2. He never ceased to pray for the people (1 Sam 12:23).
3. Likewise, we should also pray often in intercession (Eph 6:18-19; Jas 5:15-16).

### **VI. ELIJAH**

#### **A. ELIJAH WAS A MAJOR PROPHET IN THE PERIOD OF THE KINGS. HE WAS A WARRIOR OF PRAYER (JAS 5:17-18).**

#### **B. PRAYING FOR THE WIDOW'S SON (1 KGS 17:17-24)**

#### **C. PRAYING ON MOUNT CARMEL**

1. Elijah prayed to God before the people (1 Kgs 18:36-37).
2. Fire descended from heaven, causing the people to return to God (1 Kgs 18:38-39).



### **N O T E S**

#### **D. PRAYING FOR RAIN (1 KGS 18:41-45)**

1. Elijah prayed seven times before a small cloud the size of a man's hand appeared (1 Kgs 18:41-45).
2. The essence of prayer: faith, persistence, and perseverance (Mt 21:22; Jas 1:6-8).

### **VII. DANIEL**

#### **A. AS ONE OF THE THREE WELL-KNOWN RIGHTEOUS MEN (EZEK 14:14), DANIEL WAS A MAN WHO GREATLY EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER. HE WAS DETERMINED TO OBSERVE THE WORD OF GOD (DAN 1:8).**

#### **B. PARTNERS IN PRAYER**

1. When met with a crucial event, Daniel relied on God through prayers.
2. Daniel persuaded the king to allow time, and summoned his friends in prayer. In the end, God showed the vision to Daniel (Dan 2:14-19).
3. God gives knowledge and wisdom (Prov 2:20-22; Dan 2:20-22; Jas 1:5) and the prayer of unity produces power (Mt 18:19).

#### **C. PRAYING THREE TIMES A DAY (DAN 6:10)**

1. He had an excellent spirit, light in his heart, and possessed wisdom and knowledge (Dan 5:11-14; 4:8-9, 18).

2. He was spared in the lion's den by his ardent prayer (Dan 6:10, 22-27).
3. We should persist in daily communion with God in the face of persecution, being determined to keep the faith.
4. We should pray to the Lord in all things (Phil 4:6-7; Ps 34:15-21).

#### **D. PRAYING FOR THE RESTORATION OF HIS NATION (DAN 9:1-20)**

1. He fasted and prayed for the holy city (Dan 9:1-3).
2. God sent an angel to comfort him and to reveal to him greater mysteries (Dan 9:21-27).
3. We should pray for the church and for all people (Ps 122:6-7; Lk 23:28; 1 Tim 2:1-4).

### **VIII. PAUL**

#### **A. PAUL WAS A SUCCESSFUL APOSTLE AND AN EXEMPLARY MAN OF PRAYER. HE FIRMLY BELIEVED THAT PRAYER IS THE SOURCE OF STRENGTH AND POWER IN SPIRITUAL CULTIVATION AND HOLY WORK.**

1. God gave him spiritual wisdom and power to proclaim the Gospel wherever he went to lead people to believe in Christ (Acts 13:9-11; 19:11-12, 18-20; Rom 15:18).
2. We should pray without ceasing (1 Thess 5:17).

### **N O T E S**

#### **B. RECEIVING REVELATIONS FROM THE LORD**

1. As Paul was praying, the foundations of the prison shook so that the doors and every one's fetters were released (Acts 16:25-34).
2. During his prayer, God instructed him to leave Jerusalem (Acts 22:17-21).
3. He went up to Jerusalem with Barnabas and Titus by the Lord's revelation (Gal 2:1, 2).
4. He received the truth directly from the Lord about the Holy Communion (1 Cor 11:23).

#### **C. PRAYING TO SUBDUE HIS WEAKNESSES (REF. ROM 7:24-25; 1 COR 9:27; PHIL 4:13; 2 COR 12:9-12)**

#### **D. PRAYING AND FASTING FOR GOD'S HOLY WORK (ACTS 13:1-3, 9-11; 14:8-10, 19-23; 16:25; 20:36; 21:5)**

#### **E. PRAYING FOR FELLOW WORKERS AND BELIEVERS (2 TIM 1:3-4; PHM 4-7; ROM 1:8; 1 COR 1:4-5; EPH 1:16-19; 3:14-19; PHIL 1:9-11; COL 1:9-11)**

#### **F. PRAYING FOR THE CHURCH (1 COR 1:4; 2 COR 2:4; 11:28; PHIL 1:3-5; COL 1:3-4; 1 THESS 1:2-3; 3:12-13; 2 THESS 1:3-5, 11; 2:13)**



**G. REQUESTING THE PRAYERS OF OTHERS**  
 (ROM 1:11; 15:30-32; 2 COR 1:11;  
 EPH 6:19-20; PHIL 1:19; COL 4:3-4;  
 1 THESS 3:10; 5:25; 2 THESS 3:1-2)

**IX. QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION**

- 1a. What is the significance of building altars to God?
- 1b. What are the important elements to an effective prayer?
- 1c. What kinds of things did Paul pray for?
- 1d. List four (4) instances where Moses prayed on behalf of the Israelites.
- 1e. What usually happens when we don't pray to God for guidance, as demonstrated by some Biblical examples?
- 2a. Look up Colossians 1:3-11. How did Paul pray for others? What did he pray for?
- 2b. Why did Abraham pray for Sodom, a city of great sin?
- 2c. What kind of attitude did Abraham's old servant have toward God? How can you tell from his prayer?
- 2d. Before Pharaoh agreed to let the Israelites leave after the tenth plague, Moses was in an agonizing tug-of-war with the Egyptian king. What kind of attitude did Moses have

**N O T E S**



which enabled him to continue in prayer even though Pharaoh reneged on his promises after each of the plagues?

- 2e. Daniel requested his three friends to pray because he recognized the power produced from the singleness of mind in prayers. As a result, God granted Daniel the special gift in solving the king's dream. Cite two (2) examples of other Biblical characters who sought the prayers of others in times of danger.
- 3a. In what situations should we pray?
- 3b. If God were to tell you one day that he is going to destroy a wicked city, what would your reaction be? How would you pray to God about it? Would your prayer be any different if the city had True Jesus Church members living there?
- 3c. The Gibeonites tricked Joshua and the leaders of Israel into making an alliance with them (Josh 9:3-15). Give an example in your daily life where you may be deceived by appearances. How should you guard yourself against such danger?
- 3d. Although Paul suffered severely for the sake of the gospel, why do you think he often said that joy was a product of prayers (Phil 4:4-7; Rom 12:12)?
- 3e. Paul prayed three times for a "thorn" in his flesh (2 Cor 12:7-10). Why didn't God answer his prayers? Why is it that God does not always give us what we ask for?

## GROUP DISCUSSION/ACTIVITY

### TWO DIFFERENT PRAYERS

Objective: to analyze the difference between two prayers and to apply the teachings in their own lives of prayer

1. Ask the students to get together in pairs and have them read Luke 18:9-14. It is a parable told by Jesus about two very different men and their prayers at the temple.
2. When they have finished, ask them to compare the first prayer by the Pharisee to the prayer of the tax collector. Ask them to contrast where they were standing, what they said in their prayers and what their general attitudes were. Who did God listen to? Why? They can complete this in about fifteen (15) minutes.
3. After the time is up, ask each pair to share their findings and make a list on the board of all their ideas.
4. After this sharing, ask the students as a large group to generate a list of prayer tips they have learned from these two different prayers. Some examples might include:

\*Don't show off when you pray. Prayer is a way of getting close to God, not to impress others.

## N O T E S

\*Do talk to God in a quiet place, like your own room.

\*Do think when you pray. Don't mumble a lot of words that have no meaning.

\*Don't worry about getting God's attention. He knows what you need.

\*Don't give up if your prayers aren't answered right away. Keep praying. God will answer at the best time.

\* Do pray with others too, because God promised that whenever his followers gather to pray to him, he will be right there (Mt 18:20).

5. Conclude and pray.

