**Definition of Prayer:**

- Prayer is simply _____ with God.

- When it comes to prayer, everyone has a _____ point.

When Jesus had finished praying, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his followers to pray." Luke 11:1

- If we want a different prayer life then we need to make some _____ in our prayer life.

**The kind of Prayer that God wants is this:**

- God wants our prayers to be _____.

God's there, listening for all who pray, for all who pray and mean it. Psalm 145:18

Hannah continued to pray to the LORD for a long time, and Eli (the Priest) watched her lips. She was praying silently; her lips were moving, but she made no sound. So Eli thought that she was drunk, and he said to her, "Stop making a drunken show of yourself Stop your drinking and sober up!" "No, I'm not drunk, sir," she answered. "I haven't been drinking! I am desperate, and I have been praying, pouring out my troubles to the LORD. 1 Sam 1:12-15

When I told you my troubles, you answered my prayers. Ps 119:26

- God wants our _____ with him to improve.

Come close to God, and God will come close to you. James 4:8

- God wants prayer to display our _____ in God.

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs, and don't forget to thank him for his answers. Philippians 4:6 (TLB)

- God wants our prayer to show our _____ in God.

The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. James 5:16 (NLT)
But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. James 1:6 (NLT)

**4 truths that change our perspective on prayer.**

- God wants me to talk about _____ with Him.

"The Lord is like a father to his children, tender and compassionate to those who reverence him." Psalm 103:13 (NLT)

"We can be confident in approaching God, knowing that he listens to us whenever we ask him for anything according to his will. And since we know that he hears us when we make our requests, then we can be sure that he will answer us." 1 John 5:14-15

**Action Step:**

Make time to _____.

- God listens to prayers that are _____ and _____.

"When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they've received their reward in full. Instead, when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep babbling on and on like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him." Matthew 6:5-8 (NIV)
Let us come near to God with a sincere heart and a sure faith . . ." Hebrews 10:22 (TEV)

**Action Step:**

Remove distractions and be _____ with God.

6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. Matthew 6:6

- God wants to show His grace by _____ prayers.

"Call to me and I will answer you. I will show you marvelous and wondrous things that you could never figure out on your own." Jeremiah 33:3 (MSG)
"If you, being imperfect and sinful parents know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him?" Matthew 7:11 (NLT)

**Action Step:**

Anticipate a _____ from God.

14 And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. 1 John 5:14

- God longs to be _____ to me.

"The Lord waits for you to come to him so he can show you his love and compassion." Isaiah 30:18 (NLT)

**Action Step:**

Do something that brings you _____ to God.

**VISION:**

**TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.**

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

*These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain.
- Everyone has a starting point. What steps do you need to take to grow your prayer life?
- In Luke 11:1, a disciple asked Jesus, "Teach us to pray." What do you most want to learn or improve about your prayer life?
- God wants our prayers to be honest. What makes it difficult for us to be completely honest with God about our feelings, fears, or struggles?
- Hannah poured out her troubles to God in 1 Samuel 1:12–15. What can we learn from her example about bringing our deepest emotions to God?
- Philippians 4:6 encourages us to pray about everything. What is one area of your life you tend to worry about more than you pray about?
- God wants sincere and simple communication. According to Matthew 6:5–8, what distractions or habits can keep prayer from becoming a genuine conversation with God?
- What practical change could you make this week to give God your full attention and develop a more consistent prayer life?
- Anticipate a response from God. How can you remain expectant that God is at work while still trusting Him when His answer differs from what you hoped for?
- Isaiah 30:18 reminds us of God's love and compassion. How does knowing that God wants you to draw near change the way you approach Him in prayer?
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Today's Talk..

# Changing How We Think About Prayer.

Sunday, October 18th, 2026