

Message Title: What Is Prayer For?

Teaching Pastor: Brian C. Hughes

This study guide has been designed for Small Groups in mind, and can be used by individuals as well.

How has prayer been a part of your life?

Is/Was there someone in your life who set an example (good or bad) for you about prayer? If so, share about that influence on you.

WATCH THE VIDEO

Big Picture: was there anything Brian said on Sunday or in the Video that you you'd like to discuss as a group? Share that now.

Together, read Matthew 6:5-15 together as a group. Have one person read out loud and take turns reading. As that person reads, others in the group should interrupt as something jumps out at them that they want to discuss, or where a question about the text comes up. After that discussion, pick up the text where you left off.

Assign the following text to a single person or to small groups. Read the text, talk about it, then everyone comes back to the larger group to summarize what each person or smaller group learned in these readings:

- Nehemiah 1:5-11 (wondering what he can do about a national crisis)
- Psalms 19:12-14 (trying to make a greater commitment)
- Psalms 42:1-5 (in a time of personal depression)
- Isaiah 37:14-20 (threatened by a powerful enemy)
- Jonah 2:1-9 (in the belly of the beast) Acts 4:24-30 (prayer for future boldness)
- Ephesians 1:15-21 (Paul's prayer for the believers in Ephesus)
- Philippians 1:9-11 (Paul's prayer for the believers in Philippi)

As a group, use the space below—and on the back of this paper—to write your own prayer. You may use lines from the biblical prayers listed, but you don't have to. You might decide to focus on a particular situation in your church or community. You might choose a particular type of prayer (praise, confession, cry for help, etc.). Or you might merge some different types of communication in the same prayer.

Finish your time praying together

