

Following Jesus Study Guide – Prayer

Main Idea: Prayer was at the heart of Jesus' relationship with the Father and the fulfillment of his mission on earth.

Living like Jesus: We should imitate Jesus by living in communion with the Father (prayer). This includes regular times of prayer in solitude, praying before crucial decisions, praying as we do what God has called us to do, offering God praise, praying during times of testing, and praying for others.

Key Scriptures: Here are examples of Jesus' prayer life:

- In times of extended solitude (Matt. 12:15; 14:23; Mark 1:35-37; 6:46; Luke 5:16; 6:12; 9:18)
- To teach his disciples how to pray (Matt. 6:5-15; Luke 11:1-4; 21:36)
- During times of testing and temptation (Matt. 4:1-2; Luke 4:1-2)
- In submission to the Father (Heb. 5:7; Matt. 6:10; 26:36; Mark 14:36; Luke 22:42)
- To praise the Father (Matt. 11:25-26; Luke 10:21; John 11:41-42)
- To give thanks for God's provision (Matt. 14:19; Mark 6:41; Luke 9:16; John 6:11; Matt. 15:36; Mark 8:6-7; Matt. 26:26-27; Mark 14:22-23; Luke 22:17-19; 1 Cor. 11:24; Luke 24:30)
- Before important decisions (Luke 6:12-13)
- At significant events (Luke 3:21-22; 9:28-29)
- For people to work in the harvest (Matt. 9:37-38; Luke 10:2)
- For children (Matt. 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17)
- For his disciples (Luke 22:31-32; John 14:16; 17:6-19)
- For his enemies (Matt. 5:44; Luke 6:28; 23:34)
- For himself (John 12:27-28; 17:1-5)
- For all believers (John 17:20-26)
- To teach his disciples how to persist in prayer (Luke 11:9-13; 18:1-8)
- In the spiritual struggle in Gethsemane (Matt. 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42)
- On the cross (Matt. 27:46; Mark 15:34; Luke 23:34, 46)
- As an ongoing ministry of prayer on our behalf (Heb. 7:25; Rom. 8:34; 1 John 2:1)

Discussion Questions:

1. What jumps out at you about Jesus' prayer life?
2. Of all the situations in which Jesus prayed, which one can you relate to the most at this time in your life? Why?
3. When are the most prayerless?
4. When are you the most prayerful?
5. How would your life change if you were prayerful when you are usually prayerless?
6. Becoming a person of consistent prayer doesn't happen overnight. What is one small step you can take this week to be more like Jesus when it comes to prayer?
7. How can your community help you with this small step?