



Prayer is one of the great mysteries of life. It is where our material world and the kingdom of God intersect. It is the place where we are confronted with our own limitations and the unlimited power and love of God. Prayer can also raise questions. Why should I pray if God already knows what I am going to say? Why pray if I don't think anything will change? Even the disciples asked Jesus, "Teach us to pray?" Together, let us

explore the difference prayer can make.

Matthew Overview:

Author and Date: Written by Matthew (Levi the tax collector) whom Jesus called to follow him (Matthew 9:9; Mark 2:14). Written 55-65 AD.

First readers and their location: There is no specific audience mentioned but the content of Matthew points to a Christian audience made up of primarily Jewish people.

Why was it written?: Matthew gives great attention to both the background of Jesus and how he fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies of a promised Messiah. Kingdom is a major theme in the book.

Open-up

Has there ever been a time where you agonized over something? What was the result of your agony?



Into the Bible

Read: Matthew 26:36-46

What do you notice about the passage itself? (Structure, **repeated words or ideas, unique words, main points...**)

Jesus was facing his arrest, trial, and crucifixion in the garden. What are the things he asks for in his prayer?

What does Jesus call his disciples to?

Read Hebrews 5:7-8. The most likely reading of this passage is inference to Jesus in the garden. It was a prayer where Jesus recognized his own human frailty and was concerned he would not live long enough to even reach the cross. How does this **help explain Jesus' prayer in a different way?**

What do you learn about Jesus in this passage? What have you learned about the disciples? What have you learned about the devil?



Into my life

Ask the question, "What does this look like in my life?"

This was a very personal account of prayer in Jesus' life. Has there been a

time when you have experienced deep anguish in prayer? What was the situation? How did you experience God through it?

Read Matthew 7:7-12. What can we learn about prayer from these two passages? What does Jesus model about prayer?

Is there anything that is weighing on you deeply right now that you need to bring to God? What is it? (Pray for each other in this)

How will you be different today because of what you just read?

Other Application Questions:

Is there something to worship or thank God for?

Is there a promise to claim or a truth to believe?

Is there something I am convicted about that I need to work on?

Is there something or someone I need to pray for this week? (Be specific)

Is there any relationship I need to work on?



Into the World

Ask, “what does this look like in my day to day life?”

Our world is broken and in desperate need for God to intervene. What will your group pray for on a regular basis towards God transforming our community?

Prayer List:

My challenge for this week:

More Resources for personal and group use:

<https://www.precept.org/know-gods-word/>

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/1304>

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/195647>

A little about Westwood Church...

We believe that God changes lives!

That motivates us to...

Bring Jesus into Life

By...

...becoming an increasingly healthy, vibrant and effective witness for Jesus in Prince George and around the world!

We do this by engaging in three things:



GATHER

Sunday mornings
to celebrate and
learn about God



GROUPS

Weekly meetings that
go deeper in relation-
ships with each other
and God



GO

Serving in the church
and community to
present Jesus to the
world