



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

How easy do you find it to let go of the wrong things that are done against you? Why do you think that is?



Into the Bible

Read: Matthew 6:13, Ephesians 6:10-18, 1 Peter 5:6-11

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

How does these passages speak to the struggle we are in?

How do these point to how we should pray?

What do you learn about Jesus in this passage? What questions does it raise for you about prayer?



Into my life

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

How do you react to evil in the world? Why?

How are you facing evil in your life? How do you think God wants you to fight it? (Be specific)

What have you found helpful in combating evil?

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?”

What specific issue can your group give prayerful attention to in the pray, “deliver us from evil?” (Spend time praying about this)

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