

# The Key to Prayer: Pray the Word

Lesson for Sunday, August 25, 2024

## INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ What is the best prayer tip you have ever received? *You may want to send this to your class members before Sunday to give them some time to think about their answer.*
- ⇒ Nothing will enhance your prayer life like learning to pray Scripture. In this lesson we are going to introduce this idea and set us up for the coming weeks as we begin to work on our daily prayer time with the Lord.

## BIBLE STUDY:

### 1. Why pray the Bible?

- a. What is the reason for encouraging us to incorporate the Bible into our actual prayer time? It is all based on **what we believe about the Bible**.
- b. *Teacher Tip: This is one of those overwhelming points! We are trying to overwhelm them with information that will make our point convincingly.*
  - i. *Write out all the verses on separate sticky notes and have them stuck to the board as the class members arrive.*
  - ii. *As they arrive, encourage them to take one or two, and to be prepared to read them when you call on them.*
  - iii. *Prepare a handout with the references and their points.*
  - iv. *Simply have the person read the verse; you read the point; no commentary; move on...*
- c. 2 Timothy 3:16      The Bible is **inspired** by God. God is its Author.
- d. Numbers 23:19      The Bible is **inerrant**.
- e. Psalm 119:105      It is **infallible**. It will never lead you astray.
- f. Matthew 15:3      The Bible is **authoritative**.
- g. Isaiah 40:8      The Bible is **eternal**. Its principles are timeless.
- h. John 17:17      Every word of the Bible is **truth**.
- i. Psalm 19:7      The Bible is **perfect**.
- j. John 5:39-40      The Bible is **Christ**-centered.
- k. 2 Timothy 3:14-15      The Bible leads non-Christians to **salvation** in Christ.
- l. 2 Timothy 3:16      The Bible facilitates the Christian's **growth** & maturity.
- m. 2 Timothy 3:17      The Bible equips the Christian for effective **service**.
- n. Revelation 1:3      We are commanded to **read** it.
- o. Psalm 1:1-2      We are commanded to **meditate** on it.
- p. Jeremiah 23:28-29      We are commanded to **speak** it.
- q. James 1:22      We are commanded to **obey** it.
- r. John 15:7      We are commanded to **pray** it.
- s. Bottom Line: The Word of God is to be central in every aspect of the Christian's life. This includes their prayer life!

### 2. Our Example – **Jesus**

- a. Have you considered the times that the Bible records the prayers of Jesus? In His most trying times, Jesus prayed Scripture.
- b. Consider these two times while He was on the Cross:
  - i. Matthew 27:46 – cross reference with Psalm 22:1
  - ii. Luke 23:46 – cross reference with Psalm 31:5

- c. Jesus understood that when He prayed Scripture, He was praying in accordance with the will of God, which meant that God the Father would hear and answer His prayers (1 John 5:14-15).
3. How do we pray Scripture?
- a. *Teachers: This is a sampling of what we will be diving into the next several weeks. The point in this lesson is to provide examples of how we can take verses in the Bible and turn them into meaningful prayers. Don't get too deep in providing other examples – we will be doing that in lessons to come!*
  - b. The first thing we must do is to rightly interpret a Scripture text, and then we must personalize it in prayer. Here are some examples to consider:
  - c. Praying for your **children**: Luke 2:52.
    - i. Jesus grew intellectually (wisdom), physically (in stature), spiritually (favor with God), and socially (in favor with man).
    - ii. How would we personalize this verse for our children? *“Lord, I pray that you would lead my child to grow in...”*
  - d. Praying for your **spouse**:
    - i. Men: Ephesians 5:25. *“Lord, I ask You to help me love my wife like Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it.”*
    - ii. Women: Ephesians 5:22. *“Lord, help me to submit to my husband as I submit myself to You.”*
  - e. Pray for your **church**: Acts 9:31
    - i. This verse gives us five things to pray for: that we would enjoy peace; that we would be built up; that we would go on in the fear of the Lord; that we would go on in the comfort and power of the Holy Spirit; and that we would continue to increase.
    - ii. *Teaching Tip: As you go, ask your class how they could reword the text as a prayer.*
  - f. Praying for the **lost**: John 16:8
    - i. Pray for the Lord to convict them of their sin, their need for righteousness, and their awareness of coming judgment.

#### APPLICATION/CONCLUSION:

- ⇒ If you have time, you can choose another area of prayer and see if your class can come up with one of God's promises that you can turn into a prayer.
- ⇒ There is power in the Word of God! Do you believe that?
- ⇒ In the coming weeks, we will look at the different elements of prayer (praise, thanksgiving, confession, prayers for others, prayer for self) and dive into the Scriptures to see which promises of God we can pray. Encourage your class to be faithful!