



THE GATHERING WELL

PRINCIPLES OF PRAYER

A KNOWING JESUS GROWTH GUIDE



PRINCIPLES OF PRAYER

- 01** CHARACTER OF GOD
- 02** INFLUENCE OF SCRIPTURE
- 03** RELATIONAL COMMUNICATION
- 04** PATHWAY TO GOD
- 05** NEVER CEASING PRACTICE



THE HEART OF *knowing Jesus*

The Gathering Well uses these three focus areas of Spiritual Formation to support our approach to the journey of faith.



BEGIN WITH PRAYER

Communication with God is our starting point. Any resources with this icon are designed to support and equip you to pray, using Scripture as our primary lens and providing questions and prompts to encourage you to talk with God consistently.



STUDY THE BIBLE

All of our resources are anchored in the truth of God's Word. This icon will indicate spaces where you will engage the Scriptures. We seek to provide educational resources and tools that will help God's Word come alive to you.



BUILD COMMUNITY

We believe that the life of faith is expressed in community, not isolation. Resources and prompts marked with this icon are geared toward reminding you that we are designed to be in relationship with God *and* with others.

CHARACTER OF GOD



We cannot love someone we do not know. The more we know someone, the more we learn to love them, and the more we desire to talk with them. Taking time to meditate on the character of God increases our **knowledge of Him** and our **love for Him**.

THE INVITATION

Meditate on the character of God. Take time to Praise Him for each of these qualities. Sit with the questions and reflect on your response to them.

1 God desires to be known.

He gave us His Son so that we might know and believe and understand (See: Isaiah 43:10).

→ How has God invited you to know Him?

2 God has no limits.

Our human capacity will never be enough. God has limitless capacity (See: Matthew 19:26).

→ What has God done that you could not?

3 God is beyond our human comprehension.

We cannot fathom God's greatness in what He does or who He is (See: Psalm 145:3).

→ What aspect of God are you wondering about today?

4 God relies on no one and on nothing.

Since God does not rely on human hands, we can rely on Him to carry us in His (See: Acts 17:24-25). We do not have to rely on ourselves.

→ How have you been able to rely on God?

5 God does not change.

No matter how many times we change – our minds, our hearts, our plans – God, and His love for us, does not change (See: Malachi 3:6).

→ How does a God that doesn't change, change you?

6 God is all-powerful.

God sustains all things through His power and authority (See: Psalm 147:5).

→ How can you trust God's power when you feel powerless?

7 God is all-knowing.

Since nothing in creation is hidden from God, we too no longer have to hide (See: Hebrews 4:13). He already knows and still He loves.

→ What can you bring before all-knowing God today?

8 God is everywhere.

There is no place that God is not or cannot be (See: Proverbs 15:3). We are always in the presence of God.

→ In what circumstance or place do you need to be reminded that God is with you?

9 God has authority over all.

Even when things feel out of control, God is still in control. He has perfect authority over what we can and cannot see (See: Colossians 1:16).

→ What can you trust God has authority over in your life today?

10 God is full of grace and mercy.

For every time we mess up, God meets us with unending grace and mercy. The Lord has compassion on all that He has made, and He has made you (See: Psalm 145:9).

→ How have you seen God's constant grace and mercy towards you?

God, I want to know you so that I will also love you. I want to see and experience your character in a way that shapes me and the way I talk to you. Show me more of who you are so that I will talk to you more and more.

Amen



THE INVITATION

Look up the scripture related to the character of God. How have you seen, heard, or experienced the character of God in light of the character traits and scripture listed? Write your reflections in the space provided.

God desires
to be KNOWN.

Isaiah 43:10

God has No
limits.

Matthew 19:26,
Job 11:7-9

God is beyond
our human
comprehension.

Romans 11:33,
Isaiah 40:28

God Relies ON No
one and ON
Nothing.

Acts 17:24-25

God does Not
change.

Hebrews 13:8,
Malachi 3:6

CHARACTER OF GOD

God is all
powerful.

Matthew 19:26,
Job 11:7-9

God is all
knowing.

Psalms 139,
Hebrews 4:13

God is
everywhere, with
authority over
all.

Matthew 28:18,
Colossians 1:16,

God is full of
grace and mercy.

Psalms 145:9,
Ephesians 2:4-7

Are there any other ways you have seen, heard, or experienced the character of God?

INFLUENCE OF SCRIPTURE



A common outcome of our human nature is that we are constantly tempted to look down at ourselves rather than look up at our Savior. Reflecting on the character of God reminds us that He is perfect, good, and above all things. Colossians 3:2 tells us to set our minds on things above, not on things that are on the earth. **Scripture gives us focus.** Allowing God's Word to have a greater influence on how we pray and what we pray brings us into closer alignment with His desires and design. Meditate on the Lord's prayer below. Write each line in your own words.

Our Father in Heaven.

Lord God, you are in the heavenly places, high above the world, yet still OUR FATHER.

Hallowed be Your name.

Lord, your name is Holy, without sin, and you are perfect in your ways.

Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.

Lord, we desire for your Kingdom to be here, with our thoughts focused on things above.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Lord, we trust you for our daily needs. You are provider and faithful to give us exactly what we need, precisely when we need it.

And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lord, forgive us when we sin against you, and guide us in the forgiveness of others. Because of your mercy, we can be merciful.

Lead us not into temptation, and rescue us from evil.

Lord, we desire to follow you completely. Lead us in your ways and keep us from sin that would entangle and hold us captive.



Read Luke 11:1-13. Use the study steps below to look at what Jesus says about how to pray.

Observe the text by circling, highlighting, and/or underlining what you see in the passage. You might identify such things as: instructions, repeated words or phrases, references to time, people, or places, connections ("therefore", "and", "thus", etc.). Write down your key observations below.

What do these observations help you see or understand about what God is saying in His Word?

What does this reveal about God and the life that He desires for me, particularly as it relates to my prayer life?

RELATIONAL COMMUNICATION



The Trinity is the fullness of one God in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each is God, but each is not the other. The Trinity is the **one infinite expression of God in three distinct manifestations of Himself**. It's okay if that seems confusing. However, seeking to understand the character of God alongside the most perfect display of relationship, The Trinity, can help us understand the relational experience of prayer with God versus a transactional one (Ephesians 2:18; 22).

God, the Father

The Father appoints. The Father is God. God, the Father, is our Creator, and the God of nature. The Father is not the Son.

See Galatians 4:6

God, the Son

The Son accomplished. The Son is God. God, the Son, is our Redeemer, and the God of governing and reconciling grace. The Son is not the Spirit.

See Luke 3:22

God, the Holy Spirit

The Spirit applies. The Spirit is God. God, the Holy Spirit, is our Sanctifier, and the One who applies redemption and perfects us in Christ for the glory of God. The Spirit is not the Father.

See John 14:26



We seek to know God and understand the Trinity because it is essential to our relationship with Him. If God exists as one God in three persons, it is invaluable to get to know Him in every way that He is Himself. The Trinity also reminds us that prayer is relational because God is relational.

Define “relational”:

Read, observe, and reflect on Jude 1: 20 - 21 and John 17: 20 - 23.

How does your understanding of the Trinity influence your relationship and communication with God?

A PATHWAY TO GOD



We want to encourage you to think about prayer as a pathway that leads you right to the heart of God. **Your relationship with Jesus grants you access to God.** Your relationship with Jesus means you are in-dwelt with the Holy Spirit. You are in communion with a perfect and complete God. This means you come before the Lord, just as you are, to ask the Holy Spirit to lead you down this pathway of prayer, and to trust Jesus to cover your sin and give you access to God as you journey (Ephesians 3:12; Hebrews 4:16; John 14:6).

prayer → *adoration*

Prayer is a pathway to a deep love and respect of the Lord. When Jesus taught the disciples to pray, He taught them to first acknowledge who it is we come to in prayer and declare His glory not as a compliment to God, but as a reminder to ourselves of who it is we get to commune with in prayer (Matthew 6:9).

prayer → *confession*

Prayer is a pathway to admitting that we are guilty of attempting to meet our own needs through our own means. When we confess our sin, we turn to Jesus and receive the gift of grace (Psalm 139:1).

prayer → *intercession*

Prayer is a pathway to the action of intervening on behalf of another. Intercession is an opportunity to fill the gaps of this broken world with the complete mercy, grace, and provision of a perfect God (Matthew 21:22; Mark 11:24; Luke 11:9; John 16:23 - 24).

prayer → *petition*

Prayer is a pathway to asking God anything. Jesus' example to the disciples was the phrase, "give us this day our daily bread." What could be a seemingly mundane thing to ask for has profound implications for what it teaches us about God's desire for us to seek Him in and for everything we need (Luke 11:5 - 10).

prayer → *participation*

Prayer is a pathway to the action of joining or taking part in something that God is already doing. When we pray, we surrender our will to God's and accept the invitation to be a player in His perfect play (John 17:20 - 23; Luke 1:26 - 38).

prayer → *new life*

Prayer is a pathway to salvation for the lost. The greatest desire we can have for another is that they would not just be healed in the flesh, but that they would be healed in the spirit through salvation in Christ (1 Kings 18:30 - 46).

prayer → *worship*

Prayer is a pathway to worship as we wait on the Lord to answer. Jesus clearly tells His disciples that they should always pray and not give up. The temptation is to give up in our waiting. How can we answer the challenge to worship in our waiting (Luke 18:1 - 8; Matthew 7:7 - 8)?



YOUR TURN!

Explore the following passages and consider the questions for each pathway to God.

prayer → *adoration*

Read Matthew 6:9. How does this passage reflect adoration? How can you adore God today for who He is, what He's done, or what you're praying He might do?

prayer → *confession*

Read Psalm 139:1. How does this passage remind us that it is God's kindness that leads us to confession? What can you confess today and be reminded that God has already forgiven you and offered you grace in His Son, Jesus Christ?

prayer → *intercession*

How do each of these passages, Matthew 21:22; Mark 11:24; John 16:23 - 24, reflect God's desire for us to bring our requests for others to Him? Who can you intercede for today?

prayer → *petition*

Read Luke 11:5 - 10. How does this passage remind us that we have an invitation and opportunity to bring everything before the Lord?

prayer → *participation*

How do these passages, John 17:20 - 23; Luke 1:26 - 38, reflect our opportunity and invitation to partner with God in His redemptive work?

prayer → *new life*

Read 1 Kings 18:30 - 46. How does this passage remind us that God's desire for us is in new life in His son Jesus and that we can pray this prayer for others?

prayer → *worship*

Read Romans 5:4 - 5. How does this passage encourage us when we do not hear or receive answers to prayers when we want to? Why is this worship?

A NEVER CEASING PRACTICE



We often wonder “what is God’s will” for our lives and in our circumstances.

1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 18 tells us that **God’s will for us is that we would rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances as a result of being in Christ Jesus.** What would it look like for your life to reflect God’s will for you in this way?

rejoice always

List three things you can celebrate and rejoice over today.

1
2
3

.....
.....
.....

pray without ceasing

List three things you can continue to pray over this week.

1
2
3

.....
.....
.....

give thanks in all circumstances

List three things you can be thankful for despite a challenging, hard, or complicated situation.

1
2
3

.....
.....
.....

A NEVER CEASING PRACTICE



Utilize the scriptures below to write your own prayers based on one item from each of your lists above. Invite someone to hold you accountable to praying these prayers throughout the week or simply share what the Lord is teaching you about prayer as you think on these passages and reflect on your prayer practice.

rejoice always

Isaiah 61:10

pray without ceasing

Philippians 4:6-7

give thanks in all circumstances

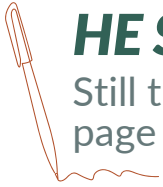
Colossians 3:15-17

Lord, I pray that the peace of Christ would rule in my heart. Lord, I am thankful for

_____.
I pray that the message of Christ would dwell among me richly as I admonish those around me with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in my heart for your goodness in

_____. Lord, let whatever I do in word or deed, be done fully in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Amen.



HE SEES ME HERE

Still thinking? Still reflecting? Have questions? Here you go: use this page as you wish for your own prayers and musings.

A large rectangular area filled with a light gray dot grid pattern, intended for writing or drawing.



Become a member
(psst... its free)

Copyright © 2022
The Gathering Well

Publication and Distribution for The Gathering Well
All rights reserved.

Contributing authors: Jazmin Caton and Chelsea Miller

Printing permissions:

INDIVIDUAL USE - no more than five copies shall be printed and distributed.

ORGANIZATIONAL USE - no more than the number of copies outlined in the agreement between the organization and TGW.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of The Gathering Well, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law.

Scripture quotations are from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



THE GATHERING WELL

Helping Everyday People Become Everyday
Leaders Who Know, Follow and Grow with Jesus.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

connect@thegatheringwell.org

www.thegatheringwell.org