



Week 1: "It's Not on the List"

1. READ

Pastor Watley's Selected Scripture: Luke 11 : 1 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, *that* one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."

Further Reading: Luke 11 : 2-4 New King James Version (NKJV)

²So He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

On earth as *it is* in heaven.

³Give us day by day our daily bread.

⁴And forgive us our sins,

For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And do not lead us into temptation,

But deliver us from the evil one."

Ephesians 4 : 11 – 12 New International Version (NIV)

¹¹So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

1 Corinthians 12 : 7 – 11 New International Version (NIV)

⁷Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.⁸To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.



Romans 12 : 6 – 8 New International Version (NIV)

⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

2. REFLECT

[Click the image to go to our YouTube page for more content!]



This week our Senior Pastor Rev. Matthew L. Watley started a brand-new sermon series entitled “Teach Me How to Pray.” Now more than ever, it is important for us to seek the voice of the Lord for guidance and direction. We can take comfort in knowing that we have a God that beckons us into his presence and hears us when we call. Throughout this series, we will be learning about the fundamentals of prayer and why it is so vitally important.

In our lesson for week one entitled “It’s Not on the List,” Pastor Watley reassures us that all of us have the opportunity to be skilled in prayer. The grace to pray is a gift that God has given to each of us as believers, and it is up to us to further develop that skill. As Pastor notes, there is no passage in the bible that lists prayer as a spiritual gift. In fact, prayer is not even technically considered one of the fruits of the spirit. Many of us have seen the various lists of spiritual gifts





and perhaps have even taken a spiritual gifts assessment to help us determine our specific ministry strengths. However, prayer is not an outcome of those assessments or included on those lists. This is great news because it means that we all have the opportunity to develop active, thriving, and strong prayer lives!

While there are certainly those that may have a particular calling and anointing as intercessors or prayer warriors, God's word shows us that we all have the ability to learn how to pray. In our scripture for today (Luke 11:1), Jesus had just finished praying when one of his disciples asked him for help. The disciple says, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples." This is important because it shows us that prayer is not necessarily a supernatural phenomenon that we automatically excel at when we are born. Instead, we must be intentional to learn, develop, and strengthen our prayer lives. Even the disciples who were close to Jesus and traveled with Him needed to take the time to learn and develop their ability to pray.

Thankfully, Jesus provides us with the examples we need to grow and develop our prayer lives. Not only does He articulate how to pray through The Lord's Prayer, but His actions also demonstrate how we can improve our prayer life by cultivating our relationship with God. His actions are key to developing powerful prayer. For one, **Jesus studied the Word of God**. He was often found quoting scripture or revealing biblical truths to those that sought to manipulate scripture's meaning. Jesus remained grounded in God's word and often called upon God's written promises when He prayed.

Secondly, **Jesus regularly attended corporate worship**. He was often found in the temple with other people of faith. In fact, in the Gospel of Mark, Jesus performs His first miracle in the synagogues in the midst of corporate worship. He recognized that God's presence can be found in community. However, He also recognized the importance of being by Himself to seek God's presence. **Jesus regularly withdrew from people to pray**. There are countless instances of Jesus taking a step back from others to connect with God. As someone who had a packed itinerary and was constantly surrounded by people, Jesus makes sure to prioritize time with God in prayer regularly.

Through His study of the *Word*, attendance in corporate *worship*, and the times he *withdrew*, Jesus modeled for us how to cultivate a deeper relationship with God and develop our prayer lives in the process. How can we use His model to consistently nurture our prayer lives in this season? Using the Prayer Action Plan on the next page, write out some of the steps you will take this week to further engage in prayer.



PRAYER ACTION PLAN

To further develop our prayer lives, we must actually pray! Based on the model Jesus demonstrated, this prayer action plan will help us to prioritize prayer and our relationship with God. Use this to create a consistent rhythm for connecting with God this week.

Jesus studied the Word of God.

How can you connect with God's Word every day? Decide on a time each day that you will dedicate to reading scripture. Write those times down here and keep those appointments with God! Also, select the passages you would like to read this week.

Jesus regularly attended corporate worship.

Although we cannot meet in person, have you streamed one of our church services online this week? Select the church service you will attend and write it down here. Also, write down if you plan to stream our Prayer Revival on Tuesday night at 7pm. If you are not able to attend the services, consider planning to watch them on YouTube. Write down your plan!

Jesus regularly withdrew from people to pray.

How can you spend intentional time alone in the presence of God? In addition to your time for reading scripture, select a few moments that you can designate to being still in God's presence.

Things I am Praying About This Week:

People I am Praying For This Week:

Praise Reports I am Celebrating This Week:

