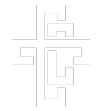


# Your Bible Why Not Use It #10



## Use the Bible to Shape Your Praying

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Part of Connect Group Questions

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### BEGIN WITH YOUR HEART

On the topic of you and prayer...

- Have you ever dropped out of a class, school, or team? Why did you do so? Do you regret having done so or not?
- What words or feelings come to your mind when you hear the word "prayer"? a) Spiritual warfare b) Hanging out with God c) Working faithfully through a list d) Duty e) Guilt f) Something else...
- Why did you select your answer?

### A LOOK IN GOD'S WORD

Luke's gospel has been called the gospel of prayer. He emphasizes the role of prayer in Jesus' life and ministry more than the other gospel writers. In fact, he mentions prayer or teaches on the topic at least 15 times!

 Read the following verses from **Luke** on prayer and answer the questions that follow:

- **3:21-22** Have you been baptized as a believer in Christ, and experienced God's pleasure? If not you, is there someone that you can encourage to be baptized on Easter day?
- **5:15-16** In the chaos and busyness of life, is it your tendency to get alone and pray, or to punt prayer until you have more time? What difference would it make if you prayed more?
- Do you have a big decision coming up in the next few months or

years? If so, how could an unrushed time of focused prayer be helpful? What might that look like?

- **9:28** Who could you mentor in prayer? Who could mentor you?

- **22:39-44** How did the Father answer Jesus' prayer in **verse 42**? What does this teach us about the essence of prayer?

## MY LIFE—OUR MISSION

On growing in corporate prayer...

- Since Jesus taught us in Luke that the Lord's prayer was meant to be used corporately...

- ☼ What is your response to this teaching? Is it encouraging for you, or does it make you feel slightly/totally uncomfortable?

- ☼ Do you like to pray aloud with others? Why or why not?

- ☼ If this was hard for you at one time and no longer is, what changed?

- Pray the Lord's prayer from Luke's gospel out-loud together (**Luke 11:2-4 ESV**—if someone has a different version of the Bible, they can look on with someone who has an ESV)

- **Now** turn to Matthew's version of the Lord's prayer (**Matthew 6:9-13**), and use the phrases found there as a springboard to pray topically (e.g., praying for God's kingdom to come through the outreaches of Christ Community, or for healing in broken relationships, etc.). Take several minutes to pray through the passage.