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**FAMILY LIFE CHURCH OF THE VALLEY**

**LIFE GROUP, RIVERSIDE COUNTY**

**TITLE: 40 DAYS OF PRAYER**

**SESSION ONE: THE PURPOSE OF PRAYER**

**KEY VERSE: If you remain in me and my words remain in you,   
ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you."**  
 **JOHN 15:7 (NIV)**

Prayer is God's idea. If he didn't want to hear from you, he wouldn’t invite you to pray. God wants to hear from you because he loves you. He cares about every detail of your life. There is nothing too big or too small for his attention.   
  
**FOUR PRIMARY PURPOSES FOR PRAYER:**  
• **Prayer is an act of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**  
  
I am the vine; you are the branches. you remain in me and I in   
you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you."   
  
 **JOHN 15:5-7 (NIV)**   
  
  
• **Prayer is an act of\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  
  
"I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit -fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.   
  
 **JOHN 15:15-16 (NIV)**

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• **Prayer is an act of\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**Do not be anxious about anything. but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.   
  
 **PHILIPPLANS 4:6-7 (ESV)**

"I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete."   
  
 **JOHN** **16:23-24 (NIV**)   
  
  
You don’t have what you want because you don’t ask God for it.   
  
 **JAMES 4:2 (NLT)**  
  
He fulfills the desires of those who reverence and trust him.   
  
 **PSALM 145:19 (TLB)**   
  
  
Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of   
our heart.   
  
 **PSALM 37:4 (NIV)**   
  
  
"Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?   
Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"   
  
 **MATTHEW 7: 9-11 (NIV)**

**• Prayer is an act of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**3**  
Prayer is God's way of letting us partner with him to accomplish his purposes.  
  
  
"I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these because I am going to the father.”  
  
 **JOHN 14:12 (NIV)**  
  
"And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and l will do it."   
  
 **JOHN 14:13-14 (NIV)**  
  
  
Your prayers release the power of God into the most hopeless situations. They can penetrate places where no man or woman can go, whether that’s a closed, international border, or the hardened heart of a skeptic. Prayer makes the impossible possible.   
  
  
The king' heart is in the hand of the Lord; he directs it like a  
watercourse wherever he pleases.  
 **PROVERBS 21:1 (NIV)**

**Discovery Questions:**  
  
Please don't feel pressured to discuss every discovery question. It’s okay to choose the questions that are right for your group. The point is not to race through the   
session; the point is to take time to let God work in your lives.   
  
• What role has prayer played in shaping your relationship with God?   
  
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• Based on today's lesson about the purpose of prayer, what can you do to deepen your conversation with God?   
  
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• What are you hoping to get out of this study in the next forty days?

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