



Well Prayed Talk to Your Father

Need help navigating an online group session? Reach out to MichaelS@wschurch.org with questions and to get tips for how to stay connected even when you can't meet in person!

When Jesus taught his disciples to pray, he started at square one: He made sure they knew to pray *to* the Father and to bring their honor and respect.

Scripture:

So Peter returned with them; and as soon as he arrived, they took him to the upstairs room. The room was filled with widows who were weeping and showing him the coats and other clothes Dorcas had made for them. But Peter asked them all to leave the room; then he knelt and prayed. Turning to the body he said, "Get up, Tabitha." And she opened her eyes! When she saw Peter, she sat up! He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then he called in the widows and all the believers, and he presented her to them alive.

The news spread through the whole town, and many believed in the Lord.

Acts 9:39-42

And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him.

1st John 5:14

Icebreaker and Intro Questions:

1. What's something that you miss that surprises you? What's something that you don't miss that surprises you?
2. What resonated with you from Sunday's service? (Sermon, scripture, song, etc.)

Discussion Quest

3. Are you ever skeptical or doubtful about the power of prayer?
4. Can you think of a time when God showed up in a powerful way because of prayer?

5. Read Acts 9:39-42 together as a group. What sticks out to you about the power of prayer and the way Peter handles the situation?
6. Read 1st John 5:14 together as a group. How does this challenge or comfort you?
7. Gabe challenged us to decide some practical things, such as when, where, and how we will pray. Take some time as a group to discuss each of these three questions, when, where, and how will you pray this morning? Share what has been helpful to you in the past.
8. Look over the prayer practice for the week. Then, have someone pray for your group before you close your time together.

Prayer Practice for this Week:

- Spend some time reflecting on some of the practical pieces of connecting with God regularly in prayer. Take some time to think through and write down short answers to the questions and then put it into practice this week!
 - WHERE – Do you have a specific place where you pray regularly? Where have been some places where you're able to remove distractions to meet with God? (Some ideas: a certain chair, your car, a specific quiet spot in your home, or even a closet.)
 - WHEN – Is there a time that is consistently good for you to set aside time to pray? Set a reminder or appointment that reminds you to pause for 5 – 15 minutes. (Some ideas: in the morning, at noon, or before bed.)
 - HOW – While we're still learning about different ways to pray, this week, try spending some time pausing and thanking God for being a good and loving Father. Ask him for the things on your heart! Slowly and thoughtfully use the words from the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6, if you need some words.

This week:

- Reflect on some of things that make God such a good, loving Father to us. Look up these verses and jot down a few words that describe how God is pictured in each one.
 - Isaiah 40:28
 - Jeremiah 31:10
 - Zephaniah 3:17
 - Luke 12:32
 - John 14:9
 - Galatians 5:22-23
 - 1 John 1:5
- When you pray, imagine God is there with you & that he loves you. Can you meet with him, trusting that he's glad to meet with you? Remember the truth from 1 John 5:14 that he hears us.
- We've put together several excellent resources for you to use during the Well-Prayed teaching series at West Side. Check out several Bible reading plans, video resources, and prayer tools at wschurch.org/resources.

Notes: