



May 6 & 7

## Navigating Prayer

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### INTRODUCTION

This is our third and final message of the series *Guided*. In week one, Pastor John pointed out our need to be guided in recognizing our personal emotional and spiritual condition, and last week, he focused on our need to be guided in God's Word. This week, Pastor Jesse looks at our need for guidance in our prayer lives. He begins with a question many of us have experienced: What is the point of prayer? Pastor Jesse explains prayer reconnects us to our deepest need: to be loved by God as our Father, who will always meet our needs.

### DISCUSSION

1. Read Luke 11:1-13. In view of the questions raised by Jesse, why do you think the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray? Do you feel a need to gain instruction in prayer? Why?
2. How do you see Father God? Is it difficult for you to pray to God as your Father? Why/why not?
3. How does prayer connect you closer to God the Father? Share a time when you prayed to Father God and how it affected your faith life.
4. Have you ever sought advice concerning your own personal prayer life? Where might you seek such help? Do you feel it would be beneficial to pray with others in a group, even if you are not compelled to pray out loud yourself? Discuss how your group can better serve each other in prayer.

### THINK ABOUT IT

Prayer is a powerful tool in our daily walk with the Lord. Throughout Scripture, we are given instructions in prayer and promises by God, if we pray. Consider some of these passages: 2 Chronicles 7:14 is a prescription for national healing. Luke 18:1-8 tells us how to gain earthly justice. Philippians 4:4-7 gives us a prescription for peace. 1 John 1:9 tells us how to gain forgiveness. Jesus instructs us to pray for our enemies in Matthew 5:44. What are some more Scriptural instructions on prayer?

### DO SOMETHING

1. Study some of the verses above to help you pray for specific areas of your life. Spend some time each day this week in prayer, even if it's only a couple of minutes.
2. If you are struggling with prayer, seek out someone who can disciple (mentor) you in this area of your faith life.
3. Join a communal prayer group - praying with your spouse, your family or a prayer partner - to pray with on a regular basis. The Cedar Falls and Osage Campuses offer groups the second Saturday of each month [for more information, go to [prairielakeschurch.org](http://prairielakeschurch.org)]. Remember, one doesn't have to pray out loud to be a part of a prayer group.

For more information, email [discipleship@prairielakeschurch.org](mailto:discipleship@prairielakeschurch.org).