

Studying Prayers in Scripture



this book belongs to

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**I want to pray
more but don't
know how to start
or what to say.**

**I want to grow in
my spiritual life
but don't feel
equipped.**

Have you ever said either of these statements? What do you do when you feel this way?

Maybe you feel awkward praying out loud because you don't know what to say or fear how other people will perceive your prayer. We have all been there. The beauty of prayer is that we get to talk to our Creator God who moved Heaven and Earth to save us from our sin. There is no cleaned up way we could present ourselves to be worthy of his love. Instead we are worthy and get to enter boldly into his presence because of Jesus's sacrifice on the cross. Jesus tells us we get to come to the Father as a child. That means we are allowed to bring our full selves to him — to be demanding and whiny and honest. And as we come to him and talk with him, he shapes us, he changes us, he transforms us so that our lives look more and more like the life of his Son.

There are a lot of ways to approach this topic. We are picking a narrow scope for this season by looking at a few specific prayers from people in the Bible.

While we study these prayers, we will also be practicing how to read and study the Bible. Each week, we will use the same template of questions to look at the scripture passage. The template follows a general method of **comprehension, interpretation, and application** but with **specific questions geared toward understanding prayer**. In this way, my goal is for you to gain experience and confidence in reading a passage from the Bible on your own.

Each week as we gather together to discuss the scripture, we will use what we've learned that week to pray for each other, Grace & Peace, and Greenville. Let us lean into the discomfort we may initially feel as we practice boldly approaching the throne of Grace.



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Study Schedule

Thursdays	Reading / Prayer Due	Reference Text(s)
6.6.24	The High Priestly Prayer (John 17)	Luke 22:7-23, John 13:1-5
6.13.24	The Song of Moses (Exodus 15:1-21)	Exodus 12:29-42, 14:1-31
6.20.24	Hannah's Prayer (1 Samuel 2:1-10)	1 Samuel 1:1-28
6.27.24	Paul Prays for Ephesus (Ephesians 1:15-23, 3:14-21)	Acts 19:1-41

Things to Remember

Your presence is more important than your preparation.

At the same time, 5 minutes of study on your own is better than no minutes.

All time options cover the same material. So if 6:30am works for you most of the time, but you need to attend 10am one week, please feel free to!

6:30am - 305 W. Faris Road (Kim Cain's house)

10am - G&P Fellowship Hall

7pm - G&P Fellowship Hall

For a list of resources on prayer, visit the QR code below.



TYPES OF PRAYER

Praise: naming the characteristics of God to give him honor and glory

Petition: asking God for things we want and/or need, whether big or small

Confession: acknowledging the specific sins in our hearts and how our sin has affected others

Lament: expressing deep sorrow and agony

Format for Bible Study

- Read the prayer passage two times. During the second reading, slow down and observe the text.
- Who is praying? What do you know about this person?
- What words does the speaker use to address God?
- What does the speaker ask from God?
- How does the speaker describe their current situation?
- Read the reference text.

What is going on that is leading them to pray?

What do their circumstances look like?

- Note any repeated words or phrases, words of contrast, or cause and effect.
- Does the speaker's perspective change from beginning to end of the prayer? If so, how?
- Would you characterize the prayer as words of praise, petition, confession, or lament?
- How would you paraphrase or rewrite the prayer in only a few sentences or less? (again, might need more scaffolding)
- What does the speaker pray for that we can also share in, if anything?
- In what ways are you surprised by how the speaker prays?
- How could your prayer life be shaped by how the speaker relates to God?
- From today's study, identify how you can pray for others, G&P, Greenville, and the world.
- Take some time to pray.



**USE THIS PAGE AS A GUIDE FOR
ANY FUTURE BIBLE READING!**

Completed Example

In lieu of providing an in-person teaching to provide guidance for the study, here is a worked example with a prayer from the Bible that we are not discussing in person. The answers included in the example should not be viewed as comprehensive but as a guide for how to think about the passage. When applicable, the passage has been marked with color coding to show where the answer comes from in the text.

2 CHRONICLES 6:12-21

Solomon's Prayer of Dedication

¹² Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands.

¹³ Solomon had made a bronze platform five cubits long, five cubits wide, and three cubits high, and had set it in the court, and he stood on it. Then he knelt on his knees in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven,

¹⁴ and said, "O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven or on earth, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart, ¹⁵ who have kept with your servant David my father what you declared to him. You spoke with your mouth, and with your hand have fulfilled it this day. ¹⁶ Now therefore, O Lord, God of Israel,

keep for your servant David my father what you have promised him, saying, 'You shall not lack a man to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk in my law as you have walked before me.' ¹⁷ Now therefore, O Lord, God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you have spoken to your servant David.

¹⁸ "But will God indeed dwell with man on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, how much less this house that I have built! ¹⁹ Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O Lord my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that your servant prays before you, ²⁰ that your eyes may be open day and night toward this house, the place where you have promised to set your name, that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place.

²¹ And listen to the pleas of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen from heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.

Read the prayer passage two times. During the second reading, slow down and observe the text.

Who is praying? What do you know about this person?

- Solomon
- Son of King David, ascended the throne after David died, prayed for wisdom, wrote lots of proverbs, also had lots of wives

What words does the speaker use to address God?

(see text highlighted in green)

- the Lord, God of Israel, my God

What does the speaker ask from God? (see text highlight in blue)

- Keep his promises that he made to David, confirm the words he spoke to David - that there will be a king over Israel
- Listen to the prayer and cry that Solomon prays
- May his eyes be open day and night over the house - watch over the house/temple, pay them attention
- Hear their pleas, listen, and forgive

How does the speaker describe their current situation?

- Doesn't say much
- Says more about who God is to him
- Declares God's faithfulness to Israel (v14)

Read the reference text (2 Chronicles 6: 1-11). What is going on in their lives that is leading them to pray? What do their circumstances look like?

- Solomon set out to build the temple with the blessing of the Lord. The construction is complete and the ark has been brought inside.
- Solomon reminds the people of their history and how the Lord has kept his promises in the past.

Note any repeated words or phrases, words of contrast, or cause and effect.

Repeats

- Servant 7x
- covenant/promise/confirm
- Heaven 3x
- Body of God - mouth, hand, eye, listen (ear)
- Listen 3x
- Dwell/dwelling place/house 4x

Contrast

- God vs man & heaven vs earth
 - God cannot be contained, keeps promises, walks steadfast
 - Man cries, pleads, prays - cannot help himself

Cause and effect

- Because of God's steadfast love, when he hears a cry, he offers forgiveness.

Does the speaker's perspective change from beginning to end of the prayer? If so, how?

Solomon seems consistent with what he believes and declares that God will do which is to be faithful to his people.

Would you characterize the prayer as words of praise, petition, confession, or lament?

Praise and petition

How would you paraphrase or rewrite the prayer in only a few sentences or less?

God of your people, you are the only God. You keep your promises to your people, and we ask you to do it again. This house we've built for you cannot contain you but will you look upon us anyways? See us, hear us, and grant us forgiveness so that we may share in your love.

What does the speaker pray for that we can also share in, if anything?

- For God to continue to keep his promises
- For God to see and hear and respond to his people

In what ways are you surprised by how the speaker prays?

- By his trust in God, clear declaration of who God is
- Reminds God of the promises he has made in the past, he repeats God's words back to him
- A very bold prayer

How could your prayer life be shaped by how the speaker relates to God?

- Declare out loud what is true about God
- Don't be afraid to repeat myself

From today's discussion, identify how your group can pray for each other, G&P, Greenville, and the world.

- Remind ourselves who God is, declare what is true about him
- Identify what promises you have seen God fulfill in your life and thank God for them
- Ask God to show us how he keeps his covenant and shows steadfast love to us, that we would be women who see him at work
- Ask God to speak to us, walk among us, use his hands to fulfill his promises to us, listen to us
- That his promises would still be true today to Greenville, that he would want to dwell here in our city
- Thank God for sending Jesus, the God man, to dwell with us on the earth, that he chose to condescend to us to give us the gift of forgiveness

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

⁶ "I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. ⁸ For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹ And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

²⁰ "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they

may be one even as we are one,²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.²⁵ O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me.²⁶ I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

1 - Read the prayer passage two times. During the second reading, slow down and observe the text.

2 - Who is praying? What do you know about this person?

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5 - How does the speaker describe their current situation?

6 - Read the reference text. What is going on in their lives that is leading them to pray? What do their circumstances look like?

7 - Note any repeated words or phrases, words of contrast, or cause and effect.

8 - Does the speaker's perspective change from beginning to end of the prayer? If so, how?

9 - Would you characterize the prayer as words of praise, petition, confession, or lament?

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The Song of Moses

Exodus 15:1-21

JUNE 13

¹ Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying,

"I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.

² The LORD is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation;
this is my God, and I will praise him,
my father's God, and I will exalt him.

³ The LORD is a man of war;
the LORD is his name.

⁴ "Pharaoh's chariots and his host he cast into the sea,
and his chosen officers were sunk in the Red Sea.

⁵ The floods covered them;
they went down into the depths like a stone.

⁶ Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power,
your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.

⁷ In the greatness of your majesty you overthrow your adversaries;
you send out your fury; it consumes them like stubble.

⁸ At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up;
the floods stood up in a heap;
the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.

⁹ The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake,
I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them.
I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them.'

¹⁰ You blew with your wind; the sea covered them;
they sank like lead in the mighty waters.

¹¹ "Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods?
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?

¹² You stretched out your right hand;
the earth swallowed them.

¹³ "You have led in your steadfast love the people
whom you have redeemed;
you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.

¹⁴ The peoples have heard; they tremble;
pangs have seized the inhabitants of Philistia.

¹⁵ Now are the chiefs of Edom dismayed;
trembling seizes the leaders of Moab;

all the inhabitants of Canaan have melted away.

¹⁶ Terror and dread fall upon them;

because of the greatness of your arm, they are still as a stone,
till your people, O LORD, pass by,

till the people pass by whom you have purchased.

¹⁷ You will bring them in and plant them on your own mountain,

the place, O LORD, which you have made for your abode,

the sanctuary, O LORD, which your hands have established.

¹⁸ The LORD will reign forever and ever."

¹⁹ For when the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought back the waters of the sea upon them, but the people of Israel walked on dry ground in the midst of the sea. ²⁰ Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and dancing. ²¹ And Miriam sang to them:

"Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea."

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¹ And Hannah prayed and said,

"My heart exults in the LORD;
my horn is exalted in the LORD.
My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in your salvation.

² "There is none holy like the LORD:
for there is none besides you;
there is no rock like our God.

³ Talk no more so very proudly,
let not arrogance come from your mouth;
for the LORD is a God of knowledge,
and by him actions are weighed.

⁴ The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the feeble bind on strength.

⁵ Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,
but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger.

The barren has borne seven,
but she who has many children is forlorn.

⁶ The LORD kills and brings to life;
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.

⁷ The LORD makes poor and makes rich;
he brings low and he exalts.

⁸ He raises up the poor from the dust;
he lifts the needy from the ash heap

to make them sit with princes
and inherit a seat of honor.

For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's,
and on them he has set the world.

⁹ "He will guard the feet of his faithful ones,
but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness,
for not by might shall a man prevail.

¹⁰ The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces;
against them he will thunder in heaven.

The LORD will judge the ends of the earth;
he will give strength to his king
and exalt the horn of his anointed."

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Paul Prays for Ephesus

Ephesians 1:15-23

JUNE 27

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 3:14-21

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

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Summer 2024
Women's Bible Study

written by Kelli Galloway