

# C-Group

## Prayer Emphasis Guide



Cultivating our Community for Christ  
1 Cor. 3: 6-9



## Calendar

|         |        |                        |
|---------|--------|------------------------|
| Nov. 1  | week 1 | Intercessory           |
| Nov. 15 | week 2 | God's Will             |
| Dec. 6  | week 3 | Confession/Forgiveness |
| Dec. 13 | week 4 | Praise/Worship         |

## 2020 Connection Groups

| <u>Leader(s)</u> | <u>Demographic</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Day/Time</u>   |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| McHale           | Open Group         | CBC             | SUN. – 1:30 P.M.  |
| Simpkins         | Open Group         | CBC             | SUN. – 5:30 P.M.  |
| Gillispie        | Ladies             | CBC             | WED. – 10:00 A.M. |
| Jennings         | Open Group         | Parsley Home    | WED. – 5:30 P.M.  |
| Lewis            | Teenagers          | Lewis Home      | WED. – 6:00 P.M.  |
| Reynolds         | Open Group         | Reynolds Home   | WED. – 7:00 P.M.  |

# Helpful Tips for Studying Scripture

Below are some helpful questions to ask and answer when reading, understanding, and applying scripture to our lives. You do not need to answer all these questions as part of each week, but as you read through the passages you are encouraged to keep these questions nearby to enhance your experience reading God's word.

## Understanding the Bible

1. **What do we learn about God?**
  - a. Look for God's character (who he is, what he is like).
  - b. Look for God's conduct (what he is doing).
  - c. Look for God's concerns (what things, events, and people he is concerned about).
2. **What do we learn about people?**
  - a. Look for aspects of what it means to be created in God's image.
  - b. Look for fallen condition
  - c. Look for how God's people should live.
3. **What do we learn about relating to God?**
  - a. Look for things to praise and thank God for.
  - b. Look for sin to confess and repent.
  - c. Look for promises and truths to believe.
4. **What do we learn about relating to others?**
  - a. Look for how we should interact with and treat others.
  - b. Look for ways to pursue reconciliation with others.
  - c. Look for specific ways to love, serve, and care for others.

## Applying the Bible

1. **What does God want me to understand?**
2. **What does God want me to believe?**
3. **What does God want me to desire?**
4. **What does God want me to do?**

Content taken from Dr. Matthew Harmon's book, *Asking the Right Questions*, Crossway, 2017. Used with permission.

# Prayer Emphasis

## Background:

A basic definition of prayer is defined as follows: *Prayer is personal communication with God.*<sup>1</sup> Within this there are many different types of prayers including prayers of request, confession of sin, thanksgiving, praise, etc. Prayer is not made so that God can figure out what it is that we want from Him since Matthew 6:8 makes it clear that the Father already knows what we need before we ask Him. God desires that we pray because prayer expresses our trust in God and is the mode used in which our trust in Him increases. This is why the Bible teaches that when we pray, we are to do so in faith. God delights in His creation trusting and depending on Him. Wayne Grudem has this to say regarding prayer:

“When we truly pray, we as persons, in the wholeness of our character, are relating to God as a person, in the wholeness of his character. Thus, all that we think or feel about God comes to expression in our prayer. It is only natural that God would delight in such activity and place much emphasis on it in his relationship with us.”

Prayer is an important part of the Christian’s life, in fact it is even mentioned to be a weapon for use in spiritual warfare by Paul in Ephesians 6:18. If prayer is as powerful as scripture makes it out to be, why is it that the church tends to put it in the backseat behind other forms of service or worship? Should it not be what we are leading the charge with? The following weeks will focus on different types of prayer and will hopefully be a tool to help deepen your understanding of the power of prayer as well as mold your life into a lifestyle of one.

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<sup>1</sup> Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology 376

## Week 1 Intercessory

Believers find strength in praying together with other believers. Jesus teaches this concept in Matthew 18:19-20; *“Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”* Scripture is full of other examples where groups of believers prayed together and for each other (see Solomon’s prayer at the dedication of the temple in 1 Kings 8:22-53, or the prayer of the early church in Jerusalem as they lifted their voices together in Acts 4:24). Even the Lord’s prayer says give *“us”* our daily bread, and lead *“us”* not into temptation but deliver *“us”* from evil (Matthew 6:11-13). Prayer was not simply meant to be a private conversation that a believer has with God to grow closer to Him, but also as a means of growing closer to the Father together as a body of believers. It is not meant to be a means of gossip or spreading dissension, as these very things grieve the Spirit of God; so discretion and wisdom should always be taken into account when sharing with others. Intercessory prayer can take a great deal of humility and vulnerability. Therefore, the safest place for it should be reserved for the church body. It is a way to attune our hearts towards the needs of others on their behalf so that we might better love God and love others.

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What is a need in your life currently that you need to request prayer for from others?

## Prayers / Requests / Praises

## Week 2 God's Will

What does it mean to pray God's will? 1 John 5:14-15 says this; *"And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him."* Jesus also teaches, of prayer, that we should pray to God that *"Your will be done"* and even gives an example of it in his own prayer in the garden of Gethsemane the night following his crucifixion (Matt. 26:39). So, how do we know what God's will is when we pray? If what we are praying over is addressed by scripture, then the simple answer is that His will is that His Word and commandments be obeyed. God has given clear instructions in His Word of what He requires of His people to live a life of godliness. When it comes to seeking wisdom for making an important decision, we have been given an answer for that as well. James 1:5 says, *"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."*

There are many times when we do not know what God's will is. After all, we are finite beings that know little dealing with an infinite being who knows all. Where God promises to give us wisdom, He does not promise that we get that new job, or receive the raise, or win our contest. These don't have a guaranteed promise in scripture, which is why we seek God all the more and why we also should make it a point to listen to what He has to say to us. Praying for God's will is just as much about seeking the scriptures as it is listening to the Holy Spirit.

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What is God's will for the life of a believer (Rom. 8:28; 12:2; 1 Thess. 4:3)?

What do you need to pray for regarding God's will?

## Prayers / Requests / Praises

### Week 3

## Confession/Forgiveness

Our obedience to God is never perfect in this life and we need to continually depend on His forgiveness of our sins. “Confession of sins is necessary in order for God to “forgive us” in the sense of restoring his day-by-day relationship with us (see Matt. 6:12; 1 John 1:9)”<sup>2</sup> This practice of confession is not just about asking God for forgiveness, but also has a secondary purpose of helping us recognize and confront our sin easier and more often. It helps bring awareness to the areas in our life where we fall short of the holiness of God. There is also an important practice found in confessing hidden sins, or sins of ignorance. There are times where we unknowingly sin and those are still just as condemning as intentional sin. Therefore, it is important to pray as David did in Psalm 19:12 to “clear me from hidden faults”.

In regards to forgiveness, Jesus commands us to build into our prayers a request that God would forgive us in the same way that we have forgiven others who have harmed us (Matt. 6:12). If we have sinned against God, we have grieved the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30), and that sin has interrupted our relationship with God (Isa. 59:1-2). Prayer becomes difficult until the relationship is restored, and likewise, if we have unforgiveness in our hearts against someone else, we are not behaving in a way that is pleasing to God. Jesus says, “*For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*” (Matt. 6:14-15). Until that forgiveness is offered, God will feel far off. Therefore, our relationship with God struggles when we are harboring hate against others.

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Where have you fallen short of God’s holy standard?

Who do you need to forgive?

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<sup>2</sup> Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology 385

## Prayers / Requests / Praises

## Week 4 Praise/Worship

“Worship is the activity of glorifying God in his presence with our voices and hearts”<sup>3</sup> The Christian is meant to make their entire life an act of glorifying God, so worship is something even more intentional when we come into the presence of God. Since God is the only one worthy of our worship, God and God alone, gets to decide how He should be worshiped. Paul gives the Christians in Colossae an encouraging example of this in a corporate setting in Col. 3:16. He says “*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...*”

### **1. teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom.**

Listening to the Word of God taught, engaging in spiritual conversation of the gospel and of biblical truth, and correction of false gospel beliefs or living contrary to the Word of God. In the form of prayer, this shows itself in our exclamation of scriptural truths.

**2. singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.** Songs that are not grounded in solid biblical truth can be well intended but also in opposition to God’s desires. Praise that is glorifying to God is always praise that is God centered.

**3. with thankfulness in your hearts to God.** Thankfulness should be a constant practice. Including thankfulness in our prayers helps corrects our thinking of the world around us, and the God who gave it to us. It aligns our thinking with His and promotes a glad and grateful heart.

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This list is not exhaustive; what are other ways that we can worship God corporately?

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<sup>3</sup> Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology 1003

## Prayers / Requests / Praises

## PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES!

Calvary supports over 80 missionaries/ministries! Each one needs our prayers! Please use the following chart to pray for just one or two missionaries each week during your group and personal prayer times. On the left of the chart, you will see the lesson/week number. Slide over to the appropriate C-Group leader as shown at the top of the chart to find your missionaries for the week. As each group intercedes for just one or two missionaries each week, we will cover all of our missionaries with prayer during each sermon series.

|                                    |  |                                    |                               |                                      |
|------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| David Carrell-<br>Brazil           | Andrea Clark-<br>Nicaragua             | Mark<br>Sterken-Cuba               | John<br>Gorman-<br>Military   | Reuel Tica-<br>Philippines           |
| Eric Miller-<br>Advance<br>America | Amazing<br>Grace-<br>Zornes-USA        | David Green-<br>Taiwan             | Brian<br>Brown-<br>Mexico     | Joe Mohler-<br>Belgium               |
| Joe Flory-<br>Russia               | Bible Bapt<br>Seminary-<br>Philippines | Jerry Abbott-<br>Manna<br>Europe   | Naim<br>Khoury-<br>Israel     | Paulo Taveras-<br>Brazil             |
| Alan Harris-<br>Evangelist         |  |                                    |                               |                                      |
| Jeff Garrison-<br>Hispanic-OH      | Art Williams-<br>BOAM-<br>Worldwide    | Jordan<br>Steiner-<br>Ecuador      | James<br>Turpin-<br>Norway    | Richard<br>Hester-<br>Australia      |
| Justin Hayes-<br>Spain             |  |                                    | Walter<br>Troup-<br>Africa    | Jeff Bush-<br>Mission<br>Director GA |
| BEAMS Bible<br>Ministry            | Sam Wood-<br>Evangelist                | Coleman<br>Gabbard-<br>New Zealand | FUEL/Haven<br>Connersville    | Jonathan<br>Wheeler-<br>North Africa |
| Rene Freret-<br>BEAMS              |  |                                    | Lanny<br>Wood-<br>Brazil      |                                      |
| Paul<br>Hostetter-<br>Madagascar   | William<br>Smith-Brazil                | True<br>Hawkins-<br>Brazil         | Harold<br>Priday-<br>Honduras | Larry<br>McKinney-<br>Oklahoma       |
|                                    |  |                                    |                               |                                      |
| Matt Smith-<br>Morocco             | Paul Jhant-US<br>Youth-TX              | Robert<br>Cupps-Peru               | Michael<br>Lea-<br>Ecuador    | John Arherin-<br>Military            |

|                        |                                |                                      |                                      |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| George Lewis-Canada    | Bob Williams-Choctaw-OK        | Tom Wallace-Ireland                  | Stephen Byrd-Ecuador                 |
| Scott Edwards-Portugal | Brenda Hayes-Philippines       | Phil Gagnon-Gagnon Global Ministries | Phil Long-Madagascar                 |
| Luke Crockett-France   | Gene Burge-Mission Director-FL | Brian Geesaman-PA and Haiti          | Keith Reedy-Bibles for the Blind, IN |
|                        |                                |                                      | Jerry Lantz-Brazil                   |
| David Ralstrom-Bahamas | Corey O'Grady-Netherlands      | Les Tilka-Philippines                | Kim Johnson-Campus Crusade           |
| Sam Quinn-India        | Ernie Brown-Ecuador            | Norman Higgins-Mexico                | David Ross-Indonesia                 |
| Rick Henson-Evangelist | Hope Center-Connersville       | Ron Valero-Dominican                 | Daniel Jones-Mexico                  |
| David McDonald-Spain   |                                |                                      | Don Sixt-Scandinavia                 |
| Accent Radio           | Leslie Priday-Honduras         | Mark Haynes-Navajos-AZ               | Thomas Tucker-Thailand               |
|                        |                                |                                      |                                      |
| Tommy Ashcraft-Mexico  | Dave Norman-WA                 | Tyler Nikkel-Czech Republic          | Walter Stevens-Roma                  |

Prayer points for missionaries:

- Evangelism and Discipleship • Safety and Health
- Family Relationships and Education Concerns
- Financial Provision • Personal Purity and Integrity
- Passion and Compassion • Wisdom and Discernment



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