

THE DIALOGUE • SESSION 5

Learning to Pray

Luke 11:1 • “Lord, teach us to pray.”

Dr. Wilfred Graves Jr.

wholenesspathway.org

Resources for The Dialogue

Session materials and follow-up resources

wholenesspathway.org

- Earlier session pages
- Christian Practices Library
- Teaching Videos
- Three Bible Teachers Archive

BACKGROUND TEACHING

“Basic Principles of Prayer”

with

Dr. Wilfred Graves Jr.

Tonight's Focus

Learning to Pray

What does Jesus teach us about learning to pray?

“Lord, teach us to pray.”

SCRIPTURE

Luke 11:1

COMMUNION

Life with God

FORMATION

Becoming like Christ

Luke 11 in Context

Jesus prays. The disciples watch. One disciple asks.

- Jesus is praying “in a certain place.”
- The disciples wait until he finishes.
- They already know the practice of prayer.
- Something in Jesus’ prayer life awakens a deeper hunger.

Their request is the doorway into the session.

Luke 11:1

Main Scripture • NKJV

“Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.’”

Lord, teach us to pray.

Prayer Is Learned

The posture of a disciple

We grow in prayer.

SPEAK

Honestly before
God

LISTEN

With Scripture as
our anchor

WAIT

With trust

SURRENDER

Our desires to God

What do I still need Jesus to teach me about prayer?

What Is Prayer?

A simple working definition

Prayer is personal communication with God in worship.

Prayer brings our real lives into fellowship with the living God.

Three Dimensions of Prayer

Personal • Communication • Worship

PERSONAL

We approach the living God who knows us and invites us into relationship.

COMMUNICATION

We speak to God and learn to attend to him through Scripture and by the Spirit.

WORSHIP

We honor God, give thanks, express dependence, and yield ourselves to his will.

Prayer Is Communion That Forms Us

Fellowship with God shapes the life of the disciple

God already knows what we need.

We pray because God invites us into relationship with him.

COMMUNION

We seek God himself.



FORMATION

Our desires, trust, and character are shaped.



CHRISTLIKENESS

We grow into the likeness of Christ.

Prayer Has a Trinitarian Shape

Christian prayer takes place within our life with the Triune God

THE FATHER

We come to the Father who loves and cares for his children.

THE SON

Through Christ we have access to God. Our confidence rests in him.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Spirit helps us in our weakness and teaches us to depend on God.

We do not have to master prayer before we can pray.

Listening in Prayer

Scripture remains our anchor

- God speaks to us primarily through Scripture.
- The Holy Spirit may bring Scripture to mind, convict, redirect, or awaken concern.
- Whatever we believe God is bringing to our attention must be consistent with his Word and the character of Christ.
- We remain humble about our impressions and do not manufacture an experience.

The better we know the Word, the better prepared we are to discern faithfully in prayer.

Five Simple Movements of Prayer

A guide, not a rigid formula

COME

Make room

WORSHIP

Turn toward
God

SPEAK HONESTLY

Bring your
real life

LISTEN + ATTEND

Remain
before God

RESPOND

Obey or
surrender

These movements can help us enter more fully into communion with God.

Come • Worship • Speak Honestly

Three movements that help us begin

COME

Set aside space to be
with God. Intentionality
matters.

WORSHIP

Thank God. Praise him.
Remember who he is.

SPEAK HONESTLY

Bring gratitude,
confession, fears, needs,
hopes, and questions.

Prayer becomes healthier when God is larger in our vision than the problem that brought us to prayer.

Listen and Attend • Respond

Prayer should touch the way we live

LISTEN AND ATTEND

Remain before God. Return to Scripture. Ask what you need to obey, confess, trust, release, or pray about more deeply.

RESPOND

Obey what is clear. Surrender a desire. Forgive. Serve. Change course. Trust God with the outcome.

Prayer and obedience belong together.

Ask. Seek. Knock.

Persistence with surrender

Persistence is continued trust in a good Father.

ASK

Bring your
requests.

SEEK

Keep turning
toward God.

KNOCK

Continue in trust.

As we persist, we also allow God to reshape our desires according to his wisdom and will.

Dr. Hammonds Response

About 10 minutes

What stands out to you from tonight's teaching?

What would you add as we think about how believers actually grow in prayer?

Dr. Hammonds may also ask Dr. Graves a question for clarification or expansion.

Discussion Questions

Chat + brief spoken responses

1

What has helped you grow in prayer over the years?

2

What tends to make prayer difficult for you?

3

Which movement do you most need to strengthen right now: Come, Worship, Speak Honestly, Listen and Attend, or Respond?

Practice for the Week

“Lord, teach me to pray.”

COME

Make room to
be with God.

WORSHIP

Thank God and
acknowledge
who he is.

SPEAK HONESTLY

Bring your real
life before him.

LISTEN + ATTEND

Spend time
with Scripture
and remain
attentive.

RESPOND

Act on what is
clear or
surrender the
outcome.

Write down: 1) What am I learning about prayer? 2) What am I learning about God?

The goal is to grow in intentional communion with God.

NEXT SESSION

Session 6: Praying with Honesty Before God

Bringing our real emotions, questions, fears, disappointments, and struggles before God.

Thank you for being part of The Dialogue

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