

## The Path Of Biblical Prayer

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**Scripture passage:** Read aloud Luke 11:1-4 and Matthew 6:5-15

These verses highlight some of what Jesus said about prayer. Jesus calls us to authentic prayer because God desires relationship with us. Prayer and scripture reflection deepen our relationship with God and raise our awareness of God's presence in our lives.

### Discussion Questions:

1. How do you define prayer? Describe when, where and how you normally pray. Are you comfortable with your current prayer life? Why or why not?
2. There are many ways to pray. We will focus on ACTS, an acronym for Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication, modeled for us in the Lord's Prayer. Share your experience with this form of prayer as practiced last week.
3. What would be our next step toward growth in the practice of prayer?
4. Disciplined reflection on Scripture contributes to our continued growth as disciples of Jesus Christ. Do you feel comfortable reading the Bible? Why or why not?
5. Is the Bible true? Is the Bible inspired?
6. Should we take the Bible literally or figuratively?
7. Traditionally United Methodists use three tools to interpret Scripture. These are components of the Wesleyan Quadrilateral. Discuss each.
  - Tradition
  - Reason
  - Experience
8. Intercessory prayer (praying for another) is an important part of our prayer life. Choose a prayer partner within the group and get together to share your prayer needs for the coming week. Pray together.

**Moving Forward:**

Prayer and Scripture are the nonnegotiable essentials for the journey of discipleship. Without them, we run out of steam and get sidetracked along the way. These are the practices by which we become faithful disciples whose lives are centering in Jesus Christ and through whom the love of God begins to transform the world.

**Closing Prayer:**

Gracious and loving God, we continue on our journey toward a full relationship with you. Thank you for the resources of Holy Scriptures, tradition, reason and experience to shape us in your likeness. In our prayer and study, help us to learn and hear what you want us to hear. Continue to guide us in your light and love. Amen

**Prepare:**

Read Chapter 3: The Priority of Presence: *Corporate Worship and Small-group Community*.