

# PRAYER QUESTIONNAIRE

## Which verse about prayer did people mention most often?

1. James 5:16  
*"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."*
2. 1 Thessalonians 5:18  
*"Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*
3. Proverbs 3:5-6  
*"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."*
4. Philippians 4:6-7  
*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

## What challenge concerning prayer did people mention most often?

1. Unanswered prayer is puzzling and discouraging.
2. The question, "Does it really matter when I pray?"
3. *The Myth of Independence*: I can take care of my own problems if I work hard enough.
4. Prayer is hard.
5. Guilt over lack of prayer.

## Which definition of prayer motivates you to pray?

1. "True whole prayer is nothing but love."  
*St. Augustine*
2. "Ordinary people bringing ordinary concerns to a loving and compassionate Father."  
*R. Foster*
3. "The means by which God acts through human freedom in the present to transform personal and social existence toward the kingdom of God."  
*P. LeFevre*
4. "Prayer is direct communication with God."  
*S. Grenz*

# LET'S PRAY FIRST

## 2 CHRONICLES 20:1-13

### WHY?

I am not God.

I am a friend of God . . .

. . . who takes care of His name.

. . . who takes care of His friends.

### HOW?

Plan to stop to be face to face with God.

Practice stopping to be face to face with God.

#### Getting Started:

What friend do you call when you have a need? How would you describe your prayer life: a) non-existent, b) guilt producing, c) off and on, d) I am a friend of God, e) bold, f) other? Why?

#### Digging In:

What is the first action Jehoshaphat takes when he hears about the invading armies? Why? Make at least ten observations about Jehoshaphat's prayer. What do you learn about prayer from this? Why does Jehoshaphat tell God things that God knows? Do you think Jehoshaphat is blaming God for the invasion (vs 10-11)? Why or why not? What is Jehoshaphat's estimation of Judah's chances? What do these verses say about praying first: Prov 3:5-6; Ps 5:1-3; Php 4:6-7; 1Tim 2:1-4?

#### Living It Out:

In the midst of the battles of life where is your focus: on the problem? on the LORD? on yourself? Think through your typical day (waking, eating, appointments, driving, chores, caring for kids, exercising, sleeping, etc.). At what times can you plan to "pray first"? How will that require practice? In your group, make a list of the things and battles of life that people have neglected to pray for. Take time to pray for those things.

# THE JESUS PRAYER

**“Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”**

*The Jesus Prayer, also called The Prayer of the Heart, is a short prayer spoken repeatedly. It has been widely taught throughout the history of Christianity. The Jesus Prayer offers a way of concentration and a focal point for our spiritual life.*



## LET'S PRAY

Take three times this week for two minutes of silence.

After each two minutes of silence, pray the Jesus Prayer.