



How to Have a Daily, Dynamic Prayer Life

Jimmy Evans

- Focus** God never intended for Christianity to be dull or boring. It was meant to be a dynamic and fulfilling personal relationship. But for that to happen, there has to be communication going both ways. And that is what prayer is: an intimate conversation with God.
- Fun** Water Balloon Toss. (Note: Give advance notice to group members that they may get wet so dress appropriately.) You will need water balloons and a prize for the winning team. Have group members line up, facing their partner. Then they will toss the water balloon to each other and step back a foot, after each toss. Whoever can keep their balloon from bursting while being the furthest apart from each other is the winner. This is a great way to have fun in the summer sun!
- Review** Key Scripture Passages: Psalm 115:16; Matthew 18:18–19; Matthew 6:5–15
- **Why do we pray?**
We pray to acknowledge God and allow Him into our lives. Prayer recognizes our need for God's lordship, guidance, and help. God only comes by invitation because we have a free will. We pray to build a personal relationship with God. We can't know someone without talking with them and listening to what they say. Prayer is also how we exercise our spiritual authority. We are the army of God on this earth. We have authority to rule on this earth for the good of others, but this only happens when we partner with God through prayer.
 - **How do we pray?**
Jesus taught the Lord's Prayer as a pattern for how we should pray. Jesus also taught His disciples what not to do: don't rely on public, religious prayers and don't babble. Our prayers should be private and relational. We should

always begin prayer with acknowledging who God is and His greatness. We worship and honor God for who He is and for what He has done in our lives. Prayer is surrendering to God's authority and inviting His guidance into every area of our lives.

Group Dynamics Idea Make prayer a priority in your group, and pray regularly for everyone on your group roster. Prayer brings comfort and community.

- Discuss**
1. Pastor Jimmy Evans' sermon was titled "How to Have a Daily, Dynamic Prayer Life." What did you think or feel when you heard this title? Were you excited, discouraged, or curious? Why do you think the topic of prayer can incite so many different types of thoughts, feelings, experiences, or emotions?
 2. If someone were to ask you, "Why prayer? And why pray now?" What would you tell them and why?
 3. What does prayer mean to you and what has been your personal experience with prayer so far?
 4. What do you think a fruitful prayer life looks like? What are the benefits of having a daily prayer life?
 5. Have you experienced God's blessing in your life through prayer? Share.
 6. What is the difference between a memorized prayer and a conversation with God?
 7. How can we begin to have a daily, dynamic prayer life with our heavenly Father?

- Take Home**
- As we conclude, remember the following:
- We pray to acknowledge God's authority in our lives and the world.
 - We pray to invite His presence and intervention into our lives.
 - We pray because we are in an intimate, personal relationship with God.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us the most sacrificial offering of all—Your Son, Jesus. Thank You for giving us the gift of salvation. Thank You for blessing us when we come to You in prayer! Help us to always come to You

first and to partner with You in all things. Thank you for Your gift of conversation—prayer. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Prayer is instrumental in helping to build a genuine, relational community within your group and helping members feel cared for. Through prayer, you'll be able to connect with others more deeply on a personal level. Look for opportunities to incorporate prayer into your group.