

## WORSHIP

### SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Sing Unto the Lord, As We Pray, What a Friend We Have in Jesus, Here in Your Presence

## WELCOME

**How I Pray.** How do you pray? Briefly share your prayer habits with your group.

## WORD

### LUKE 11:1

*It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples."*

Prayer is communing with God to seek His will for our lives. Among the spiritual disciplines, prayer is the most central because it ushers us into the very presence of God.

Our attitude towards prayer is important. We should not be ritualistic nor try to manipulate God with our many repetitive words. Instead we should pray to Him from our heart (**Matthew 6:7-8**).

Prayer must be a delight, not a duty. Praying out of duty will eventually burn us out. But if we delight in prayer, we will love to pray for the rest of our lives.

How can we delight in prayer?

### JESUS TAUGHT THE DISCIPLES TO PRAY

To delight in prayer is to pray in the way that Jesus has taught us. In **Luke 11:1**, the disciples did not ask Jesus how to heal the sick, perform miracles or cast out demons, but they asked Him to teach them to pray. Jesus willingly obliged and taught them (**Matthew 6:7-13**).

The first part of the prayer model by Jesus is all about God (**Matthew 6:7-10**).

**"Our Father"** – To delight in prayer we must delight in whom we are praying to. As children of God, we can call Him our "Father." He has the resources to supply all our needs and we have access to Him anytime and anywhere. God is our loving Father who loves us unconditionally. If human fathers can love their children so much, imagine how much more our God the Father loves us. When we fully know God our Father, we will delight in our prayer.

**"Hallowed be Your name"** – In knowing God as our Father in heaven, we honor His holy name. Whatever

we say and do must bring glory to God the Father (**1 Corinthians 10:31**).

**"Your Kingdom come"** – God our Father is the King of kings. The Kingdom of God is not just an invisible kingdom in the hearts of men; it is also a visible sovereignty of God. When we pray this prayer model, we are praying for the reality of His kingdom to come over all the earth (**Revelation 11:15, Daniel 7:27**). This is why we should not fall in love with the things of this world. Instead we should set our eyes upon God's coming kingdom where we shall reign with Jesus forever (**Revelation 22:3, 5**).

**"Your will be done..."** – Each of us has our own life and we often like to do things our way. But once we know God and believe that He loves us, we eventually desire God's will and no longer our own. We begin to trust and surrender that God knows what is best for us (**Matthew 7:9-11**). Jesus modeled this in His prayer at Gethsemane (**Matthew 26:39**).

The second part of the prayer model by Jesus is about us, God's children.

**"Give us this day our daily bread"** – This verse is telling us that God cares for our needs and that He is our Provider. He also promised to provide for all our needs if we put Him first in our life. This means putting God first in everything we do and making use of our money and resources for the kingdom of God (**Matthew 6:31-33**).

**"And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors"** – One of our greatest needs in life is the need for forgiveness. Because we cannot give to others what we have not received ourselves, when we pray, we have to admit that we are sinners

## WORD (cont'd)

who need forgiveness. A true Christian is evidenced by the ability to forgive others (**Matthew 6:14–15**).

**“And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil”** – God will never allow temptation to destroy us but rather He intends to build us up (**James 1:13–14**). But in saying this prayer for protection, we need to also do our part by fleeing from our weaknesses. We are not to challenge God to protect us while we indulge ourselves in temptation.

**“For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”** – To delight in prayer is a

declaration of God's victory. This is how we should end our prayer, having a declaration of victory telling ourselves and the whole world that it is all about God, our Father.

Prayer must be a pleasure and not a burden. As we pray, we should delight in the Lord. We cannot delight in prayer if we do not delight in the Lord, and we cannot delight in the Lord if we do not know the Lord. Let us delight in prayer starting today by praying in the way Jesus taught His disciples.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

*(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)*

- 1. Teach Us.** What did the disciple of Jesus ask Him according to **Luke 11:1**? What was Jesus' response?
- 2. Prayer Perspective.** What is your perspective on prayer? How do you view prayer now in light of what we discussed today?
- 3. Prayer Delight.** How delighted are you in praying? What changes do you intend to apply now to be more delighted in your prayer life?

## WORKS

### PRAYER TOGETHER

In your family or small group, pray and give thanks to God for who He is and what He has done in your life over the past year.

Then let each one of you write your prayer items on note pads with your names at the bottom of the pad. Share your prayer items with each other and commit to pray for one another as a habit that you will keep this year.

### WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

#### I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

#### II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

#### III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

#### IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

#### V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends