



Prayer is the pathway to long-term discipleship (apprenticeship with Jesus). It is the breath of the soul. It was through prayer that Jesus found the stamina to seek and follow God's will, the compassion to love his enemies, and the courage to face the cross. One of the most mysterious and intriguing aspects of Jesus is the way He prayed.

In this new series of talks, we are going to take a look at how and when and for whom Jesus prayed. Our goal is to "learn from the master." With the disciples we pray, "Lord, teach us to pray." (Luke 11:1)

A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE ON PRAYER

In the broadest definition, prayer is **communicating** with God.

The purpose of prayer is to bring us into **agreement** with God.

It is not trying to overcome the reluctance of God.

It is discovering his willingness and bringing our heart into agreement with it.

God answers all prayers with "**yes**" or "**no**" or "**wait.**"

Prayer is **Trinitarian**.

To the Father

Luke 11:2, *When you pray say, 'Father...'* (NIV)

Through the Son

1 Timothy 2:5, *There is one God and one mediator so that human beings can reach God. That way is through Christ Jesus.* (NCV)

By the Spirit

Romans 8:26, *The Spirit also helps us in our weakness because we don't know how to pray for what we need.* (GW)

HOW AND WHEN JESUS PRAYED

He prayed early.

Mark 1:35, *Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.* (NIV)

He prayed alone.

Luke 5:15-16, *Large crowds came to listen to him teach and to be healed of their diseases. But Jesus would often go to some place where he could be alone and pray.* (CEV)

He prayed in groups.

Luke 9:28, *Jesus took Peter, John, and James with him and went up on a mountain to pray.* (CEV)

He prayed long prayers.

Luke 6:12, Jesus went off to a mountain to pray, and he spent the night praying to God. (NCV)

He prayed short prayers.

Luke 23:34, Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, because they don't know what they are doing.' (NCV)

HOW JESUS TAUGHT US TO PRAY

He taught us to pray **simply** and **honestly**.

Matthew 6:6, Here's what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God. (Msg)

He taught us to **believe** when we pray.

Matthew 21:22, Whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith. (ESV)

He taught us to go after his **endorsement** to our prayer.

John 14:13, If you ask for anything in my name, I will do it for you so that the Father's glory will be shown through the Son. (NCV)

2 Corinthians 1:20, All the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. (ESV)

Don't let "no" be your final answer!