

From cover to cover, the Bible reveals God’s strong desire for his people to communicate with him. As in any relationship, this communication is essential if we are to experience increasing closeness and fulfillment with God. In the following study you will look at just a few of the numerous verses on the topic of prayer.

Taking a Closer Look

What does the Bible say?

1. Read each of the following passages.

Verse	What promise did God make or principle did God state?	How should this encourage you as you pray?
Hebrews 4:15-16		
Matthew 7:9-11		
Romans 8:26-27		

During his life and ministry on earth, Jesus frequently spent time with his heavenly Father in prayer. In both his example and his teaching, Jesus impressed on his followers the importance of prayer.

2. Read Mark 1:35 and Matthew 14:22-23. When and where did Jesus pray in these two situations?
3. Jesus often left the crowds and even his own disciples to spend quiet time with God. Why do you suppose he did this?
4. Read Matthew 6:5-13. Just before Jesus taught his disciples *what to say*, he instructed them *how not to pray*. What were the two ways they were not to pray, and what is wrong with praying that way?
5. Read Matthew 6:9-13. This passage is often referred to as *The Lord’s Prayer*. Jesus begins this model prayer by focusing his disciples’ attention on *God the Father, God’s kingdom, and God’s will*. In the second half, the focus shifts toward man’s needs; *daily bread, forgiveness of sin, and deliverance from temptation*. In what specific ways can this pattern help you pray?

6. Below are four Bible passages, each mentioning an attitude that must be present if we are to get affirmative answers to our prayers.

Verse	How does God ask us to pray?	Why do you believe this condition is important?
1 John 5:14-15		
John 16:24		
Isaiah 62:6-7		
Mark 11:23-34		

Thinking it Through

What does the Bible mean?

- 1 John 5:14 encourages us to pray “according to God’s will.” How can you know whether what you are asking God for in prayer is what God wants to have happen?
- Jesus taught his disciples in Matthew 6:8 saying “your Father knows what you need before you ask him.” If God already knows what we need, then why do you think he wants us to talk with him about what he already knows?
- Think back to a time in your life where you asked God for something, and he didn’t allow it to happen. Were you praying the way God’s Word teaches us to pray How have you seen God’s goodness toward you in his answer of “no”?

Making it Count

How do I live what I’ve learned?

- What is your main take away from this study on prayer? How
- In the back of your Bible study notebook is a prayer list page. Take a few minutes and ask God to put on your heart something he wants you to ask of Him. Commit to praying over this request until God gives you a definite answer. You could also use this space to record the prayer requests of others in your group.