

Small Group Champions Discussion Guide July 2018

Prayer is relational

At the heart of all great relationships is a commitment to prayer. The greatest relationship that we have as Christ followers is our relationship with God. Therefore, the greatest way to strengthen that relationship with our Lord is to pray!

Prayer is mentioned, modeled and magnified in the old and new testament literally hundreds of times. There are many examples of prayer that can be referred to. In my opinion, one of the best examples of prayer being relational is found in *John 8:28..... I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.*

Prayer can be performed in many ways but really is defined one way – relational! Jesus depended on and delighted Himself in spending time with His heavenly Father. Prayer is what inspires us to connect with God and develop our relationship with Him.

Today, I would like to share 3 key aspects of prayer that will deepen our relationship with God.

- 1. Prayer is having a conversation with God** - It is a dialogue, not a monologue. We speak to God and He speaks to us. The purpose of this conversation is relational. Prayer was designed for us to know God not to get something from God.
Exodus 3:14 And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"
"Prayer is a conversation with God for the purpose of getting to know Him."
- 2. Prayer is an acknowledgement that we need God** – It is a demonstration of desperate dependence on God. When we pray we communicate that we do not have what it takes to live life the way it was designed for us. *Jonah 2:1 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the fish's belly*
"Prayer is an expression of the realization that we need God."
- 3. Prayer is the place where we connect with God** – It is the most powerful place on earth. A point of contact for what God has already decreed *Luke 5:16 So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.*
"Prayer is having access to the power of God to accomplish the will of God."

Also, during the month of July, Pastor Tony LaGamba will be sharing more aspects of prayer on the weekly leadership podcast. I want to encourage you to listen to each one

of the podcasts. You can [CLICK HERE](#) to listen to these podcasts, or go to <http://www.cotkleaders.com/>. They have the potential to deepen your relationship with Christ.

Review the 3 key aspects of relational prayer and the questions below with your team:

Group Discussion Guide

Pick out a few questions to discuss with your team.

1. How do you get to know people? Talk about a time you became closer to someone because you spent time with him or her.
2. How do these principles apply in getting to know God better?
3. In what ways would you say you need God?
4. Do you find it difficult to express your needs to God in prayer? Why or why not?
5. Do you have a scheduled time and place to meet God?
6. How does being intentional and consistent in prayer contribute to your relationship with God?

Upcoming Events

- Identity Camp 2018 June 18-21
- SERVE DAY - Saturday, July 14 - Hundreds of churches. Thousands of lives. Eternal impact. Go to ChurchoftheKing.com/serveday to register or for more information.

Prayer

Take the time to pray for people and ask God to inspire each of you to go deeper in relational prayer with Jesus.