

TO THE READER: A good learning technique is to answer the following questions BEFORE reading the booklet. After reading, you can refine your answers based on your reading. Then, when your group gathers, each can discuss his or her view and you can either affirm or modify what you wrote.

1. Why do we pray? We will be using this question as a starting point for our group study. So, before reading the booklet, how would you answer this question? (5-6)
2. How do **you** define prayer? (6-7)
3. If our purpose in being is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever, how does prayer accomplish that purpose? (7-8)
4. What did Jesus mean when He said we should always pray “in My name”? (8-9)
5. How much faith does it take for God to answer? (9-10)
6. We are also told to “pray in the Spirit.” What do you think that means? (10-11)
7. Prayer is to be a dialogue between our Father and us. Why, then, don’t we hear God’s voice more clearly? (11-13)

8. Jesus told us to pray, “Your kingdom come,” but God was already planning to bring His kingdom. So, if God already knows what He is going to do, why pray? What power does prayer really have? (13-22)
9. What benefits are there in praying together with other believers?

After going through these questions, read the text and fill in the answers in preparation for class. Write down other questions you might have here...

APPLICATION

The remainder of the booklet is taken up with ways we can improve our prayer lives. (22-32) They are not there just for reading. The only way this booklet can do us any good is when we make a plan – now – to put these helpful ideas into practice. Why not take each section and make a plan: *personally*, to make changes in your life; *corporately*, as a group, to make changes in how your group prays together; and *church*, what might you, as a group, do to help improve the prayer life of your church? Again, do it now! You know all too well, if you put it off, it won't get done! And please, do not neglect the idea of fasting. This, sadly, is a lost art in the church today. We need to bring it back!

Put this into practice now, before you dismiss. As a community, you can lift each other up in prayer. Perhaps some of you may not feel comfortable praying out loud, but you might be willing to utter just one sentence, asking God to simply bless what you have learned and help you put it into practice in your life.

For Further Study

The Prayer of Jehoshaphat, Stanley D. Gale. P&R, 2007.

You Can Pray: Finding Grace to Pray Every Day, Tim Chester. P&R, 2014.

A Praying Life: Connecting with God in a Distracting World, Paul Miller. NavPress, 2009.

A Way to Pray, Matthew Henry, revised and organized, O. Palmer Robertson. Banner of Truth, 2010.

Face to Face: Praying the Scriptures for Intimate Worship, Ken Boa. Zondervan, 1997.

The Beginner's Guide to Fasting Elmer Towns. Regal Books, 2001.

Here is a blog by Dr. Gale to help you: <http://theaquilareport.com/need-words-the-case-for-corporate-prayer/>

Find these and more at www.pcabookstore.com.