

# Creativity!!!

## Keeping a Prayer Journal

Use a prayer journal as a reminder of who and what to pray for. Keep a list of people and needs you want to talk to God about daily. You may also want to pray for specific topics once a week. For example:

*Sunday:* Pray for your family

*Monday:* Pray for your school campus and unsaved friends

*Tuesday:* Pray for your country and leaders

*Wednesday:* Pray for those who are battling an illness

*Thursday:* Pray for the persecuted church and missionaries around the world

*Friday:* Pray for you own relationship with the Lord to grow

*Saturday:* Pray for your church & pastors

Write down the dates of your prayer request and when God responds. Learn to celebrate answered prayer.

*Many, O Lord my God, are the wonders you have done. The things you planned for us, no one can recount to you; were I to speak and tell of them, they would be too many to declare.* -Psalm 40:5

## “BE-havior” of Prayer

- **Be consistent:** *Jesus told His disciples ... that they should always pray and not give up.* Luke 18:1
- **Be specific:** *You do not have, because you do not ask God.* James 4:2
- **Be real:** *Who may stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart.* Psalm 24:3-4
- **Believe:** *But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.* James 1:6

**“The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”**  
**Philippian; 4:6-7**

## Conversations with God

Communication is constant in our society! Think for a minute about the options modern technology has invented to keep us constantly connected. The cellular phone is probably the most popular way to track someone down at any moment and *almost* any place... *can you hear me now?* Okay, so maybe the signal is not always as strong as we'd like for it to be.

But there's another problem that no amount of innovation can correct... *the user!* Have you ever been anxiously awaiting a call, only to find that your ringer was off and you missed the phone call? More importantly, has God been trying to get in touch with you, but you've missed the call because your “spiritual ringer” is off?

Listen closely for a minute... is God trying to get your attention? When was the last time you had a conversation with Him? As a child of God, you get a “direct connect” with God through His Son Jesus Christ. Not only is He waiting to hear from you, He's acting on your behalf before you ever ask!

***Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear.***  
**- Isaiah 65:24**

## Let's Talk...

***Call to me and I will answer you and I will tell you great and mighty things which you do not know. -Jeremiah 33:3***

God desires to have a relationship with you!!! The Creator of the Universe wants to talk to you. That's what prayer is... a conversation with God. Every successful relationship requires communication, both listening and talking.

Prayer is simply talking to God, just like we would talk to a best friend. He is ready to listen! When we talk to God, He hears us and answers our prayers according to His perfect plan. That does not always mean He will say "yes". Sometimes He allows us to wait; other times He says "no" because He sees the bigger picture. Out of His awesome power and love, He gives us what is best for us.

Prayer also involves listening. God speaks to us through His written Word, the Bible, through the Holy Spirit and through other believers. If we are going to develop a healthy prayer life, we must form a habit of listening.

## Prayer requires A.C.T.S. of Faith

To talk with God you must believe that He is present even though you cannot see Him (Hebrews 11:6). Faith is not just *hoping* that God will listen and speak with you, but *believing* that He is real and available for conversation. Try to include these four topics in your conversation:

### Adoration

Praising God for Who He is... Creator, Father, Healer, Friend, Counselor, Holy, Loving... we could go on forever! If you get stuck, use Scripture as guide. (1 Chronicles 29:11, Psalm 136)

### Confession

Agreeing with God about your sin and turning from it... Ask God to show you any sins you need to confess. Our prayers are hindered when we have unconfessed sin. Consider what caused you to sin... was it a bad attitude or wrong motive? (Psalm 66:18, Psalm 51, 1 John 1:9).

### Thanksgiving

Thanking God for what He's done... He provides our salvation, health, food, clothes, family, friends... you name it! If there is a blessing in your life, God is the ultimate source of it! (Psalm 100; Ephesians 5:20)

### Supplication

Asking God to "supply" all your needs. .. Impress your English teacher with this "big word" for requests. Pray for yourself and for others. Tell Him what's on your mind. (Philippians 4:6; James 5:16).

## A Word of Encouragement...

### Follow Christ's Plan

We can talk to God any time, but it helps to set aside a specific time for prayer. It's a great idea to begin your day with prayer... Jesus did! (Mark 1:35) Beginning your day with God will make a real difference in your life. If you miss your prayer time, start again the next day. When you miss lunch, you don't quit eating altogether! Growing in your relationship with God is a process. He is a loving and patient Father who is proud to see you taking steps in the right direction.

### Rely on the Holy Spirit's Power

Prayer is one of the greatest privileges God has given us. Prayer, though unseen, allows us to participate in the work of God throughout the world. The Bible tells us that our prayers are powerful and effective (James 5:16).

### Claim God's Promises

God desires for us to experience the full benefits of a prayer life grounded in His Word and founded on His promises. When we spend time reading the Bible, God shows us His will for our lives. When we pray according to His will, we can be confident that He hears us and will act on our behalf (1 John 5:14).