



# Journal

## Chapter 12: PRAYER

### Personal Study

Last week you examined the practice of worship. Perhaps your definition of worship was expanded and enhanced. This week before your group meeting, read *Believe, Chapter 12: Prayer*. Then take some time to allow the Scripture to challenge your thoughts about communication with God.

### Read

*Read Believe, Chapter 12: Prayer and answer the following questions.*

1. What patterns do you observe in these Scriptures?

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2. As you read this chapter, what feelings or thoughts came to mind?

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3. What did you read that encouraged you?

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Provoked you? \_\_\_\_\_

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Caused confusion? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. If Jesus modeled the ideal prayer life, which aspects of his example would you specifically like to emulate?

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5. Unfortunately, many people believe that prayer must be filled with gratitude and joy in order for God to accept it. How do the Lamentations (cries to God) found in Scripture expose this false belief?

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6. In what ways, if any, has prayer guided your decision making?

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7. What role does listening play in your prayer life?

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### **Evaluate**

*Based on your reading from Believe, Chapter 12: Prayer, evaluate your level of confidence in the statements below, using a 1–6 scale (1 = no confidence, 6 = complete certainty).*

- \_\_\_\_\_ I seek God's will through prayer.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I regularly confess my sins to God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Prayer is a central part of my daily life.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I seek to grow closer to God by listening to him in prayer

**Take Action**

*Memorizing Scripture is a valuable discipline for all believers to exercise. Spend a few minutes each day committing this week’s Key Verse to memory.*

**Key Verses:** “Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me. I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue. If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; but God has surely listened and has heard my prayer. Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!” (Psalm 66:18 – 20)

*Recite this week’s Key Idea out loud. As you do, ask yourself, “Does my life reflect this statement?”*

**Key Idea:** I pray to God to know him, to find direction for my life, and to lay my request before him.

*Answer the following questions to help you apply this week’s Key Idea to your own life.*

1. How could this practice be applied in your life?

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2. What visible attributes can be found in someone who regularly connects with God through prayer?

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3. What is impeding your ability to communicate with God?

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How can you overcome these obstacles?

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