

# Prayer



Tommy Gray | November 6, 2011

**In a nutshell:** There is only one way to stay connected to the True Vine, and that's through consistent, fervent *Prayer*.

**Icebreaker:** We were sometimes taught and often recited prayers as children.

**Discuss:** What prayers (if any) did you learn as a child? Which have you taught your children or grandchildren?

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## Keys to Prayer:

Read Revelation 2: 1-4. The church in Ephesus was ethically and theologically sound, and actively working... yet Jesus said they had lost their first love. We stay in love with Jesus (Love God) and maintain our love for others (Love Others) by staying connected to the True Vine. Everything must flow out of an intimate relationship with Jesus.

**Connecting happens through prayer.** Our first *duty* at followers of Jesus is to stay connected to the True Vine. The primary means of staying connected is through prayer. "Prayer is the grand means of drawing near to God." (John Wesley)

**Discuss:** Do you agree? What other means are at our disposal for staying connected to God? Where does prayer fit in with other means of connecting?

**Discuss:** Imagine a branch that becomes disconnected from the grapevine. Picture the grapes on that branch. Describe what happens; be as detailed as possible.

**Jesus modeled prayer.** Jesus prayed daily, usually in a special place, and often for extended times (sometimes all night long). Picture Jesus praying like this.

**Discuss:** What does it look like when you pray? How could you pray like Jesus?

**We need to learn to pray.** Read the Disciple's Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11: 2-4. Use multiple translations if you have them. Compare Matthew's version with Luke's.

**Discuss:** Knowing that Matthew was a tax collector and Luke was a doctor, do you think they responded differently to Jesus' words?

**The focus of prayer is God, not us.** Prayer requests must be more than a wish list of blessings for our job, our family, and our health. Prayer may not change our circumstances, but should change us.

**Discuss:** How can we make our individual prayers more about God than ourselves?

**We should pray for God's kingdom.** King Jesus must reign in me, in Friendship, and in Athens. This requires submission to His will.

**Discuss:** If I really view Jesus as "King" how should I pray differently?

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**As a Group:** How should we change the way we take requests and pray as a group?