

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

*HOW TO PRAY*  
The Gospel of John — Week 56

**ICEBREAKER:** Which is more important: What you say or how you say it? Explain your answer.

**OVERVIEW:** When someone mentions the “Lord’s Prayer,” our minds typically turn to the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples in Matthew 6:9-13: “Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name....” But that prayer might be more accurately called the “Disciple’s Prayer,” because it was a prayer taught to the disciples. The real Lord’s prayer is found in John 17. There we find the longest recorded prayer of Jesus Christ, and we get an intimate look at the relationship between God the Father and God the Son. By studying this prayer and Christ’s example, we can learn much about how we should pray, and what we should pray for.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday’s message?)
2. Describe a time when God answered your prayers?
3. Is prayer difficult or easy for you? Explain.
4. Describe your personal prayer-routine.

5. We can learn much about prayer from the prayers of Paul in his epistles. Read Ephesians 1:15-19. What can we learn about praying for ourselves and others from this prayer?
6. Another of Paul’s prayers is found in Ephesians 3:14-19. Read this prayer and jot down your observations about what we should pray for.
7. Refer back to the subject of Sunday’s sermon, the prayer of Jesus in John 17. What insights can we learn from Christ’s prayer — not only about prayer, but about the Christian life in general?
8. What does the prayer of Jesus in John 17 teach us about the kinds of prayer requests we should make for ourselves and for others?

**The Last Word:** “Answers to prayer are given to those whose hearts answer to the Lord’s com-

