**Sagecreek Bible Church**

**Worksheet**

**“The Case For Prayer”**

***Billy Graham:* Prayer is simply talking to God—and the most important thing I can say about this is that God wants you to talk to Him! He loves us and He has promised to hear us when we pray.**



**14 September 2020**

**Prayer in the life of a believer in Jesus Christ**

Who do we actually pray to?

How do we best pray with others as a group?

When someone asks you to pray for them, how can you respond?

 Immediately pray.

How does God prioritize prayers from multiple people?

 Farmers want rain – fishermen want sun.

*See Page 4 for a children’s word study on prayer.*

In your own words, define what prayer means to you.

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Define how you believe God answers prayers. Record any Scriptural references you have to validate your response.

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God tells us we have four major priorities if we’re going to call ourselves a church: Teaching . . . fellowship . . . breaking of bread . . . prayer. **See Acts 2:42**. What part do you believe prayer plays in the life of *our* church?

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Identify four areas of specific prayer from this text and explain how they apply to our prayer lives today. **See 1 Samuel 12:23-24.**

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How optional is prayer in the life of a believer? **See 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Colossians 4:2.**

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Does God actually listen to our prayer? **See 1 Kings 8:52, Psalms 6:9.**

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How does God help us in those times when we don’t know what to discuss with Him? **See Romans 8:26.**

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What is the difference between public and private prayer and why is private prayer time in our lives so important? **See Matthew 6:5-15.**

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When you go to the Lord in prayer, what are some of the issues/areas we should cover with Him? (Example: **Revelation 5:13** - We pray in adoration to God).

**1 John 1:9**

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**Numbers 10:35**

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**1 Samuel 14:36-41**

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**1 Kings 3:1-15, 1 Kings 4:29-34**

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**Psalms 18: 3, Psalms 103: 1**

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**Psalms 86:11**

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**Phil 4:6-7**

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**Job 6:8-10**

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**Psalms 116:1-4**

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**Nehemiah 6:9**

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**Psalms 139:23-24**

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**Matthew 6:14-15**

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**James 5:16**

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**Psalm 122:6**

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**Matthew 5:44**

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**2 Thessalonians 3:1; Hebrews 13:7,18**

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A Collection of Quotes on Prayer

Many pray with their lips for that for which their hearts have no desire.

*—Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758), American theologian*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

We ought to pray earnestly from the heart (Matthew 9:38).

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Prayer is not overcoming God’s reluctance, but laying hold of His willingness.

*—Martin Luther (1483-1546), priest, professor of theology, reformer*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

“You do not have, because you do not ask” (James 4:2).

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All our perils are nothing, so long as we have prayer.

*—Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892), pastor, New Park Street Chapel, London*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God” (Philippians 4:6).

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Yank some of the gloom out of your prayers, and put in some shouts.

*—Billy Sunday (1862-1935), American athlete, evangelist*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving” (Psalm 100:4).

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Secret, fervent, believing prayer lies at the root of all personal godliness.

*—William Carey (1761-1834), English Baptist missionary*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

“You, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit” (Jude 1:20).

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Keep praying, and be thankful that God’s answers are wiser than your prayers!

*—William Culbertson (1905-1971), president, Moody Bible Institute*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

Father knows best (Psalm 139:1-4; Matthew 11:21; 1 John 3:20).

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Let prayer be the key of the morning and the bolt of the evening.

*—Matthew Henry (1662-1714), Bible commentator, Presbyterian minister*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

“Pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

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A prayerless Christian is a powerless Christian.

*—Billy Graham (born 1918), evangelist*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

“Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success!” (Psalm 118:25).

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I have so much to do today that I must set apart more time than usual to pray.

*—Martin Luther (1483-1546), priest, professor of theology, reformer*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

We ought to follow Jesus’ example, who often prayed early in the morning, before the day started (Mark 1:35).

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If you have no prayer life yourself, it is rather a useless gesture to make your child say his prayers every night.

*—Peter Marshall (1902-1949), Scottish-American preacher*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

Parents can set a very good example for their children (see 1 Kings 9:4; 2 Chronicles 17:3; 2 Timothy 1:5).

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Beware in your prayer, above everything, of limiting God, not only by unbelief, but by fancying that you know what he can do.

*—Andrew Murray (1828-1917), South African writer, pastor*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5).

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In prayer it is better to have a heart without words, than words without a heart.

*—John Bunyan (1628-1688), English Christian writer, preacher*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

We ought to engage in “earnest prayer” (Acts 12:5).

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Fight all your battles on your knees and you win every time.

*—Charles Stanley (born 1932), senior pastor, First Baptist Church of Atlanta*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

We ought always to cast all our anxieties on God, for He cares for us (1 Peter 5:7).

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Prayer is the most important thing in my life. If I should neglect prayer for a single day, I should lose a great deal of the fire of faith.

*—Martin Luther (1483-1546), priest, professor of theology, reformer*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

“Continue steadfastly in prayer” (Colossians 4:2).

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We stand tallest and strongest on our knees.

*—Charles Stanley (born 1932), senior pastor, First Baptist Church of Atlanta*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

“The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working” (James 5:16).

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Trouble and perplexity drive us to prayer, and prayer driveth away trouble and perplexity.

*—Phillip Melanchton (1497-1560), German reformer*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

“Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me” (Psalm 50:15).

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Life is fragile…Handle with prayer.

*—Anonymous*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God” (Philippians 4:6).

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God has not always answered my prayers. If he had, I would’ve married the wrong man—several times!

*—Ruth Bell Graham (1920-2007), wife of Billy Graham*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

Father always knows best (Psalm 139:1-4; Matthew 11:21; 1 John 3:20).

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I live in the spirit of prayer. I pray as I walk about, when I lie down, and when I rise up. And the answers are always coming.

*—George Müller (1805-1898), director of orphanages in Bristol, England*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

“Pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

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Prayer will make a man cease from sin, or sin will entice a man to cease from prayer.

*—John Bunyan (1628-1688), English Christian writer, preacher*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

“Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil” (Matthew 6:13).

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The angel fetched Peter out of prison, but it was prayer fetched the angel.

*—Thomas Watson (1620-1686), Puritan preacher, author*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

“Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church” (Acts 12:5).

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The more godly a man is, and the more graces and blessings of God are upon him, the more need he hath to pray, because Satan is busiest against him, and because he is readiest to be puffed up with a conceited holiness.

*—Richard Greenham (1535-1594), English Puritan*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

“Continue steadfastly in prayer” (Colossians 4:2).

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Dealing in generalities is the death of prayer.

*—J.H. Evans*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

We are privileged to make specific requests of God in prayer (Philippians 4:6).

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He who has learned to pray has learned the greatest secret of a holy and a happy life.

*—William Law (1686-1761), English cleric, author*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

The Lord’s Prayer is an excellent place to begin (Matthew 6:9-13).

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The men who have done the most for God in this world have been early on their knees.

*—E.M. Bounds (1835-1913), clergyman, author*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

Such individuals follow the example of Jesus (Mark 1:35).

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The neglect of prayer is a grand hindrance to holiness.

*—John Wesley (1703-1791), founder of the Methodist church*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

One cannot realistically expect deliverance from sin without specifically asking for God’s help (see Matthew 6:13).

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Most Christians expect little from God, ask little, and therefore receive little, and are content with little.

*—A.W. Pink (1886-1952), Calvinist evangelist, Bible scholar*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

God is “able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think” (Ephesians 3:20) and stands ready to do so.

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Nothing lies beyond the reach of prayer except that which lies outside the will of God.

*—Anonymous*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

“This is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us” (1 John 5:14).

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When life knocks you on your knees, you’re in the perfect position to pray!

*—Anonymous*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

God promises, “When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble” (Psalm 91:15).

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Pray often; for prayer is a shield to the soul, a sacrifice to God, and a scourge for Satan.

*—John Bunyan (1628-1688), English Christian writer, preacher*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

We ought to pray “at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication” (Ephesians 6:18).

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The activities we do for God are secondary. God is looking for people who long for communication with him.

*—Erwin Lutzer (born 1941), pastor, Moody Church, Chicago*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

“O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water” (Psalm 63:1).

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Our-Father-who-art-in-heaven-gimme-gimme-gimme.

*—Calvin Miller, author, artist*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

“You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions” (James 4:3).

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We need more Christians for whom prayer is the first resort, not the last.

*—John Blanchard, preacher, apologist, author*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

We “ought always to pray and not lose heart” (Luke 18:1).

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The mightier any is in the Word, the more mighty he will be in prayer.

*—William Gurnall (1617-1679), English author*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

“We will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word” (Acts 6:4).

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Be careful for nothing, prayerful for everything, thankful for anything.

*—Dwight L. Moody (1837-1899), evangelist*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

We ought always to give thanks (Ephesians 5:20; Colossians 3:15).

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God does nothing but in answer to prayer; and even they who have been converted to God without praying for it themselves (which is exceeding rare) were not without the prayers of others. Every new victory, which a soul gains, is the effect of a new prayer.

*—John Wesley (1703-1791), founder of the Methodist church*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

“You do not have, because you do not ask” (James 4:2).

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Do not work so hard for Christ that you have no strength to pray, for prayer requires strength.

*—J. Hudson Taylor (1832-1905), founder, China Inland Mission*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

Epaphras prayed so diligently that Scripture describes him as “always struggling” (or wrestling) in prayer for the church at Colossae (Colossians 4:12).

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We are never more like Christ than in prayers of intercession.

*—Austin Phelps (1820-1890), American Congregational minister*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

Jesus “always lives to make intercession” for us (Hebrews 7:25). We are exhorted to “pray for one another” (James 5:16).

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The great tragedy of life is not unanswered prayer but unoffered prayer.

*—F.B. Meyer (1847-1929), Baptist pastor, evangelist*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

James 4:2 tells us, “You do not have, because you do not ask.” No Christian should be prayerless.

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Prayer is happy company with God.

*—Clement of Alexandria (150-215), theologian, philosopher*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

The psalmist refers to God as “God my exceeding joy” (Psalm 43:4). Spending time with God in prayer naturally involves happy company with God.

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Prayer is not wrestling with God’s reluctance to bless us; it is laying hold of his willingness to do so.

*—John Blanchard (born 1932), preacher, apologist, author*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

This desire on God’s part to bless us lies behind Paul’s instruction on prayer: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7).

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The measure of our love for others can largely be determined by the frequency and earnestness of our prayers for them.

*——A.W. Pink (1886-1952), Calvinist evangelist, Bible scholar*

***Bible Truth Behind the Quote:***

Jesus loves us, and “he always lives to make intercession” for us (Hebrews 7:25). Likewise, those who are His followers show their love by interceding to God on their behalf (see James 5:16; Colossians 1:9-11).