

Read Ephesians 6:18 - 20:

How does Paul's injunction to pray match Jesus' example?

Paul asks for prayer so he could witness to Christ. How could we pray for missionaries, other ministers around the world? What could we pray?

Paul often prayed for people he did not know. Why is it important to have a wide group of people to pray for?

How might you adjust your prayer habit to follow the examples of people praying in the Bible?

*Each week in your study in a group or alone it is important to conclude your time in prayer.*

Study 4: **Prayer – Jesus prays for his disciples.**  
Sermon – 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

Reading: John 17:6 - 26  
Ephesians 6:18 - 20  
Genesis 18:20 - 33

Do you just pray for people you know? Or do you pray for people you hear about, or for missionaries and ministers you have never met?

Jesus in John 17 prays for his disciples but also prays for generations to come, indeed he continues to intercede for us today.

Paul also prays for churches which he has never met and encourages his readers to be prayerful for the saints. Indeed, even in the Old Testament we read examples of people praying for those they have never met.

In our study it is hoped that you will be encouraged to expand the group of people you pray for and to be deep in prayer for those you don't know personally.

*In your group share some of the names of people who you pray for. If on your own write a list of those you regularly bring before God in prayer.*

Read John 17:6 - 26:

Jesus is coming to the end of his teaching in the upper room on the night before his crucifixion. John now records for us the extended prayer Jesus prays.

Who does Jesus pray for in each of the prayers?

What does Jesus pray for?

Jesus prays for perseverance and protection from the Father in v11, 15 and 24. Why is this prayer necessary?

Jesus also prays for unity. What things can undermine unity; what things can draw us together?

In v13 Jesus prays the disciples may know joy. How can we know this joy?

In v17 why does Jesus pray for our sanctification?

In v20 Jesus prays for those who will believe, and those who bear witness. How could we emulate this prayer today?

In Hebrews 7:25, Romans 8:34 Jesus continues to pray for us. How does this encourage you, knowing Jesus prays for you? How does knowing when other Christians are praying for you make you feel?

Read Genesis 18:20 - 33:

In Genesis Abraham prays for Sodom. How does his example encourage us not only to pray for believers but also for unbelievers?