



Bible Study

Thought-Provoking Questions

The purpose of the thought-provoking questions is to facilitate a deeper understanding of the Bible, this Bible study topic, and ourselves. The questions may be answered by each reader, or used by a Bible study group leader or church pastor. The following questions should be answered or discussed during or after reading "Prayer."

The following questions are answered based upon individual opinions. As such, no answers are provided.

- ① God designed humans with an ability to communicate at a very high level. Consider how things would be different if God designed us with an ability to communicate at the same level as animals.
 - How would you function throughout your day?
 - Identify at least 3 important things to you that would not exist today.
 - Would we be able to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with others?
 - Could we pray to God?
- ② Why did Jesus explain to not use the same words over and over when we pray (Matthew 6:7)?
- ③ Jesus gave us the Lord's Prayer as an example of how to pray. After Jesus said "In this manner, therefore, pray," the lesson discussed 7 different aspects of the prayer. It is possible to categorize the Lord's prayer into 3 separate segments: recognition of God, our needs, and worship.
 - How would you assign the 7 different aspects of the Lord's Prayer to each of the 3 categories?
 - Which of the 7 aspects of the Lord's Prayer:
 - Is most important to you when you pray?
 - Should you include in your future prayers?
- ④ Jesus said in Matthew 6:33: "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."
 - Why would Jesus prioritize seeking the kingdom of God and His righteousness as first?
 - What will happen to someone if they make this a foundational aspect of their daily lives?
 - What are the "things" that shall be added?
- ⑤ The lesson states it is important for us to prepare the attitude of our heart before we pray.
 - Do you agree or disagree? Explain.
 - Are there ways or techniques you may use to create an environment that helps in praying? Explain.
- ⑥ The lesson identifies different hindrances to effective prayer: unbelief, unconfessed sin, unforgiveness, praying for something that is not in God's will, mistreatment of spouse, and unsundered will.
 - How can each of these become a barrier when communicating with God?
 - Can you think of another hindrance to prayer?
- ⑦ Define, compare and contrast each of the different types of prayers:
 - Confession
 - Petition
 - Worship, praise and thanksgiving
 - Intercession
 - Corporate

- ① In addition to our God designed attribute of communication, God also designed us with an attribute of trust. Proverbs 3:5-6 states to **“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”**
 - The lesson states trust is more than hope, belief and faith. Do you agree or disagree? Explain.
 - What is the relevance and purpose of trust when we encounter delayed or unanswered prayer?

- ① The lesson was concluded with words of Jesus regarding prayer—each providing spiritual insight as to how we may improve our prayer life. Which of the following should you remember more often in the future?
 - It is beneficial to pray secretly to God, and not as a means to obtain recognition from others.
 - God knows our needs before we ask Him.
 - If we know how to give good gifts to our children, how much more will God give spiritual gifts to those who ask Him.
 - We are able to petition God in the name of Jesus.
 - Make sure you are not harboring unforgiveness in your heart when you pray.
 - Pray for those who hate you, use you, and persecute you.

- ① Jesus said, **“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.”** John 15:16
 - What did Jesus mean by “fruit.”
 - How should the effective bearing of fruit influence our prayers?