

## Group Discussion Questions

### SESSION 1: The Purpose of Prayer

#### VIDEO LESSON

*There is a video lesson for the group to watch together each week. Fill in the blanks in the lesson outline as you watch the video and be sure to refer back to the outline during your discussion time.*

Prayer is God's idea. If he didn't want to hear from you, he wouldn't invite you to pray. God wants to hear from you because he loves you. He cares about every detail of your life. There is nothing too big or too small for his attention.

#### Four Primary Purposes of Prayer

- Prayer is an act of \_\_\_\_\_.

John 15:5-7

- Prayer is an act of \_\_\_\_\_.

John 15:15-16

- Prayer is an act of \_\_\_\_\_.

Philippians 4:6-7

John 16:23-24

James 4:2

Psalms 37:4

Matthew 7:9-11

- Prayer is an act of \_\_\_\_\_.

Prayer is God's way of letting us partner with him to accomplish his purposes.

John 14:12

John 14:13-14

Your prayers release the power of God into the most hopeless situations. They can penetrate places where no man or woman can go, whether that's a closed, international border, or the hardened heart of a skeptic. Prayer makes the impossible possible.

Proverbs 21:1

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### DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

*Discuss these questions as a group. Choose the questions that seem right for the group. The point is to learn and grow together in your faith as you discuss the session, even if this means you don't get to all of the questions.*

1. What role has prayer played in shaping your relationship with God?
2. Based on today's lesson about the purpose of prayer, what can you do to deepen your conversation with God?
3. What are you hoping to get out of this study in the next forty days?

### PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

*We don't want to just be hearers of the Word, we also need to be doers of the Word (James 1:22). This section contains suggestions for your group and for you individually to apply the things you are learning. Be sure to leave time each week to review this material.*

*If praying in a group is new or uncomfortable for you, we encourage you to start by praying single-sentence prayers. Don't worry about how fancy you sound. God isn't looking for eloquence. He just wants honesty. Talk to God like you talk to a friend. Give everyone a chance to pray, but don't insist on it. Over time, your group will feel much more comfortable praying together. Pray for one another and for the Lifeline Church family as you begin 40 Days of Prayer.*

### In Your Group: Pray Together

What are you lacking in your life simply because you've never asked God for it? What is your greatest need? Don't hold back. Share your prayer request with your group, then pray together.

Praying together is one of the greatest privileges of small group life.

### In Your Life: Daily Prayer

Set a daily alarm as a reminder to pause and pray each week. This idea works best if you pick the same time every day. Are you a morning person? Then pick a time in the morning. If you're more alert in the afternoon or evening, then choose a time that fits the way you're wired. The best time to pray is when you're at your best. Consistency is more important than quantity; it's more important to be mindful to pray every day this week than it is to spend a lengthy time in prayer on one or two days.