

SESSION 2

POWER IN PRAYER: PETITION

KEY VERSE:

‘ASK AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU; SEEK AND YOU WILL FIND; KNOCK AND THE DOOR WILL BE OPENED TO YOU’ (LUKE 11:1–2)

REMEMBER:

- Computer with speakers
- Pens and paper for prayer lists

(5 MINS) WELCOME

AIM: TO MAKE EVERYONE FEEL WELCOME

- Recap last time: Adoration is where prayer begins
- Ask people how they have got on with praying The Lord’s Prayer each day. Be sure not to make anyone feel guilty
- **This week:** Petition – asking God for our own immediate needs
- Ask someone to open in prayer
- **NB:** In recapping the previous session try to mention one or two of the particular points made last time by group members: ‘I was so impacted by what Sarah shared ... I’ve been thinking a lot about Tony’s question ...’

(15 MINS) VIDEO

AIM: TO INTRODUCE THE THEME AND PROVOKE DISCUSSION

- God is a good Father who loves to bless us
- ‘Keep it simple; keep it real; keep it up’

- **Traffic lights:**

- » Green – Instant answer
- » Amber – Wait and ‘keep stacking dominoes’. Importance of perseverance in prayer
- » Red – Sometimes God’s answer is ‘no’

(20 MINS) DISCUSS

AIM: TO GET EVERYONE SHARING THEIR THOUGHTS AND QUESTIONS ABOUT PETITIONARY PRAYER

- What did you find most helpful in the video?
- What questions did it raise for you?
- **Traffic light questions**
 - » Green – Has anyone received an answer to prayer this week/recently?
 - » Amber – What are the keys to persevering in prayer?
 - » Red – How do we know when God is saying ‘No’ rather than ‘Wait’?
 - » Describe a time when God didn’t answer a prayer. Can you now understand why?

(15 MINS) DO IT

AIM: TO MAKE SPACE FOR PEOPLE TO LAY THEIR REQUESTS BEFORE THE FATHER

- Simply share your prayer needs, and even your prayer ‘wants’
- Before praying about them, ask what God’s will might be in this situation. Are there promises in the Bible that relate to the prayer requests?
- Spend time praying for one another’s requests

(5 MINS) DEVELOP IT

AIM: TO PUT OUR LEARNING INTO PRACTICE IN THE COMING WEEK USING PERSONAL PRAYER TOOLS

- **Prayer Lists:**

- » The preacher D. L. Moody carried a list of 100 names of people for whom he prayed. Whenever one of them became a Christian, Moody would cross their name off his list. By the time of his death 96 of those 100 people had become followers of Jesus and the remaining four gave their lives to Christ at Moody’s funeral
- » Hand out paper and ask people to create a prayer list, naming friends, relatives, colleagues and particular personal needs for daily prayer during the coming week. Or you could print out the form on p.5

- **Six Keys for Using a Prayer List:**

1. Try to use your list at the same time every day.
2. Don't worry if your prayers are sometimes very short (even one-liners) or repetitive.
3. Sometimes you may not know what to pray, but you can simply think of the person and offer them to God in prayer.
4. Try to pray specific, bite-sized prayers like, 'Please give me a chance to show them your love today.'
5. Some people may feature on your prayer list daily and others weekly.
6. Review your list regularly and record encouragements.

- **Prayer Dice:**

Alternatively, some people might like to adopt Pete Greig's 'prayer dice' idea. To do this they will need to:

- » Compile a short list of their biggest prayer requests
- » Find biblical promises that relate to each request
- » Memorise the list
- » Buy a dice with the same number of sides as the number of prayer requests

EXTRA RESOURCES

USEFUL QUOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS

- 'Whether we like it or not, asking is the rule of the Kingdom.' – C. H. Spurgeon
- 'There are endless problems in our world, but from time to time I still give my children chocolate when they ask for it. Our Father in heaven sometimes gives us our wants, as well as our needs.' – Pete Greig
- 'To know that Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth, the Ruler of the whole universe, has his ear open to our personal, individual prayer, that he will do what we ask Him to do, individually, is one of the most exciting experiences anybody can ever have.' – Derek Prince ¹

¹ Derek Prince, *Secrets of a Prayer Warrior* (Chosen Books, 2009)

FURTHER RESOURCES

- **Read:** Mahesh Chavda, *The Hidden Power of Prayer and Fasting*
- **Read:** Pete Greig, *Red Moon Rising*
- **Read:** Floyd McClung, *The Father Heart of God*

(20 MINS) DEEPEN IT

AIM: TO UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF PRAYING 'IN THE NAME OF JESUS'

- **Read:** John 14:14, John 15:7 and John 16:23–24
- **Discuss:** What does it mean to 'pray in the name of Jesus'?
- **Explain:**
 - » The name of Jesus is not like Harry Potter's Expelliarmus. It's not a magic word
 - » In Biblical times, a person's name represented their personality, character, reputation and authority. It's the same in business today where one's reputation (we even call it our 'good name') counts for everything and companies spend millions protecting their 'brand'
 - » When we pray to the Father 'in Jesus' name' we are asking on behalf of his Son. God never promises to answer every prayer we utter (which is a great relief). It is the requests made in line with Jesus' character and will which the Father guarantees to fulfill
- **Example:** The Ferrari Enzo is one of the most expensive cars in the world. Only 400 were ever made and they sell for more than a million dollars each. Imagine phoning your local Ferrari dealer and casually asking them to get one in for you to test-drive. They might not agree. But if you were calling on behalf of Bill Gates or a Saudi prince, they would do it. Names convey power and the name of Jesus is by far the greatest and most powerful

