

Group Meeting

Welcome!

Welcome to Session 12 of *Believe*. If there are any new members in your group, take a moment to introduce yourselves to each other. Then spend a couple of minutes sharing insights or questions about this session's personal study. Now start the video!

VIDEO TEACHING NOTES

As you watch the video segment for Session 12, use the following outline to record some of the main points. (The answer key is found at the end of the session.)

- Key Question: How do I grow by _____ with God?
- Key Idea: I pray to God to _____ him, to _____ direction for my life and to _____ my requests before him.
- "Watch _____ and then simply do what he does."
- It is completely _____ for us to lay our requests before God.
- Like Jesus, we should seek to _____ our lives to God's will, versus asking God to align his life to our will.
- Key Verse: "If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; but God has surely listened and has heard my _____. Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!" (Psalm 66:18–20)
- (Key Application) I _____ to align my life to God's will.
- (Key Application) I pray to lay my _____ before God to find peace.
- (Key Application) I won't make any major decision in my life without _____ God through prayer.

GETTING STARTED

Begin your discussion by reciting the Key Verse and Key Idea together as a group. On your first attempt, use your notes if you need help. On your second attempt, try to state them completely from memory.

KEY VERSE: "If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; but God has surely listened and has heard my prayer. Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!" (Psalm 66:18–20)



KEY IDEA: I pray to God to know him, to find direction for my life and to lay my requests before him.

GROUP DISCUSSION

As a group, discuss your thoughts and feelings about the following declarations. Which statements are easy to declare with certainty? Which are more challenging, and why?

- I seek God's will through prayer.
- I regularly confess my sins to God.
- Prayer is a central part of my daily life.
- I seek to grow closer to God by listening to him in prayer.

Based on your group's dynamics and spiritual maturity, choose the 2–3 questions that will lead to the best discussion about this week's Key Idea.

1. What aspect of prayer do you find to be the most challenging? Helpful? Rewarding?

2. How has the act of prayer helped you know and understand God better?

3. In what ways have you seen and experienced the power of prayer at work?

4. As a group, describe the different ways you have seen God answer specific prayer requests.

Read Mark 1:32–35, Luke 6:12–16, and Matthew 26:36–39 (see the section “The Model Prayer Life” in Believe) and choose 1–2 questions that will lead to the greatest discussion in your group.

1. What specifically inspires you when you examine Jesus’ dependence on, confidence in, and commitment to unceasing prayer?

2. In what ways has prayer helped you navigate the tough decisions that life throws at us?

3. What is one aspect of Jesus’ prayer life that you would like to emulate?

CASE STUDY

Use the following case study as a model for a real-life situation where you might put this week’s Key Idea into practice.

Gabe has been offered an opportunity to join an exciting start-up company. His existing job pays well and provides great benefits, but he has been bored and uninspired by the mundane tasks he performs. This new opportunity could bring the excitement and creativity he has been longing to find, but it comes with significant financial risk.

Using the Key Applications from this session, what could you say or do to help Gabe? (If needed, refer to your video notes for a reminder of this session’s Key Applications.)

CLOSING PRAYER

Close your time together with prayer. Share your prayer requests with one another. Ask God to help you put this week’s Key Idea into practice.

JOURNAL

If your church is doing the Believe church-wide campaign, bring this study guide you to church and use the following space to take notes from the pastor’s or teacher’s message. If your church provides an outline, consider keeping it with this guide so you will have all of your notes and thoughts from your Believe journey in one place.

VIDEO NOTES ANSWER KEY

communicating / know, find, lay / Jesus / acceptable / align / prayer / pray / burden seeking