

# ADULT CONNECTION



# NEW BELIEVER WEEKS 1 & 2



The purpose of First Baptist Church of Fort Worth is to **introduce** people into a loving relationship with Jesus, **instruct** them in spiritual growth through God's Word, **inspire** them to serve for God's kingdom, and **incorporate** them in authentic worship to glorify God.

Congratulations upon beginning your new journey as a follower of Jesus Christ which is the most important decision that you have ever made in your life. We want you to know that as your new family we will commit to pray for you daily and help you to grow as a follower of Christ. This short book, *Begin: First Steps for the Journey of Faith*, along with this booklet will serve as an introduction to some of the aspects of your new life with which you may not yet be familiar.

As a new believer, you should seek to read the Bible and pray daily in addition to fellowshiping with other Christians regularly. This Bible study contained within this book and the accompanying booklet is designed to give you an overview of your new journey and provide you with some of the critical tools that will help you mature, teaching you to set aside time to spend with God each day.

Although the material in this packet has profitable information, the resource which is most essential to you is the Bible because it contains no errors and is the sole source of truth which we should use to evaluate our lives. The Bible should always be consulted first; all other books, such as *Begin*, are supplemental and should be evaluated based upon biblical principles. As you go through this study, you will begin to learn how to read and apply the Bible in your own life.

The resources in this packet will not answer all of your questions, so we encourage you to join a **Connect Class** on Sundays for your stage of life in which you can meet with other believers and hear God's word explained clearly and applicably. If you have not already found a Connect Class, please e-mail [info@fbcfw.org](mailto:info@fbcfw.org) or call **(817) 485-7711** so that we may assist you or on Sundays see one of our First Impressions team members at the door so that they can assist you. In addition, if a question arises during your study and you would like to ask one of the pastoral staff, please e-mail [questions@fbcfw.org](mailto:questions@fbcfw.org) so that one of our staff members may help you find an answer.

## HOW TO USE THIS BOOK AND BOOKLET

Before you begin working through the pages of this material, a brief explanation is in order so that you can know how to use these resources most effectively. This is a five-week study in which you should devote a period of time to spend with God in Bible study and prayer every day. For the first six days of each of the next five weeks, you will spend time reading the Bible and answering questions about what you have read. On the seventh day, you will read the assigned material from the supplementary book *Begin* by Bob Franquiz along with the Bible. If at any point during this study you get behind or feel overwhelmed, do not give up, but rather work at your own pace and seek help from the staff or a mature fellow believer. It may feel overwhelming at points, but God desires quality time with Him rather than quantity so please work at your own speed and seek to understand the material, not just finish it.

Now that you have become a Christian, daily Bible study and prayer should become an integral part of your life. During this five-week study, you will engage in daily Bible study and prayer with the help of weekly lessons; however, once the weekly lessons end you should begin consistently studying on your own in addition to the teaching you receive at church through the many discipleship programs. We would suggest that you begin by reading the Gospel of John at the conclusion of this study—if you have questions along the way, please ask your Connect Class teacher, a lay leader in the church, or one of the pastoral staff. We would also suggest that as you study you do not jump randomly throughout the Bible, but seek to read entire books from beginning to end in order to understand the context and what God has said to His people.

As a new Christian, you may not be familiar with how to find scriptural references in the Bible. Like secular books, every translation of the Bible has an index with all sixty-six books listed. If you do not know how to find a book,

then you use the index to locate the page number on which the book begins. The Bible is divided into two sections, called Testaments, the Old and the New. The purpose of both Testaments is the same: God describes His plan and purpose for the salvation for mankind. The Old Testament looks forward to a Messiah who would come to bring salvation to the world and the New Testament describes how that Messiah came and finalized God's plan of salvation—that Messiah being Jesus. The Old Testament has thirty-nine books and the New Testament has twenty-seven which you can find listed in the index at the beginning of the Bible. References will look like this Ephesians 2:8-9. The name of the book appears first. After the name of the book, Ephesians, you will find a series of numbers; 2 refers to the chapter of which there are six in Ephesians and the 8-9 refer to the verses in that chapter. The chapter is usually indicated by larger numbers and the verses are the smaller numbers. This should help you to navigate more easily through the text and be able to use the booklet and book more effectively; if you still have trouble, please find someone who can assist you in learning how to use your Bible.

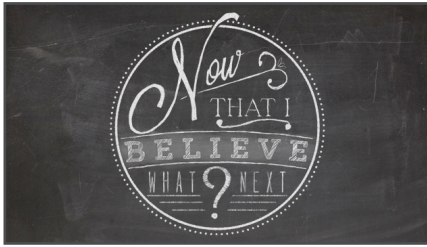
Each day you will answer a series of questions based on God's word. Before you begin to study each time, please pray to God that He will open your mind so that you may be able to understand His Word. Read the prescribed verses slowly and several times until you can clearly understand what God is saying in that text. We would suggest using the following translations New King James Version, the English Standard Version, or the New American Standard Version. Using what the text says, you will then be prepared to answer the questions. A summary at the end of each day will also ensure that you have understood and answered the questions correctly.

We want to rejoice with you as you mature in your faith, so once you have completed this five-week study go online to our church website at ***[newmember.fbcfw.org](http://newmember.fbcfw.org)*** and fill out the form and submit it to the church office so that we can continue to assist you as you grow in your faith.



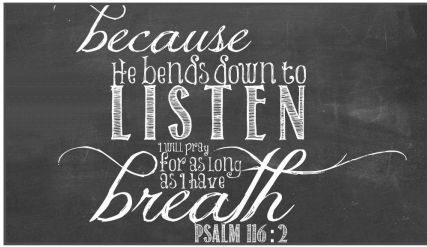
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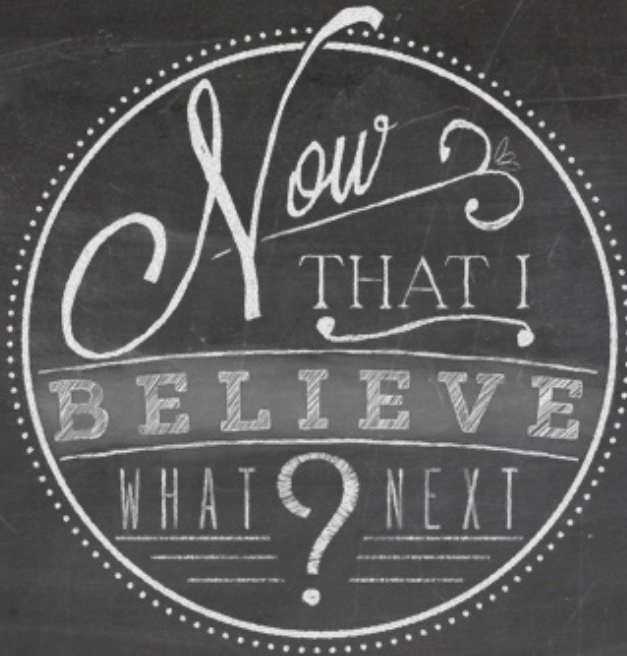
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# *Understanding Salvation*

Focal Verse:

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:16



## Week One—Day One: The Need for Salvation

The purpose of this first week of study is to help you better understand the transformation which has occurred in your life by examining passages in the Bible which reinforce God’s plan of salvation. Through the Bible, you will learn why all of us are in the need of salvation, its source, its method, its permanence, its purpose, and its result. For the first six days, you will read and interact with the Bible alone—for this is God’s Word and the sole source of our understanding about salvation. On the seventh day, however, you will also read the supplementary book *Begin* by Bob Franquiz which will provide additional insight. Although books like *Begin* can help us understand the Bible better, the Bible is the ultimate source of authority because it contains no errors and is God’s word to mankind; therefore, any supplementary book, such as *Begin*, must be read and interpreted in light of the Bible.

### Key Question

Why do I need salvation and from what do I need to be saved because I am generally a good person who has never committed a crime and treats people with respect?



**Answer the following questions:**

1) Using **Romans 3:9-23**, describe why each of us needs salvation.

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2) What does it mean to “sin” (**Romans 3:9**) and not to be “righteous” (**Romans 3:10**)?

*Hint: Read **Romans 3:11-12** to understand what these words mean.*

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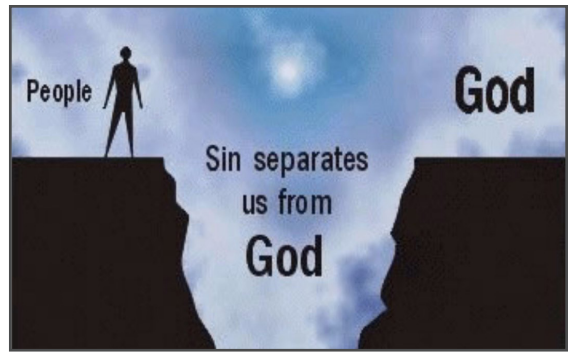
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3) After reading **Isaiah 59:2**, how does sin affect our relationship with God?



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4) In **Romans 6:23**, how does this verse describe the penalty for our sins, in other words the “wages” that we must pay?

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### Summary

Each one of us needs a Savior because all of us have sinned and no one is righteous. To sin simply means that we rebel against God’s authority and make the wrong choices of participating in evil rather than good. Although many of us may consider ourselves to be good people, we have all sinned and come short of God’s standards (**Romans 3:23**). For example, Jesus teaches that if we have ever hated someone then we have committed murder in our hearts or if we have looked at the opposite gender lustfully then we have committed adultery in our hearts (**Matthew 5:21-22 & 27-28**). All of us have lied at some point in our lives; all of us have broken the requests of our parents and disobeyed them—no matter how good we may see ourselves. Even though we may have done some good things in our lives, before salvation our “best” works could never be good enough to obtain eternal life. If we have done any of these evil things even once, it means that we are not good enough to have eternal life (**James 2:10**).

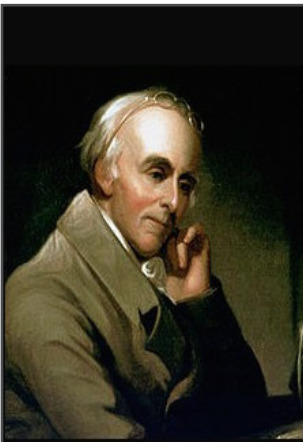
To be unrighteous means that we stand before God as guilty of our sins. This is like standing before a judge in a court of law who upholds a ruling that affirms that we have broken the law; the judge does not condemn us, but we have condemned ourselves by participating in evil; the judge



merely sentences us for the crime that we have committed. Consequently, our sin then separates us from God who is perfect and able to judge fairly, thereby requiring that we pay the penalty for our sins—death. In the upcoming lessons, you will learn about the One who paid the penalty for our sins so that we might have eternal life through Him.

## ***Week One—Day Two: The Source of Salvation***

The Bible clearly states that there is only one way to have a relationship with God—even though the world may claim that there are many. Today, you will be reminded of the sacrifice of One perfect person who made eternal life possible and paid the penalty for our sins.



Christianity is the only true and perfect religion, and in proportion as mankind adopt its principles and obey its precepts, they will be wise and happy. And a better knowledge of this religion is to be acquired by reading the Bible than in any other way.

(Benjamin Rush)

Key  
Question

Because there are so many religions in the world today, how do I know which one is right? Aren't there many ways to God and eternal life in heaven?

**Answer the following questions:**

1) Write **John 14:6** in the lines provided. According to Jesus' words, who provides the only way to have a relationship with the Father and eternal life in heaven?

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2) Based on **Philippians 2:6-11**, describe who Jesus is and what He did so that we might have a relationship with God spend eternity with Him in heaven.

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3) According to **Romans 5:6-11**, for whom did Jesus die and why did He die for them (**5:6-8**)? From what does Jesus save us (**5:9**) and what does He give us (**5:10-11**)?



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4) After reading **1 Corinthians 15:1-8**, what happened to Jesus after He died on the cross and was buried?

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### Summary

Although the world may tell us that there are many ways to God, the Bible emphatically states that there is only one way for us to have a relationship with Him. One of the most quoted verses in all of the Bible states that “God so loved the world that He sent His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life” (**John 3:16**). In yesterday’s study, you were reminded that we are all in the need of a Savior because we have all sinned and participated in evil; however, from the very beginning God saw the need for us to have a Savior so He prepared to send His Son that He might die on our behalf and remove our penalty of sin.

Jesus, who is both God and man, was the only perfect sacrifice who could remove the sin of the world. Jesus, although he experienced temptation and emotions just as we do, never once sinned so He could be that perfect sacrifice (**Hebrews 4:15-16**). Although Jesus is God, He humbled Himself by becoming a servant and He paid the penalty for our sin by dying on the cross

(**Philippians 2:6-8**). Without Jesus dying on the cross, we would have no sacrifice for our sins and we would be hopelessly separated from God for eternity.

According to **Romans 5:6-11**, Jesus died for each and every one of us—even though we were His enemies and we rebelled against Him, He





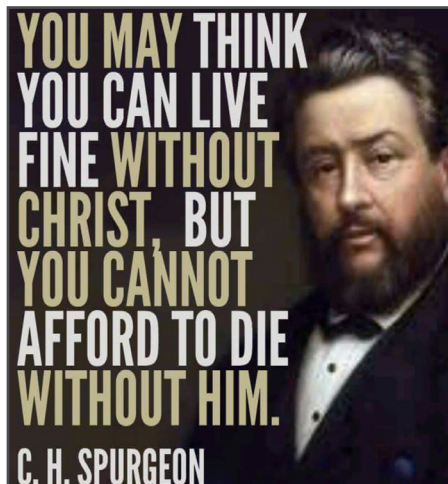
loved us so much that He died in our place. Because God is perfect, He cannot tolerate sin and must punish it; therefore, when Jesus paid the penalty for our sin, God removed His wrath against us and now sees us through the blood of Christ, allowing us to spend eternity with Him. After Jesus died and was buried, the story does not stop there, but rather God raised Him from the dead so that He might be the guarantee and the first example of how we will spend eternity with God. Tomorrow, you will learn how the Bible says that we can obtain this free gift of life through Christ.

### ***Week One—Day Three: The Method of Salvation***

Now that we have seen that Jesus Christ is the sole source of salvation and no other way exists to spend eternity with God, we must learn how we can begin this relationship with Him. The world asserts that being a member of a particular church or religion, being baptized, following certain rituals, or doing good deeds can earn salvation. However, the Bible claims that we cannot attain salvation by doing any of these things which will be demonstrated in the following verses that you read.

Key Question

How can I have eternal life? Am I able to spend eternity with God if I am a good person or if I do good works?



**Study the Word (The Bible)**



**Answer the following questions:**

1) How does **Romans 6:23** describe salvation (eternal life)?

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2) After reading **Ephesians 2:8-9**, how would you respond to someone who makes the claim that we must do good works in order to be saved?

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3) What does it mean that we are saved by grace? How would you define grace?

*Hint: **Romans 6:23** would be a great way to define grace.*

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4) In **1 John 1:9**, what does the verse say that we must do in order to be saved?

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5) In **Acts 3:19**, what does the verse say that we must do in order to be saved? What does it mean to repent?

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6) In **Romans 10:9-10**, what do the verses say that we must do in order to be saved?

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## Summary

The Bible clearly attests that we can only inherit eternal life by having a relationship with Jesus Christ. On our own, we can do nothing to inherit eternal life as it is a free gift from God (**Romans 6:23**). One does not pay for a gift nor do they work for it, but rather it is freely given by the giver. The gift in this case is a relationship with Jesus which leads to eternal life. Once we were dead in our sins, but through Christ's death on the cross we can have eternal life and be made alive with Him (**Ephesians 2:1-4**). Therefore, there is nothing that we can do to earn salvation—we cannot do enough good works to inherit eternal life (**Ephesians 2:8-9**); in fact, salvation is dispensed because of God's grace—that is receiving a gift that we do not deserve.

In order to receive this gift, we must accept it by confessing our sins; confessing simply means that we communicate to God that we are sorry for sinning against Him and ask Him for forgiveness (**1 John 1:9**). In addition, after we confess, we must repent

of our sins (**Acts 3:19**); to repent means that we stop living in continual sin and rebellion and turn back towards God. Although we still will make mistakes, we no longer live in a continuous life of sin. Finally, we are to give Jesus first place in our lives (**Romans 10:9-10**). God should be the most important person in our lives—so that we desire to spend time with Him through prayer and Bible study each day. After we are saved, God helps us by sending His Holy Spirit to guide and direct us so that we may persevere to the end of our lives in serving and worshipping God; as a result, tomorrow we will learn about the permanence of our salvation—not losing our salvation.



## Week One—Day Four: The Permanence of Salvation

After establishing that salvation is a free gift of God given on account of His grace and mercy, the Bible demonstrates that we can have assurance of salvation in our lives which no one can ever take from us. Even though we do not become perfect and sinless when we are saved, the Bible teaches us that once we are saved that we cannot lose our salvation regardless if we stumble in sin from time to time.

Key  
Question

If I sin, can I lose my salvation?

What is your assurance of salvation?  
The promise of God's Word. If God says it, that settles it, because God cannot lie. You can trust the promise of God's Word.

— Rick Warren —

***Answer the following questions:***

1) How does **1 John 5:11-13** affirm that we can be certain and know that we have eternal life?

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2) What assurance does Jesus give to His “sheep” (i.e. those who have a relationship with Him) in **John 10:28-29**?

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3) According to **Romans 8:38-39**, what can separate us from the love of God?

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
**Romans 8:38-39**



4) Based on **Jude 24**, what is God (i.e. the pronoun He in this verse) able to help us do?



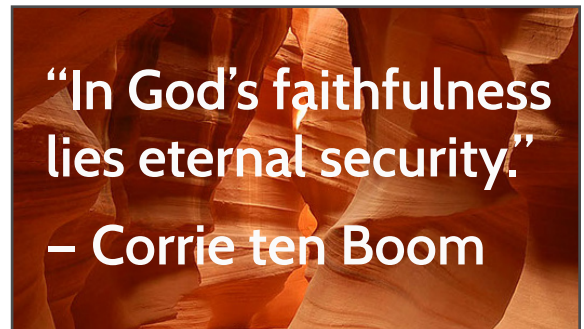
## Summary

When we accept the salvation offered through Jesus' sacrifice, we can have assurance that we have eternal life and should not have any doubt that we could lose that eternal life. In **1 John 5:11-13**, John writes this letter so that we might know that we have salvation. We do not need to guess or assume or even wonder if we are saved, but we can know with confidence that God has saved us through His Son. John states plainly that He who has the Son has eternal life; yesterday, you learned about how we invite Jesus, the Son, into our lives through confession, repentance, and making God the priority in our lives.

Once we invite Jesus into our lives, He lives there permanently and will never ever leave us or abandon us; there is nothing that we can do to make Him love us any less—just like a parent who loves his child unconditionally. Because of the

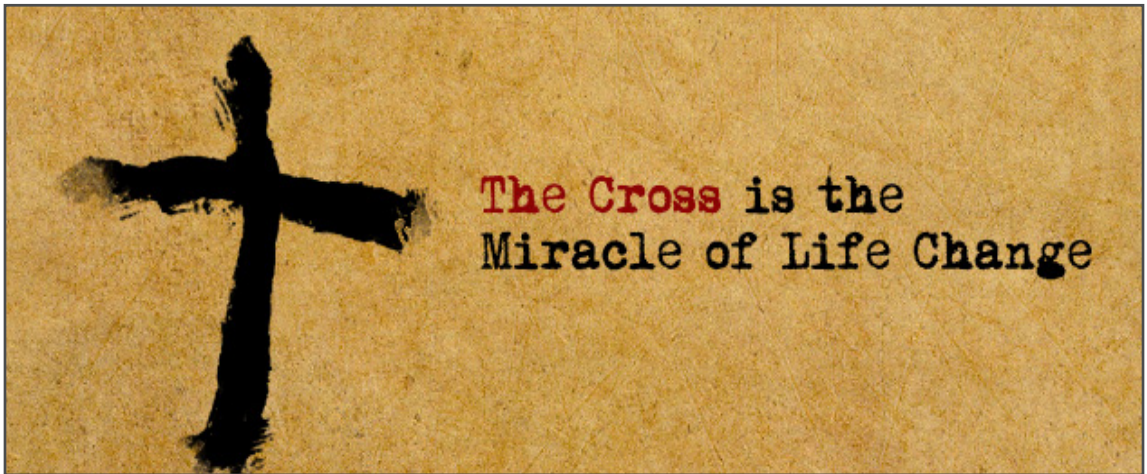
Father's love for us and the greatness of His power, nothing can take the eternal life that He gives us away from us (**John 10:28-29**). There is nothing that we can do or say or have happen to us that can cause us to lose the

eternal life that we have inherited (**Romans 8:39-40**). Although we are still capable of sinning and will still stumble from time to time, we should not live in a lifestyle characterized by sin; therefore, God is the one who provides the way and the power for us to live a holy life (**Jude 24**) and He is the one who is able to help us to overcome temptation and to preserve until the end (**1 Corinthians 10:13**). There is no need to fear losing salvation, rather there is every need to celebration the security and transformation that God gives in our lives. Tomorrow we will learn about the result of our salvation.



## Week One—Day Five: The Result of Salvation

When we ask Jesus to become our Savior and accept the free gift of salvation that He offers, He ushers in change in our lives. Jesus transforms us from what we once were and He continues to guide us to become more and more like Him every day. This lesson will help you to understand biblically what that change is and what it requires of us to participate in that change.



Key  
Question

What should my life look like after I am saved?

***Answer the following questions:***

1) How does **2 Corinthians 5:17** describe our life after we have been saved?

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2) How does **Romans 6:1-7** describe that we should live our lives after we are saved?

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3) In **Romans 12:1-2**, how are we to be transformed and from what are we to be transformed?

*...BE NOT CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD: BUT BE YE*

***TRANSFORMED**  
BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND...*



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4) If we are to follow Jesus, what does He tell us in **Luke 9:23-26** that we must do?

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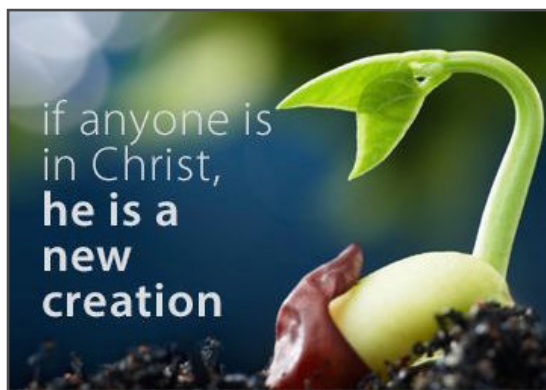
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## Summary

Although many of you may not be hardened criminals or people whom society would consider “bad,” all of us when we accept the gift of eternal life Jesus offers will experience radical transformation. Before our salvation, our lives were self-centered and we focused solely upon meeting our own needs; however, after salvation, we focus on serving God by how we serve and relate to others. The Bible tells us that this old, selfish lifestyle which is characterized by sin that attempts to please ourselves passes away. When you read **2 Corinthians 5:17**, the Scripture tells us that we have become a “new creation” and all the old habits and desires have passed away. We now desire to please God and be obedient to Him rather than merely pleasing ourselves and placating our own wants.

No longer do we live in continual sin, even though from time to time we may still sin, such as getting angry or saying harsh things to others. Instead, we put the “old” person, that is our old habits, to death so that we no longer participate in them (**Romans 6:1-7**). Every year, many people make New



Year’s resolutions, but few people have the resolve to keep those resolutions; however, God enables us to live these holy lives because He sends His Spirit to guide us and remind us of His teaching (**Romans 8:1-4**). The Spirit reminds us that we no longer live according to our old standards, but we live according to our new standards in Jesus. We should constantly seek to conform our thinking to God’s thinking and be set apart from the world who’s thinking leads to destruction (**Romans 12:1-2**). We are to renew our minds constantly by thinking on things

## Week One—Day Five: The Result of Salvation

### Summary—continued

which are above (**Philippians 4:8**).

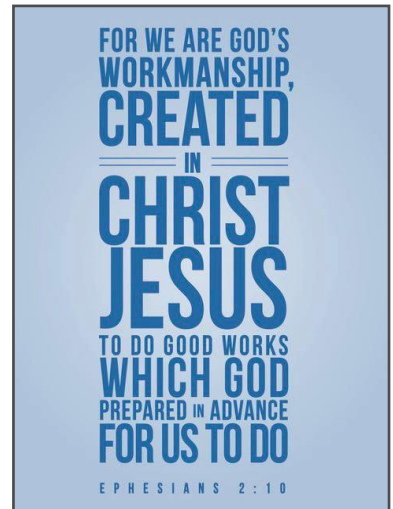
Finally, Jesus' statement that "if anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me" means we must surrender totally to the Father. In **Galatians 2:20**, Paul sheds light on Jesus' teaching: "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." We are no longer to live in our old, fleshly ways, but we are to live our new lives in Christ which is characterized by complete obedience and surrender.

## Week One—Day Six: The Purpose of Salvation

Now that you have learned about the transformation that salvation brings and the requirement for us to live holy lives with the help of the Holy Spirit, we must seek to understand the reason or purpose for our salvation. We are not saved only so that we might have eternal life, but rather we are saved with a much larger purpose. This study will help you to understand some of that purpose.

### Key Question

For what purpose am I saved? Is the only reason that I am saved so that I can have eternal life and not be cast into Hell?



***Answer the following questions:***

1) After reading **Ephesians 2:10**, describe the purpose of salvation.

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2) Read **Matthew 25:34-40**. What implications can you draw from Jesus' teaching in this passage about the purpose of our salvation?

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**Week One—Day Six: The Purpose of Salvation**

3) In **Leviticus 19:2**, what does God command Moses to tell Israel? How does this command relate to **Ephesians 5:1-2**?

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4) According to **Galatians 5:22-25**, what are the characteristics by which we are to walk daily?



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## Summary

The primary purpose of salvation is that we can become more like Jesus through our obedience to God as well as our service. God desires us to represent Him to others by being holy like Him (**Leviticus 19:2**). In order to be holy like God, we must follow His example set forth in Jesus Christ, which means that we must imitate Him and pattern our lives after Him (**Ephesians 5:1-2**). We do that in two ways: 1) we walk according to God's own standards and characteristics and 2) we do good works and serve others throughout our lives.

God has given us characteristics by which we ought to live throughout His Scripture.

Although only nine of them are listed in **Galatians 5:22-25**, there are many other characteristics that you will find as you continue to read God's word. However,

these characteristics listed in Galatians should be present daily in our lives: "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." The purpose of salvation is that we can show others the transformation that God has brought to our lives. In addition, we are to do good works for God so that He might be glorified or praised through them. **Ephesians 2:10** notes that doing good works is an integral part of our lives after we are saved. Jesus Himself outlines some of these good works in **Matthew 25:34-40** where He teaches His disciples to meet the basic needs of others by feeding and clothing and taking care of them. Jesus, God in the flesh, came as a servant, so how much more should we also be a servant just like Him (**Mark 10:44-45**)?



## **Week One—Day Seven: The Nature of Salvation**

Now that you have come to the end of the first week of study, you should be able to articulate the basic principles of salvation. You should be able to identify the need for salvation (sin), the source of our salvation (Jesus), the method of our salvation (by grace through faith), the permanence of our salvation (forever), the result of our salvation (transformation), and the purpose of our salvation (good works). This will be reinforced by reading Bob Franquiz's book, *Begin*, which will provide additional examples to help you understand the change in your life because of salvation. However, before you read *Begin*, take a moment to study the Bible on your and read John 3:1-21. Using what you have learned so far in this study, see if you can understand Jesus' discussion with Nicodemus about eternal life and salvation.

### ***Study the Word (The Bible)***

#### ***Read John 3:1-21.***

Summarize what Jesus is teaching Nicodemus in your own words:

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Because  
He bends down to  
**LISTEN**  
I will pray  
for as long  
as I have  
*breath*  
PSALM 116:2

# *Understanding Prayer*

Focal Verse:

... pray without ceasing, ...

1 Thessalonians 5:17

## Week Two—Day One: The Form of Prayer

The purpose of this week is to help you understand what it means to pray and how we ought to pray. Jesus taught His own disciples how to pray by giving them a model prayer when they asked Him (**Luke 11:1-13**). Prayer, simply stated, is a conversation with God which requires no technical language or form to offer. Prayer can occur at any time and in any venue, but should always be from a sincere heart. This week you will learn how to pray (the form), when to pray (the time), what to pray (the focus), and for whom to pray (yourself and others). Although there is no one specific form or type of prayer, Jesus does give His disciples a model prayer as well as some guidelines which they should follow. As you go through this lesson, you should realize that God is more interested in the sincerity of our hearts than He is with the content and wording of our prayers.

### Key Question

How am I to pray? Should I use special forms when I pray or special and technical language?



**Answer the following questions:**

1) What does Jesus teach His disciples about prayer in **Matthew 6:5-6**?

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2) How does Jesus say that we should **NOT** pray in **Matthew 6:6-7**?

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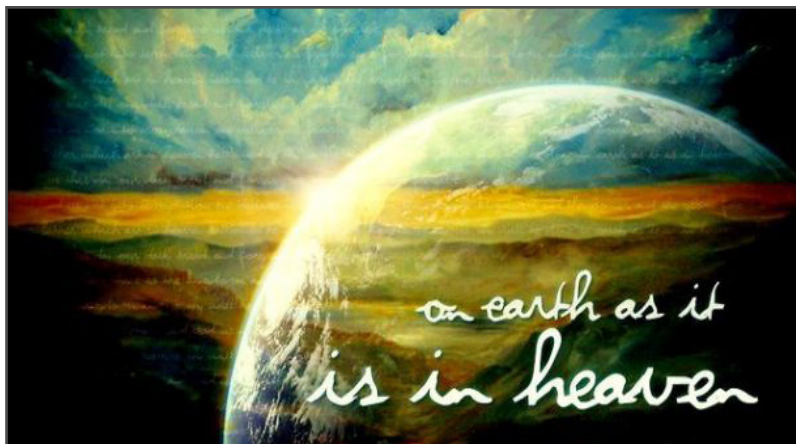
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3) According to **Matthew 6:10** in what way should we pray?

*Hint: Focus on the second sentence.*



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4) What does **James 1:6** say how we should ask for something when we pray?

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## Week Two—Day One: The Form of Prayer

5) Using **Hebrews 4:16** and **1 John 5:14-15** say about the attitude with which we ought to pray?

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### Summary

Every time that we pray, we should have a sincere heart and pray earnestly—not like a hypocrite who does it to show off (**Matthew 6:5-6**). We do not need to use big words or repetition when we pray, but rather we need to give thanks and requests to God with sincerity. Hypocrites pray with big words and fancy forms so that others can hear them praying and give them glory for the knowledge and eloquence with which they pray (**Matthew 6:7-8**). Although praying in public in church is not wrong, God expects us to pray daily when we are alone with Him so that we can express our inmost heart to Him.

As we learned in last week’s lesson on salvation, our desires have changed and we become a new creation in Christ. Because of our change in desires, we should pray according to God’s will and not our former desires by which we once lived (**Matthew 6:10**). God wants the best for our lives and because He knows history from beginning to end we must

seek to pray according to His will for us. Therefore, when Scripture states that we can receive anything for which we ask, we must ask according to God's will. Therefore, if God says "no" to something that we ask, we must not think that we do not have enough faith or we have done something wrong—rather we need to ask whether or not we were praying according to God's will for our lives.

Finally, when we pray according to God's will, we can pray with boldness and confidence (**Hebrews 4:16** and **1 John 5:14-**

**15**). Therefore, we should have confidence and not doubt when we pray, but rather pray expectantly for God to answer (**James 1:6**). Tomorrow you will learn when and to what extent we should pray.



## Week Two—Day Two: The Time of Prayer

The Bible features many different types of prayers by different people at different times in their lives. We will not be able to cover all the different types of communication to God in this brief lesson, but the most important aspect we can learn is to be in a constant attitude of prayer and thanksgiving.



Key  
Question

When should I pray? Is there a specific time? Should I pray just before meals or just before I go to bed?

***Answer the following questions:***

1) According to **1 Thessalonians 5:17-18**, when or how much are we to pray?

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2) In **Luke 18:1-8**, how often does Jesus teach His disciples to pray?

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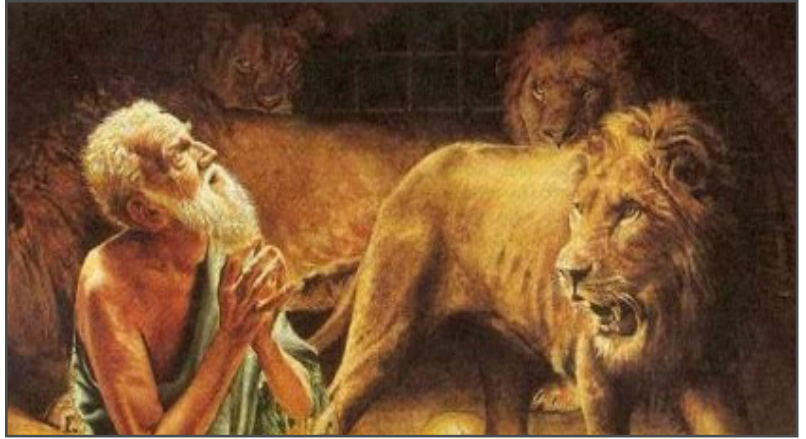
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3) Read **Daniel 6:8-22**.

How often did Daniel pray? Where did he pray? In what position did Daniel pray?



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4) Spend time in prayer thanking God for your salvation; thank Him for loving you so much that He sent His Son to die for your sins; thank Him that you can communicate your needs to Him at any time and for any reason.

## Summary

The Bible tells us in numerous places that we are to be in a constant attitude of prayer (**1 Thessalonians 5:17** and **Luke 18:1**). We can pray to God at any time and for any reason; we can pray silently as we drive down the road; we can pray for people whom we know that need to have a relationship with Jesus while we are visiting with them and talking to them; we can pray silently in church when others are leading us in prayer.

We do not need to wait for a formal time where we bow our heads and kneel on our knees and even lift up our hands—certainly we can pray in this posture like Daniel



did three times a day (**Daniel 6:8-22**), but bowing our head and kneeling is not a prerequisite for prayer. The most important principle that we can learn from Daniel is that he prayed daily and nothing, not even a law passed by the king, would discourage him from praying. Tomorrow, you will learn what the focus of our prayers should be.

## **Week Two—Day Three: The Focus of Prayer: Praise and Thanksgiving**

The Bible clearly teaches that prayer is communication with God and, therefore, praise and thanksgiving should always be directed toward Him. God is gracious and merciful to us in many ways; consequently, we should offer praise and thanksgiving unto Him alone. Our prayers should always begin by thanking God for who He is and what He has done for us.



Key  
Question

Who should be the focus of our prayer? Should I pray for my needs and the needs of others only?



***Answer the following questions:***

1) To whom does Jesus tell the disciples to pray in **Matthew 6:9**? What does the word “hallowed” mean?

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2) For what two things does Paul say that the Colossians should pray in **Colossians 4:2-4**? With which one of the two does Paul begin?

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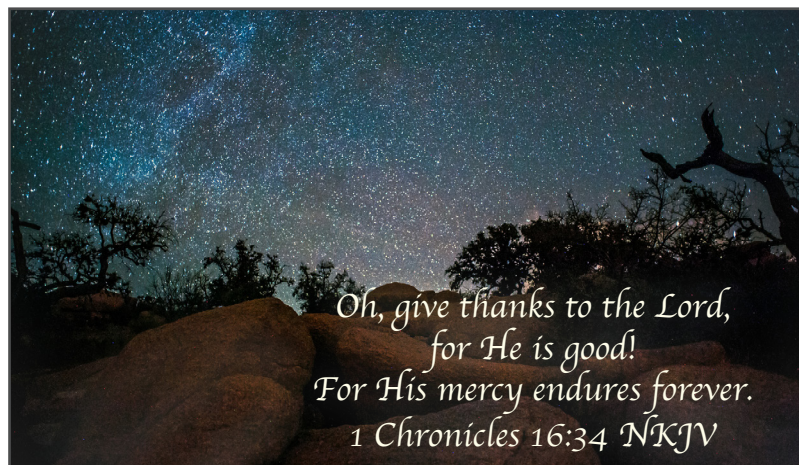
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**Week Two—Day Three: The Focus of Prayer:  
Praise and Thanksgiving**

3) According to **Philippians 4:6-7**, how should we make our requests and petitions made known to God?



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4) Read **1 Chronicles 16:34** and **Psalms 7:17**. For what reason should we give thanks to God?

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5) Spend time in prayer, but before you do list some of the things that God brings to mind for which you can be thankful. You may list anything for which you are thankful.

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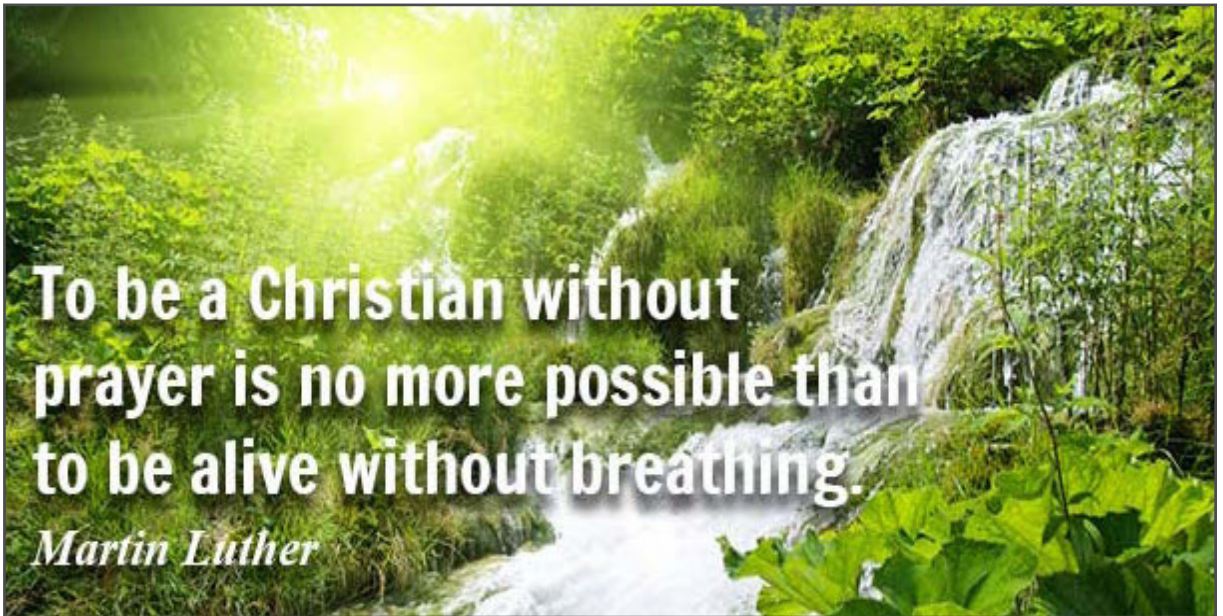
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## Summary

When we pray, we should always begin by thanking God for who He is and what He has done. Teaching His disciples how to pray, Jesus says that we must give praise and thanks to the Father. The word “hallowed” means holy which is actually praise directed toward God for His goodness (**Matthew 6:9**). Prayer should never become merely a list of requests in which we seek God to meet our needs or the needs of others whether health, finances, or other needs. Too many times as we grow in our walk with God, we forget to give Him thanks for who He is and what He has done for us. We should give God thanks for His love and righteousness (**1 Chronicles 16:34** and **Psalms 7:7**). Although these are just two examples of how we should give God thanks, there are many more reasons than can be listed here. In just the few minutes that you pondered why you can be thankful in question five above, you probably thought of several different ways. We must always seek to give God thanks in everything. Tomorrow, you will learn about some of the different requests that we can make for ourselves and others.

## Week Two—Day Four: The Requests of Prayer: Forgiveness, Strength, and Wisdom

After giving God thanks in our prayer, we should pray for our spiritual needs. Although we cannot list all of our spiritual needs here in the lesson, this will acquaint you with some of the areas for which we should pray: forgiveness (to be forgiven and help to forgive others), strength, and wisdom.



Key  
Question

Is it wrong to pray for my needs? What type of requests should I make known to God?

***Answer the following questions:***

1) Read **Matthew 6:10-15** and **1 John 1:9**. According to these verses, for what things are we to pray?

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2) How does **1 Corinthians 10:13** relate to the model prayer you read above in **Matthew 6:10-15**?

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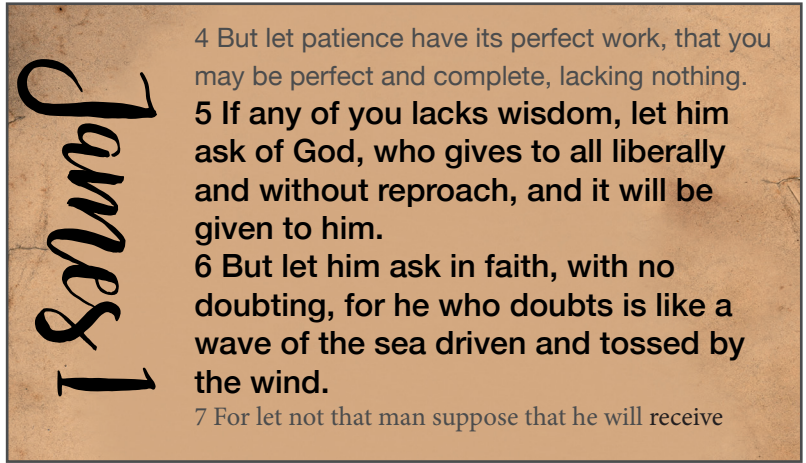
**Week Two—Day Four: The Requests of Prayer:  
Forgiveness, Strength, and Wisdom**

3) If you have a decision to make, what does **James 1:5-6** say that we should do?

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4) According to **1 Chronicles 16:11**, for what should we pray? What does it mean to seek the face of the Lord?

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5) In what areas do you need to ask God for forgiveness, strength, and wisdom? Be specific as God brings these areas to mind and write them here.

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## Summary

After we praise God for who He is and what He has done, then we should pray for our spiritual needs. First, we need to ask God for forgiveness for anything which we have done wrong (**Matthew 6:12** and **1 John 1:9**). Because sin separates us from God, we need to confess our sin and ask for forgiveness to be able to enter God's presence confidently. Not only should we ask for forgiveness, but we need to ask for assistance in avoiding temptation; we should ask God to help us overcome temptation so that we do not sin against Him because only God can strengthen us through His Spirit to help us to battle temptation (**1 Corinthians 10:13** and **Matthew 6:13**).

Second, we need to pray for our attitude with other human beings. We should desire others to see Christ's attitude in us and when we are wronged by others we need to forgive them just as God has forgiven us (**Matthew 6:14-15**). Therefore, we need to ask God to help us to love others and be in a position to meet their needs as well.

Third, we need to pray to ask God for strength to do His will. In **1 Chronicles 16:11**, when the text reads that we should "seek His face evermore," it merely means that we should seek to know God and His will for our lives. We should always pray to God for strength to do that to which He has called us. Not only should we pray for strength, but we should also pray for wisdom to help us to know what God would have us to do (**James 1:5-6**); without strength and wisdom from God, we are doomed for failure.

## **Week Two—Day Five: The Requests of Prayer: Physical Needs**

As we learned yesterday, we can pray to God to meet our spiritual needs; yet, we can also pray to God to meet our physical needs for which He is equally concerned. Physical needs can include everything from food, shelter, clothing, and our health. Even though God knows what we need even before we ask it, He still desires us to pray and converse with Him to specify our needs because it demonstrates that we depend upon Him in our relationship.



Key  
Question

Should I pray for my physical needs?



***Answer the following questions:***

1) According to **Matthew 6:11**, for what are we to ask God?

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2) Read **Matthew 6:25-34**. What does God promise about meeting our physical needs and what should our response be?

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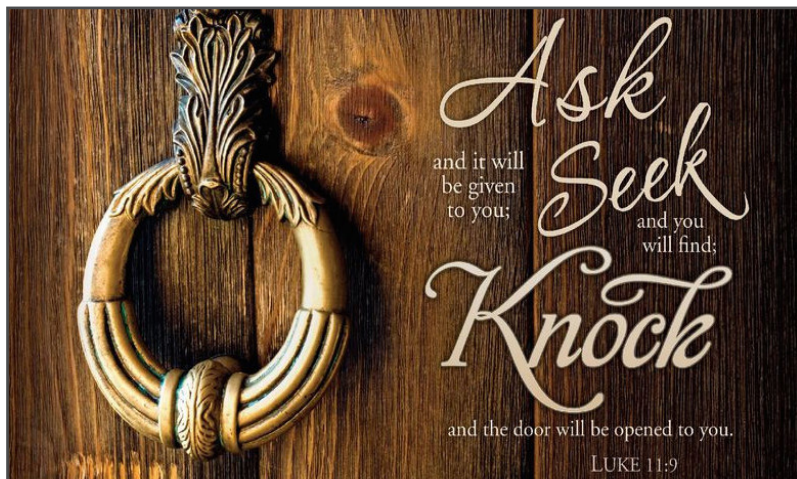
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**Week Two—Day Five: The Requests of Prayer:  
Physical Needs**

3) Read **Luke 11:5-13**.

What does Jesus say that God’s attitude is toward meeting our physical needs?



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4) Spend time in prayer thanking God for meeting your physical needs. If you have any needs, list them here and spend time praying for them.

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## Summary

God desires us to pray for any of our physical needs that we may have: food, shelter, clothing, health, or anything else (**Matthew 6:11**). However, God does not want us to worry about anything, but rather trust in Him wholly to meet our needs. If we seek God and place Him first in our lives, then He will give us what we need and take care of us even better than He does creation itself (**Matthew 6:25-34**). God is not angered or frustrated when we ask Him to meet our physical needs; rather He responds with joy because it shows that we trust Him. If we as human beings know how to give good gifts to one another even without asking, how much more would God who is the Giver of everything good give these gifts to us (**Luke 11:5-13**)?

## Week Two—Day Six: The Inclusiveness of Prayer: Praying for Others

Our prayers should not be self-centered, although we do need to ask God for the things that we need; rather our prayers ought to include praying for the needs of others. Again, the verses listed here are only a place to start praying for others. As you read the Bible, you will continue to identify ways that we can pray for others.



Key  
Question

How can I pray for others?

***Answer the following questions:***

1) According to James **5:15-16**, what are two ways that we can pray for others?

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2) Read **Ephesians 6:18-20** and **Colossians 4:2-4**. In what ways does Paul ask others to pray for him?

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**Week Two—Day Six: The Inclusiveness of Prayer:  
Praying for Others**

3) According to  
**1 Timothy 2:1-4**, in  
what way are we to  
pray for others?



4) Spend time in prayer, praying for others. What needs for others has  
God brought to your mind? List those needs here.

## Summary

When we pray for others, we can pray for them much like we pray for ourselves. We can pray for their spiritual needs (i.e. their relationship with Jesus as well as for those who do not have a relationship with Him). In addition, we can also pray for their physical needs, such as those in our community who are sick—again, we need to pray that God’s will will be done in this situation so that He may be glorified (**James 5:15-16**).

Moreover, we need to pray for others, as well as ourselves, to be able to share the good news of Jesus Christ and the salvation that He offers to those who do not have a relationship with Him. Paul earnestly desires both the Ephesians and Colossians to pray for him so that he may speak the message of Jesus boldly and accurately (**Ephesians 6:18-20 and Colossians 4:2-4**). Furthermore, we need to pray for our leaders around the world not only that they have wisdom which comes from God as they lead, but that they also might not hinder the spread of the gospel (**1 Timothy 2:1-4**).

These are only a few of the ways that we can pray for others. As you seek God and His wisdom, He will be faithful to reveal more ways that you can pray not only for yourself but those around you. All we need to do is to be faithful to converse with God every day through pray with a sincere heart.

## *Week Two—Day Seven: The Nature of Prayer*

Now that you have come to the end of the second week of study, you should be able to articulate the basic principles of prayer. You should now realize that there is no one single form of prayer; God looks at the sincerity of our prayers more than the method and form. We are constantly to be in an attitude of prayer all the time. Every time we pray, we should begin by praising and thanking God for who He is and what He has done. In addition, we should also pray for our spiritual needs (forgiveness, strength, and wisdom) as well as our physical needs. Finally, we should pray for others just as we pray for our own spiritual and physical needs.

### *Study the Word (The Bible)*

#### ***Read John 17:1-26***

How does the pattern of Jesus' prayer in **John 17:1-26** model the principles which we learned this week? How does Jesus give thanksgiving? How does Jesus pray for Himself and others?

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