



Pray First Teach us to Pray

Look Back – Care, Praise, Loving Accountability, Vision – 20 mins This is a time to see how everyone’s week was. Were they successful in the previous week’s goals? Were they unsuccessful? It’s also a time to pour vision into your group. Give them the why behind things we are doing church wide.

- How did it go last week?
- When you hear the word pray what do you think of? What comes to mind?

Look Up – What does the Bible say? Practice – 20 mins

- Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. Why do you think this is God will for us? What benefits do we get from praying continually? Is that realistic in today’s world?
- Pastor Brad said, “**Prayer should be our first response, not our last resort.**” In your experience, is that how you have operated? Why or why not? What can you do to make prayer the first priority?
- Pastor Brad walked us through Matthew 6:9-13 (you can read to refresh everyone’s memory). He laid it out like this: 1) Connect with God relationally 2) Worship His Name 3) Pray His agenda first 4) Depend on Him for everything 5) Get your heart right with God 6) Engage in the spiritual battle and 7) Express faith in God’s power. (Walk through these together as a group and discuss the ones that stuck out to people. Be ready to get the ball rolling by talking through the ones that hit you personally.)

Choose a question to create openness.

- Pastor Brad told us that “Prayer is so simple and so incredibly powerful. Let’s be a church that would always pray first.” How can we do this practically?
- What prayer have you been praying the longest? Alternately, what prayer has been answered for you recently?

Look Forward – Set Goals (For Accountability), Commission and Pray – 20 mins

Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Set your alarm a little earlier to start your day with prayer.
- Commit to praying through Jesus’ prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) every day this week.

Daddy, you are the great healer and you are always with us. We ask that this week you would provide the opportunity to have a spiritual conversation with someone that doesn’t know you yet. God as a church I pray that you would keep us centered around those that aren’t here yet.

I pray that you would give each and every one of us the courage and strength to Pray First in all things. Keep the people of Shift out of darkness so that our eyes will not adjust and become numb to it. Protect us from the hidden things in our lives and give us courage to bring them into light. We know that you can do all these things by the power of who you are.

Amen.