

ACTS ^{to} ACTION

LIVING OUT LUKE - ACTS



Adapted for the
BeADisciple
Study App

SESSION 2 LEADER GUIDE

Prayer | Teach Us to Pray

Leader Notes:

Questions denoted with a plus sign (+) were asked as part of the Daily Assignment for this session.

_____ WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION (4 MINUTES)

Offer a personal welcome.

Take attendance as participants join the meeting.

*Ask participants to open their app to the **Meeting Opening segment** of their Meeting Guide.*

“God’s Word in My World” and Personal Prayer from Previous Session

Share the following:

In our last session, our theme word was **Messiah** and our title: **Good News**. You wrote a prayer asking God to transform you to be more Christ-like as a response to your learning. Let’s hear from 2-3 participants on how the prayer may be inspiring any challenges or changes in your life.

Opening Prayer

Thank you for using the Prayer Request section of the app this week. Please continue to do so throughout this Study. Let’s keep in mind the prayer requests as we use this week’s psalm as our opening prayer.

Raise your hand to volunteer to open our session in prayer, first with the daily psalm and then adding your own prayer for our time together.

*“Let my cry reach you, LORD;
help me understand according to what you’ve said.
Let my request for grace come before you;
deliver me according to your promise!”
(Ps. 119:169-170)*

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES (6 MINUTES)

Prayer

Share the following:

Open **the Spiritual Practices segment** of your Meeting Guide.

Today, let’s share our responses to the questions listed under the Spiritual Practice of **Prayer**. I am dividing you into pairs for 4 minutes.

*Divide the class into **random groups of 2-3 participants** and **set a timer for 4 minutes**. The leader should participate in one of the small groups. The small groups do not need to report their discussions to the entire group.*

*Note: Below is the definition of **Prayer** from the Daily Assignment and the questions that small groups will discuss.*

Prayer: *As we pray for ourselves and for others, our spiritual life is strengthened, and power is set loose in the lives of those for whom we pray.*

- + *What will give order and discipline to your praying?*
- + *How will you practice this spiritual discipline this week?*

Sabbath

Back in the full group, share the following:

As the assignment on Sabbath this session, you were directed: “On a specified day, go apart for a time of prayer. Make a list of concerns and of persons for whom you want to pray. Pray for people you normally overlook and for the needs of the larger community and world.”

Let’s hear briefly from 2-3 of you how you experienced these suggestions. Raise hands to share.

_____ **BEGIN SESSION (10 MINUTES)**

Into the Word

Share the following:

Please open **the Into the Word segment** of your Meeting Guide and follow along as I read these key items.

Theme Word: Prayer

Title: Teach Us to Pray

Theme Verse:

“And I tell you: Ask and you will receive. Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened to you.”

(Luke 11:9)

Our Human Condition:

We sometimes feel totally alone. Something in our hearts tells us we are not complete until we communicate with the eternal, the infinite. We reach out for God. We need to know how to pray and that our prayers are heard.

Summary of discussion thread:

Briefly summarize what was shared in the discussion thread on Our Human Condition.

_____ **EXPLORE “TEACH US TO PRAY” (10 MINUTES)**

Share the following:

Please open **the Large-Group Discussion segment** of your Meeting Guide.

In this session, we focused solely on prayer. You were asked to read and study Jesus and his prayers and other models of prayer. You were also asked a lot of questions. It is important that we have time to discuss many of those. So, let’s work our way through some together and then we will break into small groups.

Our study began by thinking about Jesus heading up into the wilderness to pray after his baptism. He set the direction for his ministry through prayer. You were asked two questions concerning your “ministry,” however you define it.

Let’s share some responses to several questions you answered as part of your Daily Assignments. Please raise hands to share.

Take 1-2 answers for each of the following questions, watching your time for this section of the meeting.

- + Consider the ways that you serve, the activities you do that you consider your “ministry.” IN what ways have you felt led and empowered by the Holy Spirit to do these things?
- + What are some temptations or obstacles that have threatened to hinder your service or ministry? How have you been able to overcome the temptations or obstacles, or what do you think would help you most to overcome them?
- + After you read in Luke 6:12-16 you were asked: What do you expect of God when you pray?

Now let’s discuss the story of the Transfiguration.

Listen to Luke 9:28-36 again as I read it aloud:

“About eight days after Jesus said these things, he took Peter, John, and James, and went up on a mountain to pray. As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes flashed white like lightning. Two men, Moses and Elijah, were talking with him. They were clothed with heavenly splendor and spoke about Jesus’ departure, which he would achieve in Jerusalem. Peter and those with him were almost overcome by sleep, but they managed to stay awake and saw his glory as well as the two men with him.

“As the two men were about to leave Jesus, Peter said to him, ‘Master, it’s good that we’re here. We should construct three shrines: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah’ —but he didn’t know what he was saying. Peter was still speaking when a cloud overshadowed them. As they entered the cloud, they were overcome with awe.

“Then a voice from the cloud said, ‘This is my Son, my chosen one. Listen to him!’ Even as the voice spoke, Jesus was found alone. They were speechless and at the time told no one what they had seen.”

Let’s share some responses to two more questions you answered as part of your Daily Assignments. Please raise hands to share.

Take 1-2 answers for each question, watching your time for this section of the meeting.

- + Take a moment and imagine being present at the Transfiguration. How do you think observing this event would affect your faith in Jesus?
- + Share about a time when you experienced the presence of God while praying? If you haven't experienced this yet, what do you think it would be like to do so?

SMALL-GROUP DISCUSSION (15 MINUTES)

*Divide the class into **random groups of 3-4** participants and **set a timer for 15 minutes**. Tell participants to choose a group leader who will keep the discussion moving.*

Tell participants to use the Small-Group Discussion segment of their Meeting Guide.

The leader should participate in one of the small-group discussions. The small groups do not need to report their discussions to the entire group.

Note: The small-group discussion content is at the end of this document.

CONSIDER "INTO THE WORLD" (10 MINUTES)

Share the following:

Please open the **Consider Into the World segment** of your Meeting Guide.

As we study the Bible together, keep in mind that what we learn in each session needs to be taken into our world today. We are being transformed from the person described in Our Human Condition to a more Christ-like person living in this world. We will be sharing stories of some of our own past volunteer service experiences later in the study.

Hear again **Our Human Condition**:

We sometimes feel totally alone. Something in our hearts tells us we are not complete until we communicate with the eternal, the infinite. We reach out for God. We need to know how to pray and that our prayers are heard.

Into the World 1:1's

*Divide the class into **random groups of 2-3** participants and **set a timer for 8 minutes**.*

Tell participants to discuss the question in the Into the World segment of the Meeting Guide.

The leader should participate in one of the pairings. Paired participants do not need to report their discussions to the entire group.

Note: Below is the 1:1 discussion question:

- + *Share a story about a time you have volunteered. What did you do and why did you volunteer? How did you feel about the experience?*

CLOSE WITH PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

God’s Word in My World

Share the following:

Now please open **the Meeting Closing segment** of your Meeting Guide.

As we prepare to close in prayer, I want to remind you that you can use the Prayer Request section of the app during the week. Also, your Personal Prayer will be able to be accessed each day of the coming week as you pray the Daily Psalm.

We will close our meeting in prayer together. I will open our prayer and share my Personal Prayer. I will then call on each of you to share your Personal Prayers. If you prefer not to share this week, simply say, “Pass.”

Close in prayer.

<End>

Leader Notes:

Small-Group Discussion (15 MINUTES)

In your small groups continue the discussion of the following questions you answered in your assignment. On each question, each of you share as much as you are comfortable.

Ask one person to be a timekeeper. Remember, the purpose of the Small-Group Discussion is not just to quickly answer the questions but to take time to share openly your thoughts and feelings. Be sure everyone in the group gets a chance to share.

Thanking God (5 MINUTES)

When you read about the feeding of the five thousand, we saw Jesus thank God before the realization of the miracle. Perhaps this is a new idea for you.

- + Share about a time when you thanked God for what you have right now rather than waiting to thank God after you receive what you are hoping for?

Evaluating Prayer Life (5 MINUTES)

- + Evaluate your prayer life. Do you pray when you or others are suffering? How about when you are happy, do you offer a joyful prayer? Have you prayed for the sick? What about the practice of praying with a group of believers over a sick person, and even anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord? Do you ever confess your sins to others and pray for healing? Share with your group your thoughts on your own prayer life.

The Lord's Prayer (5 MINUTES)

Remembering the words from the Lord's prayer, "Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who has wronged us" how did you respond to the following?

- + When have you had difficulty accepting forgiveness for your sins?
- + Who is someone in your life you need to forgive? What, if anything, is holding you back?