

# **SECTION I**

## **LEARNING TO PRAY LIKE A DISCIPLE**

**In this section you will learn the fundamental skill of Christianity that will enable you to discover how to develop everything else involved in Christianity. Jesus never taught His disciples how to preach, but He spent much time teaching them how to pray.**

## Discipleship - Session 1

### Introduction to prayer

- “Lord, teach us to pray.” - Luke 11:1-13
- Begin study of the Model Prayer:  
**OUR FATHER**

Things we will cover this lesson:

1. “Lord, teach us to pray.” - I need the Lord/Holy Spirit to help me learn to pray.
2. What it means to “Break up the fallow ground.”
3. To be persistent in prayer - not because of God, but because of you.
4. Understanding how much the Father loves you.

Assignment:

1. Get **ALONE** to pray for at least 15 minutes daily.
2. Make a daily log with date, time, and place. Bring your log to me every week.
3. Also go over the material you learned this session. Use the page entitled **OUR FATHER** to help you pray and worship God as your Father. Look up all the scriptures. Put this lesson to practice in your daily life.

## Lord, Teach Us To Pray

Luke 11:1-13

The disciples learned that there was a relationship between Jesus' public work and Jesus' private prayer life.

The more we desire to be Christ-like, the more we will say, "Lord, teach us to pray".

Jesus never taught His disciples how to preach, only how to pray.

To know how to talk with God is more important than to know how to speak to man.

Consider these passages of scripture and realize that we possibly do not know how to pray as we ought.

Matthew 18:19-20

Mark 11:22-24

John 14:13-14; 15:7, 16

1 John 5:14-15

If you are like most Christians, you have done these things and not gotten what you asked for. Why? Maybe there is more to these passages than we thought. Maybe we need help in our understanding. "Lord, teach us to pray."

It needs to be understood that prayer is a lifestyle that comes before God, not just the words that are said during a time of prayer.

See Psalm 37:4 - (When our delight is in Him, than our desires will be correct.)

Consider this passage: Hosea 10:11&12.

Judah - means "praise" -- praise will break up our fallow ground!

Jacob - his name was changed to "Israel" (which means "God prevails") when he wrestled with the angel of God -- it is an example of persistence in prayer -- persistence in prayer will break up the clods (or harrow) the plowed ground.

There were four types of soil in the parable of the sower (Matthew 13:3-8). One thing will make all these soils productive - to break it up and harrow it!

Shall we also enroll in this blessed school? Yes! "Lord, teach me to pray."

Now let us look at the Model Prayer in **Matthew 6:9-13**.

This is a model, an outline, a framework around which we build our prayers. Our Lord gave His disciples this model to use as a guide so they could be effective in their praying. We will look at this model closely now and in the next few sessions and show you how to effectively expand your prayer life.

***The Model Prayer is also a procedure for maturing in Christ. It is an example in disciple development.*** We will see this as we study the Model Prayer together. The first discipline a disciple needs to learn is to pray. The first and most important aspect of prayer is praise and worship. The key to quality worship is to understand that God is our Father.

## **OUR FATHER**

**The single most important concept in all the Word of God is this: THE FATHER LOVES YOU; HE REALLY, REALLY LOVES YOU! -- (See Ephesians 3:19)**

**Who is a real father? (God is!)** (Apply the following thoughts to God as your Father.)

- Someone who looks forward to seeing his child, who eagerly & warmly embraces his child, accepts his child, forgives his child, encourages his child, builds up his child, blesses his child and believes in his child; all because he loves his child.
- One who is committed to his child's good and welfare, does good, strengthens, looks after, cares for, provides for and protects his child.
- He is a counselor, guide, teacher, corrector and builder of his child's confidence.
- One who does what is right, keeps his word and is dependable, faithful and true.
- One who is with his child in the time of trouble and is always there for his child.
- Someone who fixes things, is strong, is a source of life, gives peace and knows his child better than the child knows himself.
- A real father delights in His child and is well pleased this is his child.
- He is loving, compassionate, kind and gentle.
- One who plays with his children and will also die for his children.
- Someone a child looks forward to seeing and being with, someone a child brags about and someone held in high esteem in their child's eyes.

What is God the Father like?

Jesus illustrates it like this: Luke 15:11-24 -- (Note the action of the father in verses 20-24.)

When you see Jesus, you see the Father. See John 14:7-9.

His love is like a doting grandfather over his grandchildren.

We and all this world were created for His pleasure. And it is the Father's pleasure to pour out His love on His children.

He is the source of the fruits of the Spirit; therefore, He is like them because He is Spirit.  
- Gal. 5:22-23.

Try inserting "My Father" for God and/or LORD in the Old Testament. Try this in Genesis 1:1- 2:4; Exodus 3:1-14; and Psalm 23.

Note these attributes of the Father from Exodus 34:6-7 -- Merciful, Gracious, Long-suffering, Abounding in Goodness and Truth, Forgiving.

The Father Gives The Blessing! (There are five elements involved in giving a Biblical blessing.)

1. Meaningful touch -- Genesis 2:7; Jeremiah 18:6; John 10:27-30; Mark 10:13-16. In the quiet moments with God and any other special time in His presence.

2. Positive, uplifting spoken message -- Ephesians 1:3, 6, 18; John 15:16; 17:23. Through the Word, in the quiet moments with God and any other special times with Him.

3. Attach "high value" to the one being blessed. -- Psalm 139:17-18; Deuteronomy 7:6; 1 Peter 2:9. The price God was willing to pay for us. The special ways God has spoken into my life. The Father always wants to spend time with us.

4. Picture a special future for the one being blessed. -- Psalm 139:13-16; Ephesians 1:11-12; Colossians 1:12; Revelation 21:1-4. Destiny! Ministry God has planned for us.

5. An active commitment to fulfill the blessing. -- Matthew 11:28; Psalm 46:1. See this in the provision of the Bible, Prayer, Church, the Holy Spirit, personal revelation, the call of God and His enabling us to fulfill the call.

**SUMMATION STATEMENT: Jesus wants us to be effective in our prayer life. He knows we need help. He gave us a model to help us. It begins with the greatest concept of all -- God is our Father!**