



Praying to the Lord of the Harvest, LCMS World Mission, in collaboration with its North American and worldwide partners, will share the Good News of Jesus with 100 million unreached or uncommitted people by the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017.

Session 2—Pray

Memory Verse: Matthew 9:37-38 (NIV)

“Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

Connect: What’s the best thing that happened to you this week?

Study:

View Video

- 1) Prayer is an incredible _____.
 - a) You have God’s full _____.
 - b) A life of prayer includes listening to his _____.

- 2) The Gift that changes _____ . – (Day 10 devotion)
 - a) Submission that opens us to _____.
 - b) Posture that fosters _____.

- 3) Impact of prayer
 - a) Guides you in _____.
 - b) It is the battle that opens peoples _____.

A Farmer's Prayer

- 1) What is your passion (a thing that you feel strongly about)?
- 2) What is your priority (the most important thing that you see yourself doing on a regular basis)?
- 3) Matthew 9:35-38 speaks about Jesus' ministry, "*Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."* What does this passage reveal about Jesus' passion and priority?
- 4) As Jesus looked with compassion on the crowds, how does Jesus ask us to respond?
- 5) In what ways are you a "laborer in the harvest" as you daily live your life?
- 6) Do you know anyone in your congregation whom you think would be a good person for God to raise up as a full-time worker as a pastor, teacher, DCE, church musician, etc.? How could you encourage them?

The Disciples' Prayer

- 1) Why is the routine of prayer sometimes frustrating?
- 2) Why do you think the disciples asked Jesus, "*Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples?"*
- 3) Give examples of how God has answered your prayer: what is the best "yes" that God granted?
- 4) What prayer are you thankful in hindsight to which God said "no?"

A Child's Prayer

- 1) Pastor Keurulainen states, "*Show me someone who prays well, someone whose words touch the heart of another deeply, and I will show you someone who is in love—in love with the One to whom they pray and in love with those for whom they pray so passionately.*" How is prayer an act of love?
- 2) Mark 14:35-36 reveals the content of Jesus' Maundy Thursday prayer: "*Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."* How is Jesus' love for the Father reflected in his prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane?

3) John reveals the object of Jesus' prayer in 17:20-21 "*My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.*" Who is on Jesus' mind as he knows that his suffering and death approaches?

Elsie's Prayer

1) C. F. W. Walther, the first President of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, said: "*Father and mother are appointed by God as pastors of the home.... Let us take to heart that we through holy baptism have been made spiritual priests, and that we there also made a covenant to God to enter into His service. Let us avail ourselves of each opportunity to speak something good, to recount what God has done for us, to win back the erring, to reprove those who sin and encourage those who are sad and disheartened.*" What are some of the ways in which you act as a pastor in your home?

2) How does intercession (praying for other people) help to turn us from our selfishness?

3) The writer to the Hebrews states in 7:25: "*Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.*" Also, Romans 8:33-34 "*Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.*" What is Jesus doing now?

4) How does this give us confidence as we pray for one another?

Jesus' Prayer

1) As you were growing up, who taught you to pray in a meaningful and satisfying way?

2) Pastor Keurulainen notes that when studying Jesus' prayer life, four clear patterns emerge: "*1) Jesus would frequently withdraw for a time of Prayer; 2) His prayers were intertwined with thanksgiving and praise; 3) He was incredibly honest with God; and 4) He interceded for others*" (p. 36). Where can you go to withdraw for a time of prayer?

3) St. Paul writes in Philippians 4:6, "*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*" Why is it difficult for us at times to take an attitude of thankfulness?

5) What attitudes keep us from being honest with ourselves, with each other, and with God?

A Friend's Prayer

1) Pastor Keuruleinen writes, "*God hears us not because of our earnest efforts, but because of nail-pierced hands that pray on our behalf. In prayer we are not trying to overcome God's reluctance; we are taking hold of His willingness. We dare not make prayer about us. Its about Him, not me*" (p. 45). How do we make prayers about us?

- 2) What can you do to focus prayer on what God wants?
- 3) Richard Foster writes, “*Our children come to us with the craziest requests at times! Often we are grieved by the meanness and selfishness in their requests, but we would be all the more grieved if they never came to us even with their meanness and selfishness.*” Give examples of childlike prayer.

Reach/Serve: Ask your fellow group members and three people in your inner circle of friends and family what you might pray about on their behalf.

Offer: Pray the litany, a historic prayer of the church.

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| L | O Lord, | C | have mercy. |
| L | O Christ, | C | have mercy. |
| L | O Lord, | C | have mercy. |
| L | O Christ, | C | hear us. |
| L | God the Father, in heaven, | C | have mercy. |
| L | God the Son, Redeemer of the world, | C | have mercy. |
| L | God the Holy Spirit, | C | have mercy. |
| L | Be gracious to us. | C | Spare us, good Lord. |
| L | Be gracious to us. | C | Help us, good Lord. |
- L From all sin, from all error, from all evil:
 From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death:
 From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from rebellion:
 From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death:
- C **Good Lord, deliver us.**
- L By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity:
 By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and Passion;
 by Your precious death and burial:
 By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:
- C **Help us, good Lord.**
- L In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:
- C **Help us, good Lord.**
- L We poor sinners implore You
- C **to hear us, O Lord.**
- L To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and ministers of Your Church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them in holy living:
 To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived:
 To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Your harvest; and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit:
- C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**
- L To raise those that fall and to strengthen those that stand; and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the distressed.
- C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

L To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to give our country Your protection in every time of need:

To direct and defend our president and all in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our people:

To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel:

To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing happiness in their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them:

To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

L To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve to our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

L Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C we implore You to hear us.

L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C grant us Your peace.

L O Christ,

C hear us.

L O Lord,

C have mercy.

L O Christ,

C have mercy.

L O Lord,

C have mercy. Amen

For Additional Study

A Soldier's Prayer

Ephesians 6 states, *“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.....Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel.”* Do you think prayer is preparation for battle with Satan, or the battle itself? Why does Satan hate it when Christians pray?