

**WEEK 8 - PRAYING WITH OTHER PEOPLE**  
**DAY 1**

How is your faith in praying? Have you been asking God for things? Are you expecting him to give you answers? Have you been doing things to make your faith grow?

1. What have you done to make your faith grow? \_\_\_\_\_

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There is another thing which helps us pray with faith. We have said much about praying alone. Jesus said we should go to a quiet place and there shut out all other things and pray to God. But Jesus also said that we should pray together with other people. One of the strongest verses in the Bible about prayer is this one from Matthew 18:19-20:

‘Again I tell you this: if two of you agree on earth about any request you have to make, that request will be granted by my heavenly Father. For where two or three have met together in my name, I am there among them.’

2. Who else is present with two people when they are praying? \_\_\_\_\_

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Of course Jesus is with us also when we are praying alone, but he knew it would help us to pray together with other people. He knew it would strengthen our faith to hear someone else praying for the same thing which we are praying for. So he told us to pray together with others, and he gave us a special promise for this kind of prayer.

3. What did Jesus promise would happen when we agree to pray together with someone else for a certain thing?

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It is from the Bible that we get the assurance that God answers our prayers. In the Bible God told us that if two of us agree to pray for something, it will be done. Open your Bible to Matthew 18:19-20 and read the verses again. Underline the verses with your pencil.

4. Did Jesus say it is good to pray together with other people? \_\_\_\_\_

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Read the verses as I have written them here again.

Matthew 18:19-20:

'Again I tell you this: if two of you agree on earth about any request you have to make, that request will be granted by my heavenly Father. For where two or three have met together in my name, I am there among them.'

5. Repeat these verses over and over again until you have memorized them. I have given you a short lesson today so that you have time to memorize these verses. I will expect you to be able to say them in class.

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**ANSWERS**

5. Be prepared to say these verses in class.
3. He said that thing would be done by the Father.
1. We will talk about this in class.
4. Yes.
2. Jesus.

**WEEK 8 - PRAYING WITH OTHER PEOPLE**  
**DAY 2**

This week we are learning about praying together with other people.

1. How do we know that it is good to pray with other people? \_\_\_\_\_

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In the Old Testament the people of God often met together. Sometimes it was to hear God's words. Sometimes it was to offer sacrifices to God. Sometimes it was so their leader, whether Moses or Joshua or Samuel or Ezra, could lead them in prayer. But in the New Testament every person could pray directly to God.

2. In whose name did the people of the New Testament pray? \_\_\_\_\_

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We often read how the Christians of the New Testament prayed together. Praying together began in the very first chapter of the Book of Acts. Jesus had told them not to leave the city of Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came upon them. So they remained together waiting for this.

Acts 1:4:

All these were constantly at prayer together, and with them a group of women including Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

3. What did the disciples do while they were waiting for the Holy Spirit to come?

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It was not that one or two people prayed for all the others, but all of them were constantly at prayer. Read Acts 2:1-4.

4. How did God answer the united prayers of these people? \_\_\_\_\_

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After this, the Christians continued to pray together. In chapter 4 we have already seen that Peter and John were put into prison. When the leaders let them go they told them not to preach in the name of Jesus any more.

**Acts 4:23-24:**

As soon as they were discharged they went back to their friends and told them everything that the chief priests and elders had said. When they heard it, they raised their voices as one man and called upon God: 'Sovereign Lord, maker of heaven and earth and sea and of everything in them.'

**5. What did the people of the church do when they heard that they were commanded not to preach about Jesus any more?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 4:31:**

When they had ended their prayer, the building where they were assembled rocked, and all were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness.

**6. Did God hear their united prayer?** \_\_\_\_\_

Later on, Peter was in prison and we have learned how the church prayed continually for him. God opened the doors of the prison and an angel led Peter out into the street of the city. At first Peter was surprised, but then he understood what had happened.

**Acts 12:12:**

When he realized how things stood, he made for the house of Mary, the mother of John Mark, where a large company was at prayer.

**7. How many people were praying in the house to which Peter went?** \_\_\_\_\_

In Acts chapter 13, the church at Antioch decided to send out some missionaries. These missionaries were Paul and Barnabas, who were to go on a long journey preaching.

**Acts 13:3:**

Then after further fasting and prayer, they laid their hands on them and let them go.

**8. What did the church do to send these missionaries on their way?**

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During his missionary journeys many things happened to Paul. Often he prayed together with other people. Here are two times when he prayed with others.

**Acts 16:25:**

About midnight Paul and Silas, at their prayers, were singing praises to God, and the other prisoners were listening.

**Acts 21:5:**

But when our time ashore was ended, we left and continued our journey; and they and their wives and children all escorted us out of the city. We knelt down on the beach and prayed.

**9. What did Paul and Silas do together when they were in prison?**

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**10. How did the Christians of Tyre with their wives and children say good-bye to Paul?**

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**11. What did the early church often do together?** \_\_\_\_\_

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## ANSWERS

8. They fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them.
10. They knelt down on the beach and prayed.
5. They met together and prayed.
3. They prayed.
11. They prayed together.
1. The Bible tells us.
9. They prayed and sang.
6. Yes.
4. God sent the Holy Spirit to them.
2. In the name of Jesus.
7. Many ,or a large company.

**WEEK 8 - PRAYING WITH OTHER PEOPLE**  
**DAY 3**

Yesterday we looked at many times when the early church in the time of the apostles had problems and great needs. As soon as the church people saw their need they met together.

1. What did the church in the Book of Acts do when they met together?

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Here is a lesson for us. God wants us as Christians to join together too. We should not just come to church to sing or to hear preaching, but we should come in order to pray together. That is what God's house is for. Do you remember how Jesus drove the sellers from the temple one day? We read the story in Luke 19:45-46:

Then he went into the temple and began driving out the traders, with these words: 'Scripture says, 'My house shall be a house of prayer'. but you have made it a robbers' cave.'

2. Is your church a house of prayer? \_\_\_\_\_ How much time do you spend praying in your church services --- a long time or a short time?

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I am not saying that we should have very, very long prayers every time we come to church. Sometimes when one person prays a very long prayer, it is just a way to show how much he knows about the Bible or how many nice things he can think of to say.

3. What happens to the other people, if one person prays a very, very long prayer?

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In the time when Jesus was on earth, some of the Jewish leaders prayed long prayers. They were just trying to look good. Notice what Jesus said to them in Matthew 23:14:

Alas for you, lawyers and Pharisees, hypocrites! You eat up the property of widows, while you say long prayers for appearance' sake. You will receive the severest sentence.

4. What would these Jewish leaders receive for pretending to be good?

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Jesus was not condemning these prayers just because they were long but because they were not true. Jesus prayed long. He prayed all night sometimes, but he was alone. When we are praying together in a meeting, the purpose is for everyone to pray. Remember that Jesus said there is power in united prayer.

5. Is it united prayer if one person prays a long prayer and everyone else is thinking about other things?

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Perhaps you have sometimes wondered why one person must pray aloud. Why does not everyone just pray at the same time in the way he feels? The purpose of having one person pray aloud is so that he can lead others in prayer. While one person is praying, all the others should be thinking about the words he is saying. They should pray earnestly in their hearts for that thing.

6. If God promises to give two people that thing which they agree to pray for together, what do you think will happen if 20 or 30 people in the church really agree to pray together for a certain thing?

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How can the person who is praying in church lead the others well? First he must speak loud enough for the others to hear.

7. Can other people pray for the same thing you are praying for if they cannot hear what you are saying?

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The one who is leading in prayer should pray about definite things which touch the lives of all who are in the church.

8. Can I join you in whole-hearted prayer if you are preaching a sermon while you pray? \_\_\_\_\_

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What should the other people do while one is praying? They should not be looking around or thinking about other things, or just waiting for the prayer to be finished. They should be praying too.

9. What do you do when someone else is praying in church? Be careful to answer honestly! \_\_\_\_\_

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Prayer in church is not meant to be just one more thing which we do to fill time. Prayer in church is meant to do something. God's house is a house of prayer. Prayer in church is our time to talk together with God as a group. It is a time to praise him. It is a time to join together and agree in asking for things that we need.

10. Should prayer be a big part or a small part of the church service?  
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Did you notice that the church in the Book of Acts not only prayed in the meetings which they held each week? They had special prayer meetings for special needs. They prayed when asking for the Holy Spirit to come. They prayed when the rulers told them not to preach. They prayed when one of their leaders was in jail. They prayed when they were sending missionaries. What about us? We too should have special meetings for prayer when there are great needs. We should meet to pray when there is no rain, or when an evangelist is coming to preach, or when someone has evil spirits, or when there is a misunderstanding in the church. God hears united prayer.

11. How should we pray in the church when there are great needs? \_\_\_\_\_  
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## ANSWERS

7. No.
10. A big part.
4. Severest sentence or hard judgment.
1. They prayed.
3. The other people think about other things or go to sleep.
5. No.
8. No, it is not something we can join together in asking for.
11. We should meet together and pray.
2. Answer as you feel, but many times there is only a little time spent in prayer during church services.
9. You are the only one who can answer this.
6. I think God will give it to them.

## WEEK 8 - PRAYING WITH OTHER PEOPLE

### DAY 4

Some people think that praying in church is quite enough time to pray with other people. They think that if you take your family once a week to church you are doing very well and you will all be strong Christians.

But praying once a week in church with others does not teach our families how to talk with God. The children have some special teaching in Sunday school, but the praying and teaching of the main service are prepared for big people. The children often cannot understand.

1. Watch some children during the praying and preaching of the service next Sunday. See whether they are listening as if they understand or whether they are looking around at other things.
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The church is a good place to learn about being a Christian, but the church can never take the place of the home. When we have good schools and churches some people think that they can leave the teaching of their children to the teachers and church leaders. But they are very wrong. If the parents have not taught the children before they begin to go to school, the teachers will have a hard job.

2. Where must the teaching of a child begin? \_\_\_\_\_
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Perhaps you understand this and you often tell your children that they should pray. Will they learn to pray just because you tell them to pray? No, children learn by trying to do what they see us do. Have you ever watched a small girl learning to carry things on her head? Is this something she learns in school? Is this something she learns because her mother tells her how to do it? No, she learns because she sees her mother do it and then she tries it.

3. Write something else which children learn to do by watching us and then trying.  
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This is the way it is with praying. The children must hear us praying in the home and they must be given time to try to pray themselves. We should have

a special time every day for family prayers. This should not be a time for preaching or for one person to pray a very long prayer. It should be a time of thinking about God together and talking with him as a group. Let the children take part. Let them choose songs. Let them read verses.

4. Should children be encouraged to talk to you about God? \_\_\_\_\_

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If we get the children to talk freely with us about God, then it will be easier for them to talk to God himself. In family prayers we should pray honestly about our own needs and the needs of the family. If the children hear their parents pray in this way, they will try to pray this way themselves.

5. How can children learn to pray well? \_\_\_\_\_

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Praying with the family not only teaches the children to pray. It does something else. It helps the family to get along well together. Let us say that on a certain day the family has not been agreeing. Let us say that the father has been very impatient and has spoken to his wife and children in a way that is not right. As he prays God shows him that he is wrong. Family prayers is a good time for him to tell the family that he is sorry.

6. Do you think that a father should apologize to his family if he has spoken to them in a wrong way? \_\_\_\_\_

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This is hard to do, but it is necessary if we want God to hear our prayers. Some people feel that this will cause the children to lose respect. No, it will increase their respect if they see that their father is willing to make right what he has done wrong. Then the children will know that this is what they must do also if they want answers to their prayers.

7. What did Jesus say we should do if we come to pray and remember that there is something wrong between us and someone else? \_\_\_\_\_

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Praying together as a family also makes faith stronger. If the family has needs they can join together in bringing them to God. As the prayers are answered, the family can talk about how they were answered. The family can spend time thanking God.

8. What did Jesus say would happen if two or more people agree to pray together for a certain thing?  
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It is important for prayers not to be too long in church. It is especially important to keep them short in family prayers. Let everyone pray. Let the prayers be short and pointed. While one is leading, let others pray in their hearts. Use words which are simple and which come from the heart. Teach your children to talk with God sincerely.

9. Do you think you can make your family prayers better after this lesson?  
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10. What should the family do every day together? \_\_\_\_\_

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**ANSWERS**

- 5. By hearing their parents pray and then trying to pray themselves.
- 2. At home with the parents.
- 9. I hope you will try.
- 6. I asked what you think, so I accept your answer, but I think this is very very important.
- 4. Yes
- 8. He said it would be done by the Father in heaven.
- 3. This can be anything like sweeping, cutting wood, cooking, or milking.
- 7. We should stop praying and go and make that thing right first.
- 1. We will talk about this in class.
- 10. The family should pray together.

**WEEK 8 - PRAYING WITH OTHER PEOPLE**  
**DAY 5**

What have you learned so far this week?

1. Write why it is good to pray together with other people. \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Write two groups of people that we should pray together with.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_

There is still another group with whom it is good to pray. This is a small group which you call together just for the purpose of prayer. Sometimes there are needs which cannot be prayed for by the whole church. Sometimes these needs do not touch the family. But someone needs to get busy and pray for these needs. Who should do it? Today let us learn about small prayer groups.

3. Have you ever been praying for something for a long time without getting an answer?

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Have you ever thought of getting some other people to help you pray for this thing?

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Remember Jesus said that it is good for two or more people to join together in prayer.

Matthew 18:19-20:

'Again I tell you this: if two of you agree on earth about any request you have to make, that request will be granted by my heavenly Father. For where two or three have met together in my name, I am there among them.'

4. Can you still say these verses without looking at the book? If you cannot, stop now and repeat the verses until you have memorized them.

Perhaps you have some very great need you are praying about. It may be someone who is not a Christian who should repent. Or it may be some sin in the church which must be straightened out. Or it may be that you want to see revival in the church. You have been praying for this thing but you have not yet seen the answer. Then this is the time to ask some other people to join with you in praying.

5. Write the name of someone whom you could ask to pray with you.

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Some of you have already learned about this kind of prayer through the New Life for All movement. This teaching wants to see new life come to the church. It teaches us how to go out and tell people about Christ. But first of all it teaches us how we should pray.

6. Does New Life for All teach that we should pray only one by one?

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Small groups which want to pray for needs in the church should try to meet together each day or several times per week. This is not a time for preaching or singing. It is a time for praying. The prayers should not be long. Each person should pray for one thing at a time. If the prayers are short it is easier for the others to follow, and then each person may pray two or three times. It is like a conversation. You are really all joining together in talking with God.

7. Have you ever tried this kind of praying? \_\_\_\_\_

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But perhaps you do not know anyone else who wants to join a small prayer group. You do not know how to get started. What can you do? Begin by asking God to give you someone to pray with. Remind him that he said that two or three should gather together to pray. Tell him that you would like to do this. Ask him to help you find a friend who wants to pray.

8. Will God answer your prayer immediately? \_\_\_\_\_

If you really want to pray with someone else or with a small group, God will open the way for you. If your friend or friends live too far away to meet every day, then meet once or twice a week, but agree to pray for your need every day. In this way you will be praying together with others even when you are not meeting together.

9. Are you willing to try this kind of praying? \_\_\_\_\_

Even a husband and wife can make a small prayer group. They can meet together for a short time each day just to pray for certain requests which they have agreed on. Praying together in this way will strengthen their faith and they will get answers to their prayers.

10. Without looking back, write Matthew 18:19-20:

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11. What is a good way to pray for special needs? \_\_\_\_\_

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**ANSWERS**

- 1. God is present. God promised to answer united prayers.
- 3. You have to answer this.
- 5. You must choose someone.
- 9. This is up to you.
- 7. This is up to you.
- 11. Start a small prayer group.
- 2. (1) Christians; (2) family.
- 4. You have to do this.
- 6. No.
- 8. Perhaps, but it may take time.
- 10. Look this verse up in the Bible to check your answer.