

# Small Group Discussion Guide

## Prayer: Response to God's Discipline

June 14, 2026

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As believers, we can find strength and comfort when we respond to God's discipline with prayer. When we pray, we acknowledge our dependence on Him, submit to His work in our lives, and invite Him to guide, strengthen, and transform us. Rather than pulling away during times of correction, choosing to pray draws us closer to God and reminds us of our identity, our relationship with Him, and His loving purpose for our lives.

### I. Prayer and God's Purposes

#### A. Prayer as a Response to God's Discipline

When God disciplines us, it shows that He loves us and accepts us as His children. Hebrews 12:5-6 tells us: *And have you completely forgotten **this word of encouragement** that addresses you as sons: It says, "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, <sup>6</sup>because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he disciplines everyone he accepts as his son."*

- **According to Hebrews 12:5-6, why does God discipline His children, and how should that affect our attitude toward correction?**
- **Read Numbers 12:10–13 (NIV®) aloud. What stands out to you about Moses' prayer for Miriam in Numbers 12:13? Was he resentful? Did he complain to God? What does it teach you about responding to the failures and shortcomings of others?**

#### B. Prayer Informed by Scripture

Prayer is most effective when it is grounded in God's Word. Scripture reveals the character, purposes, and promises of God, shaping both how we live and how we pray. As we grow in our understanding of who God is, our prayers become aligned with His will and His Kingdom purposes.

In **Matthew 24:20-21**, Jesus instructed His followers to pray concerning future trials and difficulties. He knew what was coming and taught His disciples how to respond: with prayer. *"Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. <sup>21</sup> For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again."*

We also see warnings about what to guard ourselves against: deception, false prophets, and more. Look up and read aloud: 2 Timothy 3:1-5; Matthew 24:4-5; 2 Corinthians 11:4.

- **How can reading and knowing Scripture help shape and strengthen your prayer life, rather than simply praying for your own desires?**

## II. Let's Pray: Learners

In **Luke 11:1-2**, the disciples observed Jesus praying and asked: "*Lord, teach us to pray.*" They recognized that prayer was central to Jesus' relationship with the Father. They wanted to learn not only *what* to pray but *how* to pray. Jesus responded by giving them a model prayer we know as the "The Lord's Prayer."

- **"Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name."** (*Worship & Praise*) Prayer begins by recognizing who God is. Before presenting our requests, we acknowledge His greatness and worship Him.
  - **"Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."** (*Intercession*) Instead of asking God to simply bless what we want to do, we ask Him to accomplish His purposes in our lives, families, homes, neighborhoods, communities, and nation.
  - **"Give us this day our daily bread."** (*Provision*) We ask God for physical, emotional, and spiritual provision, one day at a time.
  - **"Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."** (*Repentance & Forgiving*) We acknowledge our need for God's mercy, while allowing His forgiveness to shape our relationships.
  - **"Lead us not into temptation."** (*Direction*) We express our need for God's wisdom and leadership in our lives.
  - **"Deliver us from evil."** (*Deliverance*) We recognize our dependence on God's protection from the influence of evil amongst us.
  - **"For Thine is the Kingdom and the glory forever and ever, amen."** (*Yielding*) We acknowledge that God is sovereign over all things.
- **Which part of the Lord's Prayer—worship & praise, intercession, provision, repentance & forgiving, direction, deliverance, or yielding—do you find easiest to pray, and which part challenges you the most? Why?**

## III. MORE THAN My Initiative/Agenda

Jesus did not act independently. Every decision, teaching, and action flowed from His relationship with the Father. Look up the following scriptures and read them aloud: John 5:30, John 6:38, John 8:28-29, John 12:49, John 14:10. These verses reveal a powerful truth: Jesus lived a life fully surrendered to God's will, and He is calling us to do the same.

- **What is one area of your life where you find it difficult to surrender your plans or agenda to God, and how can prayer help you trust His will more fully?**

### Prayer of Release

Heavenly Father, Your Word teaches us to forgive when we pray, so today I choose to release every hurt, offense, disappointment, and resentment that I have been carrying. I surrender to You every person and situation that has caused pain in my life, and I choose to forgive as You have forgiven me. Align my heart with Your will and help me extend Your grace to others as You have so graciously extended it to me. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.