

Adventurous Prayer

Session 1

CALL TO ME

Who is the first person you turn to when you have a piece of wonderful news to share? Your mother? Your sister? A friend? Your spouse?

“Call to me and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things which you do not know.” **Jeremiah 33:3**

John says the only reason we love God is because he first loved us. In the same way, we could not pray to our heavenly father if he had not first asked us to do so. “Call to me,” invites our heavenly father. It is an invitation to pray. He has made himself available to us 24/7/365. He has put out the welcome mat. He has given us the green light. We have a direct line to his throne room. We have a permission slip, a backstage pass, an engraved invitation. He has an open door policy for all of his children. And when we do call out his name, he gives us his undivided attention.

1. Prayer doesn't just happen. We must take a little initiative. But we can pray because God has invited our prayers. What does **Psalms 50:15** declare?

2. Believe it or not, the Bible does share just one defining role regarding prayer. You can find it in **Exodus 23:13**. What is God's command in this verse?

Luci Swindoll: *The joy and pleasure of speaking with the Lord is far superior to anything life on this earth affords. Through prayer I become centered and serene. When it's quiet and still, I sense the Lord comes near as I enter his presence.*

3. David understood the importance of this. What are his words of promise to God in **Psalm 5:2**

4. In the beginning, prayer wasn't needed, for Adam walked through the garden paths with God, in the cool of the evening. This gave him a chance to talk things over with his maker face to face. But when sin entered the world, the population began to explode, things changed. What does **Genesis 4:26** say began to happen about the time Adam's grandkids were being born?

Thelma Wells: *Wouldn't it be horrible if Jesus slept through some events in our lives? We would call him, but he couldn't hear the call because he was trying to rest. Wouldn't it be frightening to think he could forget our requests? Wouldn't it be tragic if he were so busy he couldn't remember what we talked to him about? Thank God we don't have to endure that kind of treatment from our Lord.!*

5. In **Psalm 116:10**, David says, "I believe in you, so I prayed." Belief—faith—is at the foundation of prayer. Christians believe God has invited them to call upon him. They trust him to listen to the prayers and to answer. What does this say about the believer who does not pray?

What's the purpose of prayer? Why is it so important? Why do you do it? There are plenty of reasons. Prayer reacquaints us to our savior, solidifies our relationship with him. Prayer reaffirms his lordship in our lives, welcomes his input, familiarizes us with his voice, calms our frazzled emotions, and lifts our eyes beyond our daily struggles. Prayer underscores God's omnipotence, highlights his patient care, acknowledges God's wisdom, recognizes his sovereignty, appeals to his mercy, and magnifies his name. Why do you pray?

6. There are many reasons why we pray. What was David's? It can be found in **Psalm 17:6**

Barbara Johnson: Prayer is the place where burdens are shifted. Have you ever experienced the joy of coming alongside Jesus, lining up your shoulder next to his? He puts an arm around you, pulling you close. He speaks words of life into your ears, supporting your back under the stuff you are carrying. By the end of the trail you realize the stuff has shifted. It doesn't seem so heavy anymore. Surprised, you look up to see that Jesus has gone on ahead of you, with the heaviest part of your burden squarely atop his shoulders.

7. God's love inspires our devotion and calls our hearts into prayer. How does **Psalm 42:8** describe the give and take of David's prayer life? What has God done? How does David respond?

8. God's ears are always turned to our hearts. He is faithful to ear and answer our prayers. What is the psalmist resolution in **Psalm 116:2**

Marilyn Meberg: *When scripture states he watches over us and will not slumber, I'm thrilled to realize that should I wake up in the night, he's awake too. Some of my best times with him have occurred during the wee hours of the morning when no one else is alert. I've settled enormous issues during some of those nocturnal chats. Other times, I've just felt comforted by his presence. Sometimes there's no talk at all. I just know he's there.*

TRINKET TO TREASURE: At the close of each session, a gift will be placed in your hand to serve as a reminder of the things we have learned through scripture and our time together. It will be a small token to keep us from forgetting the faith journey we are traveling.

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, you have invited us to pray. And now we need a boost. Your power is so vast and glorious and we need some of it throughout the days ahead. It is through your power and through prayer that we can face challenges, show kindness, express joy, and walk in your way. Give us strength to do whatever we need to do, so that we might renew within us a life of prayer that you would want us to enjoy. We fully accept your invitation. Amen