



ANSWERS: Unit 3: Christian Leadership

How to positively influence the attitudes and actions of others for Jesus Christ.

Lesson 12 The Praying Leader

Day One

Diamond in the Rough

1. What thoughts come to your mind when you think of yourself as a valuable, brilliant, and living diamond?

Personal Answer

Read Mark 1:35 and Luke 5:16 and answer questions 2–4:

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Mark 1:35

But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. Luke 5:16

2. When did Jesus, our Leadership Model, pray?

Very early in the morning and often

3. What kind of places did Jesus go to when He prayed?

Lonely places or solitary places

4. Why is this a good pattern for you?

Personal answer, but this is a good pattern for all believers because this is the pattern that Jesus modeled. Jesus showed us that in the early morning it was quiet and withdrawing to lonely places would be quiet also. Both aspects make it easier to hear from God. We can focus on God uninterrupted and seek Him first at the beginning of the day.

Read John 11:41–42 and answer questions 5–8:

So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me.⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." John 11:41–42

5. Did Jesus pray aloud in the presence of other people (v. 42)? Yes No (Underline One)
6. Considering that Jesus prayed alone and with others, what does this tell you about your own prayer life?

In following Jesus, our model, we should also pray alone and with others. Both are important.

7. Jesus said, “Father, I _____ thank _____ you that you have _____ heard _____ me” (v. 41).
8. Jesus prayed, “I knew that you _____ always _____ hear me” (v. 42).
9. Why do you think God wants *you* to be confident in praying to Him (See Mark 11:23–24)?

Personal Answer

"Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them.

²⁴ Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. Mark 11:23–24

10. What impressed you about Virginia’s story?

Personal Answer

11. Share anything you will change or do in your life because of Virginia’s story.

Personal Answer

Action Step

12. Meditate on and memorize 1 John 5:14–15. Answer question 13.

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us— whatever we ask— we know that we have what we asked of him. 1 John 5:14–15

13. How can *you* be confident of praying and knowing God’s will?

Personal answer, but suggestions would be to read and study God’s Word and His promises to answer prayer and know His will. Pray for faith and do what the Bible says—obey God.

—End Day One—

Day Two
Bruting the Heart

Read Luke 6:27–28 and answer question 14–17:

“But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.” Luke 6:27–28

14. Jesus commands us to: “Love your ___ **enemies** ___, do ___ **good** ___ to those who **hate** ___ you, ___ **bless** ___ those who ___ **curse** ___ you, ___ **pray** ___ for those who mistreat you.”

15. Why do you think Jesus commands us to pray for those who mistreat us?

Because this is God’s way and not the world’s way. We are children of God and must be like our Father in heaven who is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. We are to be merciful like our Father is merciful.

But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Luke 6:35–36

16. Share a time when someone hurt or insulted you, and yet you still prayed for that person?

Personal Answer

17. Prayerfully consider anyone in your life who is mistreating you now or has mistreated you in the past. Pray for that person or persons this week. Explain briefly.

Personal Answer

18. Tell your group about a time when you mistreated another person, including how you felt and what you did about it.

Personal Answer

19. Pray and ask God to reveal any person you have hurt in any way and what God would like you to do about it. Make a note of the names below.

Personal Answer

20. Share with your team what God revealed in #19 and how the Holy Spirit led you to respond.

Personal Answer

Read Matthew 5:44–45 and answer question 18–21:

But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. Matthew 5:44–45

21. Jesus now commands His disciples to pray for those who ____ **persecute** ____ you (v. 44).

22. What is the reason Jesus commands us to pray for those who persecute us (v. 45)?

So that we may be children of our Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

23. How difficult is it for *you* to pray for those who mistreat or persecute you?
Impossible Difficult Easy (Underline One)

Personal Answer

Read 2 Corinthians 10:5 and answer questions 24–26:

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 2 Corinthians 10:5

24. Is it possible to take captive every thought and make it obedient to Christ? **Yes** No
(Underline One)

25. Why are thoughts that are obedient to Christ important to *your* prayer life?

Personal Answer—but suggestions: Our prayers will be acceptable to God—holy, pure, and righteous. Also, in order for us to know God, pray His will and hear from Him, we must make our thoughts and actions obedient to Christ. God speaks to us through His Son.

^{NIV} **Hebrews 1:1–3** In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

26. What are some practical ways that *you* can train and discipline yourself to take every thought captive so that your prayers are pure and acceptable to God?

Personal Answer—but here again are suggestions from this lesson:

Watching what goes into your mind is a good practical way to start disciplining your mind. Read Christian books and watch movies that honor Christ. If you are having a problem with a

particular subject such as praying for your enemies or unforgiveness, search the Scriptures and immerse your mind with what the Bible says about those subjects. The concordance (word directory to find Scripture passages) and subject index in the back of study Bibles are helpful.

“Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.
1 Corinthians 2:16

27. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 2:16 that we have the _____ **mind** _____ of Christ.

Action Step

28. Ask God to bring to your mind someone who has mistreated you. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you Christian love for him or her and to lead you in praying for this person daily for one week. At the end of the week, please answer the following question:

What did the Lord reveal to you during the week about this person or situation?

Personal Answer

—End Day Two—

Day Three

Faceting the Heart in Prayer

Read Deuteronomy 4:29 and answer questions 29–30:

But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul. Deuteronomy 4:29

29. Moses tells the Israelites that if you seek the _____ **Lord** _____ your God, you will find

Him if you seek Him with all your _____ **heart** _____ and with all your _____ **soul** _____.

30. As a Christian leader, how are *you* seeking the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul?

Personal Answer

31. Read Deuteronomy 4:7. Today, who is the Lord our God near when they pray (See also John 14:6–7)?

What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? Deuteronomy 4:7 (Moses is speaking to the Israelites.)

Those people who trust in Jesus Christ—believers.

Bible verses listed in #31:

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” John 14:6–7

32. Read Matthew 7:23. Do you think it likely that Jesus will tell believers who are *sincerely* seeking Him in prayer each day, “I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers?”
Yes No (Underline One) Explain your answer:

Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’ Matthew 7:23

Jesus is faithful and will help those genuinely seeking to know Him. Being honest and talking with Jesus every day assures a true and vibrant relationship. The best way to know someone is to talk and listen in a sincere manner.

Recall the verse you memorized in day one of this lesson: *This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.* ¹⁵*And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.*
1 John 5:14–15

33. According to 1 John 5:14, if we ask anything according to His ___will___ He hears us.

34. Choose a Bible text, citing chapter and verse, and write a prayer using the concept of praying Scripture.

Personal answer of choosing Bible verses and writing a prayer based on praying Scripture.

—End Day Three—

Day Four

Polishing the Heart

35. Have you surrendered every aspect of your life to the Holy Spirit? Yes No (Underline One)

Personal Answer

36. Is there anything you are trying to control and have not given to God? Yes No (Underline One)

Personal Answer

37. Pray and ask God to loosen your grip on everything in your life except Him.

Personal prayer

Read Ephesians 6:18 and answer questions 38–39:

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 Lord's people. Ephesians 6:18 (See Jude 1:20–21)

38. How are we to pray on all occasions and with all kinds of prayers and requests (v. 18a)?

Pray in the Spirit

39. By keeping in mind we are to pray in the Spirit on all occasions, what are we to do (v. 18b)?

We are to be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

40. When you pray, are you aware of the Spirit's presence encompassing or surrounding you? Yes No (Underline One)

Personal Answer

41. Pray *in* the Spirit and ask God for an opportunity to serve Jesus in love today. Share how the Spirit led You:

Personal Answer

—End Day Four—

Day Five
Cleaning the Heart

Read Joshua 1:9 and answer questions 42–44:

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

42. What command does God give Joshua?

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

43. What is the reason God gives to His leader Joshua for being strong and courageous?

For or because the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

44. What meaning does God’s command to Joshua have for *you* as a Christian leader?

Personal answer, but hopefully will give them confidence to step out and do God’s will and purposes.

Strongholds are areas that Satan and his followers dominate or occupy. They may be individual strongholds like an addiction, group strongholds like gangs or industry strongholds like pornography.

45. Name a stronghold of Satan that you are fighting against; how is the battle going?

Personal Answer

Read Jeremiah 33:3 and answer questions 46–47:

“Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.”
Jeremiah 33:3

Read Jeremiah 33:3 and answer questions 46–47:

46. What was God encouraging Jeremiah and the Israelites to do (and believers today) (v. 3a)?

Call to me and I will answer you.

47. When believers call to God, in what kinds of ways will He answer (v. 3b)?

God will tell us great and unsearchable things we do not know.

Read 1 Samuel 3:10–11 and answer questions 48–50:

The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” Then Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” ¹¹And the LORD said to Samuel: “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle.”

1 Samuel 3:10–11

48. What was the first thing Samuel said to God (v. 10)?

"Speak, for your servant is listening."

49. What did the Lord say to Samuel after he replied he was listening (v. 11)?

"See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears of it tingle."

50. How do *you* listen to God?

Personal Answer – but here are some ideas from this Lesson:

Some practical ways to listen to God are by quietly reading the Bible and waiting for God to speak to you through the text. God may speak to you through other people and circumstances throughout the day. Invite God to speak to you each day and be prepared to listen. Most of us will get a clear impression that God is speaking to us although we do not hear His audible voice.

Action Step: Meditate on Psalms 138:3 and 145:18 and answer question 53.

When I called, you answered me; you greatly emboldened me. Psalm 138:3

The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. Psalm 145:18

51. Seek to listen to the Lord today. What did He impress upon you?

Personal Answer

Read Genesis 18:17–19 and answer questions 52–53:

Then the LORD said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do? ¹⁸Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. ¹⁹For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.” Genesis 18:17–19

52. Did God tell Abraham what He was going to do (v. 17)? Yes No (Underline One)

53. Was God's plan for Abraham alone or for all nations on the earth (v. 18)?

All nations

54. Has God given you a vision? Yes No (Underline One)

Personal Answer

55. If you have a vision from God, please share it.

Personal Answer

56. Read Hebrews 1:1–2. Is it possible to receive a vision from God of what He is going to do apart from Jesus Christ? Yes No (Underline One)

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. Hebrews 1:1–2

Note: No one can have a personal relationship with God apart from Jesus Christ. Jesus restores our relationship with God and thus makes it possible for God to give us His plans and vision. God's plans and vision for you, me and the world involve Jesus Christ's death for our sin and resurrection unto life.

57. Read John 15:15. What has Jesus made known to believers?

Everything that He learned from His Father He has made known to us.

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. John 15:15

—End Answers Day Five and Lesson 12—

Next—Lesson 13: The Faith of a Leader, Unit 3: Christian Leadership

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