



I Really Should Pray More | Ryan Wekenman | 3.8-9

Weekly Study

SHARE

Welcome to the sixth week of our MORE series! Over the past five weeks, we've explored what it looks like to live with intention, make bold decisions, and take steps toward what God has for us. At the core of it all, what we truly need is more of God. We can try to live with purpose, make wise choices, and step into God's plans, but without a deep relationship with Him, our efforts can feel empty.

So how can we grow closer to God? Through prayer. But not as a task to check off a list, but as an invitation into something deeper, deeper connection, intimacy and relation to Him. Prayer isn't about saying the right words or following a formula. It's about connecting with the One who loves us most. This week, we'll explore how Jesus modeled prayer and how it can transform our lives.

- What has been your personal experience with prayer? Has it felt like an obligation, a privilege, or something else?**

- What is one thing you hope to take away from this week's study and group on prayer?**

GROW

Read Luke 11:1-4

Jesus modeled prayer as an essential part of life and faith journey. His disciples never asked, "Teach us how to perform miracles" or "Teach us how to preach." They asked, "Teach us to pray." That's because they saw something different in Jesus' prayer life, something powerful, intimate, and real. They witnessed the way He spoke with His Father, not out of routine or obligation, but out of deep relationship.

But if prayer is so important, why do so many of us struggle with it? Maybe we don't know what to say. Maybe we feel like we aren't doing it "right." Or maybe we're unsure if God is really listening. Prayer can feel intimidating, but Jesus invites us to see it differently. Notice how in the verses we just read, Jesus begins His prayer with, "Father." Jesus doesn't start with a long introduction or a list of needs. He starts with identifying the intimate relationship. God is not a

distant ruler. He is a loving parent. He wants to hear from us, not because He needs our words, but because He wants our hearts.

For some, the word Father doesn't bring comfort. Maybe your experience with a father figure has been painful, absent, or disappointing. Jesus understood this, which is why He later says in *Luke 11:13* "*If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!*" God is not like any earthly father. He is perfect, kind, and eager to bless His children. That means we don't have to impress Him with perfect words—we just have to come to Him as we are.

- How does viewing God as a loving Father change the way you approach prayer?**
- What would it look like to embrace prayer as an ongoing conversation rather than a religious duty?**

MOVE

Read Luke 11:9-10

Jesus expects us to pray. He doesn't say, "If you pray..." He says, "When you pray." That means prayer isn't just an option, it's essential. But more than that, Jesus challenges us to ask boldly.

Too often, we carry stress, anxiety, and burdens that we never bring to God. We analyze, overthink, and try to figure things out on our own, when what we really need to do is knock on God's door. But why don't we? Maybe we've stopped expecting much from God.

Maybe we've prayed for things that didn't happen the way we wanted, and now we feel discouraged. Maybe we assume God is too busy for the small details of our lives but that couldn't be further from the truth. The truth is God loves our requests, but He also knows what's best for us and we have to trust Him with that.

- Do you find yourself stressing over things instead of bringing them to God? Why do you think that is?**
- Do you tend to avoid praying for certain things because of past disappointments or the assumption that God won't answer your prayers?**

Taking our prayer life to the next level means praying with expectancy, believing that transformation is possible. Luke 11:4 reminds us to pray for forgiveness, both to receive it and to extend it. One of the biggest barriers in prayer and life transformation is unconfessed sin, not because God is holding out on us, but because sin creates distance in our hearts. Instead of praying, 'God, forgive my sins,' what if we got specific? Naming our struggles and shortcomings isn't about making us feel worse, it's about bringing them into the light. And when we do, we experience freedom.

- What would change in your life if you approached prayer with bold expectancy, truly believing that transformation is possible?**
- Is there a specific sin or struggle you need to bring into the light today? How might naming it before God lead you to greater freedom?**

P R A Y

As a group, take time to pray for one another and for a renewed perspective on prayer. Prayer doesn't have to be complicated, it just has to be **real**.

Maybe you're thinking this is just too simple of a topic, truly reflecting your life and prayer life, how is that going?

This week, commit to making prayer **simple and intentional**:

- ✓ **Find a place.** Set aside a daily spot to talk to God.
- ✓ **Pray out loud.** Even if it's just for a minute, practice talking to Him like a close friend.
- ✓ **Ask boldly.** Bring your needs, big and small, before Him.
- ✓ **Confess honestly.** Name the things you need to lay down before God.

CHALLENGE: Apply Luke 11:9-10 this week. Knock. Keep knocking. And trust that God hears you.

Final Thought: *God is not distant. He is not uninterested. He is close. He is listening. And He is inviting you into something MORE.*