

HOPE

A Good Place to Find Life

Small Group Discussion Guide — JANUARY 11, 2026

- Series: The Praying Life
 - Sermon: Asking
 - Scripture: John 16:23-24. 1 John 5: 14-16
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FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK

Last week David shared 12 verses pointing us towards a hopeful future rooted in Jesus. Which verse has stayed with you this week, and how is God inviting you to move that truth from your head to your heart?

CONNECT

1. Was there a moment, phrase, or idea from the sermon that resonated with you?
2. What is your most memorable restaurant experience - whether funny, embarrassing or meaningful?

ENGAGE

1. Read John 16:23-24 aloud then walk through each sentence and discuss using these starter prompts.
 - What does it mean to pray “in Jesus’ name”?
 - What might have changed for the disciples after the resurrection?
 - How is joy connected to prayer and trust in God?
2. Read 1 John 5: 14-16 aloud then walk through each sentence and discuss using these starter prompts.
 - What does it look like to approach God with confidence rather than hesitation or guilt?
 - How can we discern whether our prayers align with God’s will?
 - Why is praying for others such an important part of our faith?

APPLY

1. When you hear the word prayer, what emotions or expectations come up for you right now? Curiosity, guilt, hope, confusion, comfort, pressure... What do you think God wants you to know about prayer in light of those feelings?
2. We see prayer practiced in different ways - congregational prayer (the whole body) group prayer (intimate prayer with a few) and solitude prayer (you alone with God) Each plays an important role in our faith, but solitude prayer

often becomes the most life -changing. What does each type of prayer give us that the others cannot? Which is most challenging for you?

3. Jesus chose to rise early and pray, making time with the Father a priority. Considering your current schedule and distractions, when and where could you commit to prayer with privacy? Or what is one small step you could take to protect that time? (And remember to leave your phone in a different room)

PRAYER

Father, teach us to come to you honestly and just as we are. Help us be intentional with prayer and to make time with you. May our prayer life deepen our relationship with You and draw us closer each day. We mean it sincerely.

SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:35

Luke 22:42

GOING DEEPER

This week write a personal prayer using the structure of the Lord's Prayer. Be honest and authentic - focusing less on the right words and more on connection with God.

QUOTES

"...We are essentially spiritual as well as natural creatures; and that therefore life in its fulness, the life which shall develop and use all our capacities and fulfill all our possibilities, must involve correspondence not only with our visible and ever-changing, but also with our invisible and unchanging environment: the spirit of all spirits, God, in whom we live and move and have our being." Evelyn Underhill

"When I start to pray, I just put myself in God's presence. Psalm 46 urges us to "be still and know that I am God." I don't talk much. In essence, I say to Him, "Lord, here I am. I want to hear You. I'm ready to be shown. I am not praying to get an answer to every question or solution to every problem, but rather to put my whole life and all the lives of those whom I love in the light of heaven."

Elisabeth Elliott