

FULLY DEVOTED

Week #2: Prayer & Connecting with God—Fully Devoted

CHECK-IN	What are some key take-aways for you from this message?
BIG IDEA	Living in complete devotion to God necessitates the growth of our relationship with Him. After all, what is a relationship without communication? Prayer serves as the vital channel connecting us to God and is important in our journey with Jesus. This week, we will explore ways to nurture a life centered around prayer.
DISCUSS	1. Describe your current relationship with God. When is it easy to pray? When is it hard to pray? 2. Try the spiritual pathway assessment. What is your preferred pathway? Your secondary pathway? (Also available at https://thebridgemarkham.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Spiritual_Pathway_Assessment.pdf) 3. Leanne invites us to “intentionally invite God into all the parts of our life: the interesting, the remarkable and the mundane.” What might it look, sound, or feel like for God to be involved with all aspects of your life?
APPLY How do we respond to God’s teaching in meaningful ways? What might God ask of us in mind, spirit, or actions?	1. Read the Bible passages listed below. Consider the prompts accompanying each passage. <i>“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”</i> —Matthew 11:28–30 (NIV)



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What burdens you? Pray for rest and fulfillment in Jesus alone.

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely. You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

—Psalm 139:1–6 (NIV)

How does God's omniscience and omnipresence change how you perceive your current situation?

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

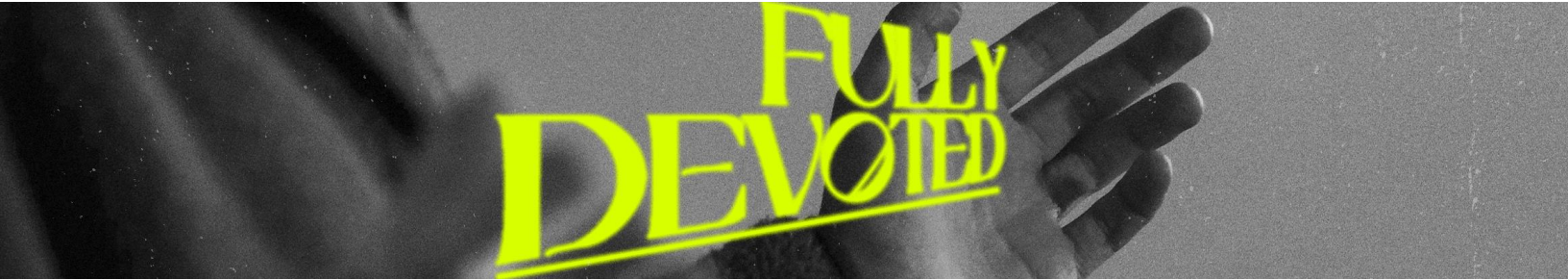
—Jeremiah 29:11–13 (NIV)

How does God's promise change your outlook for the future?

Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

—Romans 8:26–27 (ESV)

How does the Holy Spirit's intercessory work affect your approach to prayer?



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2. What is one thing you can do this week to encourage prayer and connection with God personally, in your family, and among your LifeGroup?
3. Pray with your LifeGroup! Consider using the ACTS (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) model.

PRAYER PRACTICE (15 minutes)

Last week, we practiced THANKSGIVING in our prayer series, “Prayer as a Conversation”. This week, we look at what it’s like to talk to God through our highs and lows.

PRAYER AS A CONVERSATION: Life’s Highs and Lows

Take the time today to share with Him what’s going on in your life. He is our Lord, but He is also a friend.

- Share with Him what is going well in your life.
- Share with Him what you are wrestling with right now.
- Express your feelings to Him.
- He is listening.

*“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 (NIV)