



Listening Prayer – The Jesus Model

Monthly Focus
Prayer – A Two-Way
Conversation

Week 1
Knowledge (Option 1)

Meeting Needs: A list for each student of the scripture references listed, paper and pen to write down what stood out in the scripture.

Encourage the teens to read through the scripture references listed and write down what stands out to them and why.

Once students are finished, discuss their observations.

Scripture References:

Luke 11:1–4
Ephesians 1:17–19
Ephesians 3:16–19
Philippians 1: 9–11
Psalm 27
Colossians 1:9–12
Romans 15:5 – 7
Romans 15:13
Acts 4: 24–31

2 Thessalonians 3:1–5
2 Thessalonians 1:11–12
Revelation 4:1
Thessalonians 3:9–13
John 5: 19
John 12: 49
John 14: 31
John 17: 20–26

Prayer was central to every aspect of Christ’s life and ministry. Prayer was such a significant part of Christ’s life that the only time you see His disciples say, “teach us...” was when they said, ““Lord, teach us to pray.”” (a Harmony Self Study to Walk as Jesus Walked by Dr. Dann Spader)

It’s important to not only pray but to live a prayerful life. Jesus did and it was reflected in His every action. A prayerful life means that our thoughts and actions are directed toward glorifying God, not ourselves.

Jesus did only what He saw the Father doing and spoke only what and how the Father told Him to speak. The prayer life of Jesus cultivated a deep intimacy with the Father that Jesus said we should also have with Him (John 5:19; John 12:49; John 14:31, John 17:20 – 26).

Jesus did nothing without hearing from His Father first. This model of prayer could be called Listening Prayer. Prayer should be a two-way communication that’s more than just a daily discipline. It should become who we are.

Examples of lifestyle prayer.

Early in the morning
(Mark 1:35)

Through the night
(Luke 6:12)

Nights of prayer were followed by days of power!

Before every great crisis
(Luke 6:12–13; 9:18,21,22)

After every achievement and important crises
(Matthew 14:23; John 6:15)

When unusually busy – Jesus took time to rest!
(Luke 5:15 – 16; Mark 3:13; 6:31, 33, 36)

Before temptations
(Matthew 26:36)

Without ceasing, in all circumstances and time
(1 Thessalonians 5:17, Ephesians 6:18)



Ministry Time

How did prayer affect Jesus' ministry and lifestyle?
Why do you think Jesus walked away from the multitudes of people who wanted healing when there was so much need?

Is prayer a vital part of your life? When do you pray?
Have you had an attitude change because of a prayer time?
What needs to be changed in your prayer life in order for you to have a more intimate prayer life?

Prayer Time

Pray through one of the lesson's Scripture passages as a group. This is an exercise in listening prayer and it takes a little practice. Encourage your teens to walk and read the passage out loud. As they read, they should listen for God and pray what comes to mind.

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Refine

Are there aspects of your lifestyle that keep you from having a prayerful life? If so, choose one to conscientiously and purposefully get rid of this week. Be specific and commit to God your action. Please share your choice with your mentor or another person who will ask you how you're doing with that choice.

Pursue – Below are a few suggestions for how a teen can practice listening prayer this week:

- 1 – Spend 5 minutes a day praying Scripture out loud as we practiced before. Remember to listen for God and pray what comes to mind.
- 2 – Ask the Lord if there is a Scripture reference He would like you to read. After reading the Scripture, ask the Lord what He wants you to learn from that passage. Then write it down.
- 3 – Ask the Lord to tell you something that He likes about you. Ask the Lord to reveal to you something that you have done that pleased Him.

When using listening prayer that are 5 questions that we must ask ourselves to test what we hear.

- Does it exalt Christ? (John 16:14)
- Is it scriptural? (Proverbs 30: 5 – 6)
- Do other Christians confirm it? (Proverbs 15:22)
- Does it produce good fruit? (John 15:1 – 6)
- Does God bring it to pass? (Isaiah 55:10 – 11)

If the answer to these questions is yes, then the voice you are hearing is from God. If the answer to these questions is not yes, then try listening again for what God is saying. Sometimes our own thoughts or the world can get in the way of us hearing him clearly.