

## Lesson 7a

# Principles of Prayer

<b>Key Verse:</b>	<b>“It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples’ ” (Luke 11:1 NASB).</b>
<b>Key Scriptures:</b>	James 5:13–18 John 14:12–14 Isaiah 64:4 Matthew 6:5–18 Hebrews 10:19–22 Luke 11:1–13 Philippians 4:6–7 Romans 8:26–27 Mark 11:22–25 Ephesians 6:18 1 John 5:14–15
<b>Objective:</b>	This lesson will show the student the purpose, power, privilege, and responsibility of prayer.
<b>Introduction:</b>	<p>Nothing is more important to building a strong foundation in Christ than is prayer. Through prayer, we cultivate our relationship with the Savior, find solace in the storms of life, receive power to be disciples, and learn to hear the voice of the Good Shepherd. No amount of Bible reading, Christian service, or church attendance—as valuable as those things are—can take the place of prayer in the life of the believer.</p> <p>Jesus was a man of prayer, and as His followers, we can be no less. As we follow His example in prayer, we become more like Him, and as we become more like Him, the foundation of our faith grows ever more solid.</p>

## I. Prayer is a top priority for a Christian.

- Jesus now intercedes for believers at the right hand of God. ” (Rom. 8:34 Heb. 7:25 NIV).

## II. What is prayer?

- Simply put, prayer is talking with God.
- Through prayer, you come to know God and thus build a relationship with Him.

- **Prayer has many facets, including the following:**

1. *Waiting* on the Lord (Isa. 40:31, Ps. 6:1–10; 27:14).
2. *Interceding*, or praying for others (Ezek. 22:30; 1 Tim. 2:1; Isa. 59:16).
3. *Asking* God for what you need (Matt. 7:7–11).
4. *Listening* to God (John 10:27).
5. *Standing* in spiritual warfare (Eph. 6:10–18).
6. *Thanking* God (1 Thess. 5:18; 1 Tim. 2:1).
7. *Offering praise* to God as a sacrifice (Heb. 13:15).

### **III. There are three foundations that build your confidence in prayer.**

- Knowing God’s character. Gen. 18:14; Jer. 32:17).
- Your position as a child of God
- The Holy Spirit within you

### **IV. Prayer has great power.**

- The Holy Spirit is vital to effective, powerful prayer.
- Intercessory prayer is a special type of prayer that releases power on behalf of others.

### **V. There are some hindrances to effective prayer.**

- Unforgiveness. Mark 11:22–25
- Unbelief, doubt, and lack of faith James 1:6–7

- Wrong motives.
- Unconfessed sin will separate you from

**VI. Satan hates and fears prayer because prayer releases the power of God into your life.**

- Prayer keeps you on guard against the devil.

## Lesson 7b

# The Power of Intercession

<b>Key Verse:</b>	<b>“And He saw that there was no man, and was astonished that there was no one to intercede; then His own arm brought salvation to Him, and His righteousness upheld Him” (Isa. 59:16 NASB).</b>
<b>Key Scriptures:</b>	Ezekiel 22:30 Job 9:32–33 Hebrews 4:16; 7:25 1 Timothy 2:1–6 2 Chronicles 7:14 Romans 8:26–27 Genesis 18:16–33 1 John 5:14–15
<b>Objective:</b>	Through this lesson, the student will learn much about intercession: (1) the definition of intercession, (2) the biblical basis of intercession, (3) Jesus Christ as the model for intercession, (4) how to do intercession, and (5) the importance of intercession.
<b>Introduction:</b>	<i>Merriam Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, Eleventh Edition</i> defines the word <i>intercession</i> as “the act of interceding,” and “prayer, petition, or entreaty in favor of another.” The <i>Full Life Bible</i> defines it as “holy, believing, persevering prayer whereby someone pleads with God on behalf of another or others who desperately need God’s intervention.”  God is searching for those who will be intercessors, those who can actually change life situations and people through their fervent, upright prayers. He has chosen us to be co-laborers with Him, giving us the tremendous privilege of reconciling men, women, and children to the Father.

## I. Scripture provides many examples of intercessors.

- **Abraham was an intercessor (Gen. 18:16–33).** Abraham made time for the Lord to speak to him (Gen. 18:1–3). By opening the door to the Lord and sitting down with Him, Abraham had the chance to hear the heart of God.
- **Esther was another intercessor (Esther 4:10–16).** “My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!” (Esther 4:16 NKJV).

- **Daniel was an intercessor (Dan. 9:1–27; 10:2–3).** Daniel had been fasting and seeking God in deep intercession for twenty-one days because of Israel’s enslavement and captivity in Babylon, following the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple.

**II. From Exodus 8, we can see certain key principles regarding intercession.**

- There is a gap \_\_\_\_\_
- The intercessor identifies \_\_\_\_\_
- The intercessor identifies \_\_\_\_\_
- The intercessor \_\_\_\_\_
- The intercessor attains a place of \_\_\_\_\_

**III. Jesus Christ is the greatest intercessor of all (1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 7:25; Rom. 8:34).**

- Jesus was an intercessor while He was here on earth (John 17:20).

**IV. You are a channel for the intercessory prayer of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:26).**

- You are called to intercede for your nation (2 Chron. 7:14).

**III. Here are some principles for effective intercession.**

- Offer praise to God. Heb. 7:25
- Make sure your heart is clean before God.
- Deal aggressively with the enemy.
- Approach God in faith.
- Wait before God.

- Keep your Bible near.
- Intercede, using the promises of God (1 John 5:14–15).