

A silhouette of a person with their head bowed and hands clasped in prayer, set against a teal-to-green gradient background.

# PRAYER

MONTH 4 OF EPIC PURPOSE

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# EPIC PRAYER

29

## ▶ EQUIP WEEK

### ♥ WELCOME

Welcome to First Priority! Let's play a game.



### TEACH

Today is **Equip Week** where we are teaching and having conversations about ways that Jesus embodied **prayer**. Let's pray before we get started.

Sometimes prayer can seem complicated. But in reality prayer is just having a conversation with God. Today we are going to walk through a helpful way to remember how to pray from what Jesus taught in Matthew. The acronym is P.R.A.Y. which stands for Praise, Return, Ask, and Yield. Prayer is part of living with a purpose.

Jesus taught His followers to pray like this:

Matthew 6:9-13 says, "Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us today the food we need, and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one."

Let's look at the main points of prayer through the P.R.A.Y. acronym:

- Praise - thank God for Who He is and what He has done.
- Return - turn to God and away from all of the distractions.
- Ask - ask God to help you and others with your struggles.
- Yield - listen to what God is calling you to do and respond.

Big Idea: Jesus taught us how to connect with God through prayer.

*For this section, get into groups of 3-5 and go through the discussion questions, challenge, Bible Project video, and pray together.*



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What are some of your experiences with prayer?
- Have you ever had a conversation with God?
- What struggles or concerns do you need to take to God?
- What are some things you are thankful for?
- List three people you will pray for this week.



## CHALLENGE

Sometime today, read Psalm 150 (it's only 6 verses!). Then skip around to other Psalms and take notice of how the majority of the prayers and songs either start or end in praising God.

This week, practice praising God before you talk with Him about anything else. Let it shift your focus toward God and remind you of His goodness and all the blessings He has given you.

Scan the QR code below for a short video about how Jesus embodied **prayer**.



## CLOSE

Invite everyone to pray as we close.

# EPIC PRAYER



## PREPARE WEEK



### WELCOME

Welcome to First Priority! Let's play a game.



### TEACH

Today is **Prepare Week** where we are sharing our stories about **prayer**. Let's pray to get started.

Jesus valued people's stories. He helped everyone know the truth about their identity. They are welcomed, loved, and accepted unconditionally through Jesus. We want to hear your stories!



### STORY QUESTIONS

- What has been your experience with prayer?
- What advice would you give someone who is learning to pray?
- Is there a time that you prayed and saw God work in the situation?
- Is there anything that you are praying about right now?



### CHALLENGE

Now we're going to open up time for everyone to share their stories. Everyone is welcome to share with a leader, friend, or the whole group - so if you would like to, go for it!

Scan this QR code for an app called MySharePal that will help you share your story and ask others questions about their stories.

### CLOSE

Invite everyone to pray as we close.



# EPIC PRAYER

## INVITE WEEK

### WELCOME

Welcome to First Priority! Let's play a game.



### TEACH

Today is **Invite Week** where we are teaching and having conversations about how **truth** is Good News. Let's pray before we get started.

Today we are talking about "A" in the PRAY acronym, which stands for Ask. When most people think about praying, they probably think of asking God for what they need. There's nothing wrong with asking God for things, as long as it's not the only purpose of prayer in your life. God invites us to ask for things, and even Jesus asked God for things during His time on earth.

Jesus taught us that our lives can become new by simply asking God to rescue us and give us eternal life. It all begins by asking and believing in Who Jesus is and what He has done.

The Gospel changes everything when we ask God to begin a relationship with Him.

The Gospel is a public, royal announcement about Jesus, Who lived, died, and was raised to life to be the King that we so desperately need. All who believe in Him receive forgiveness, new life, and hope for the future. Jesus is making all things new, setting right what is wrong, and bringing Good News to everyone who receives it. You are invited to believe this Good News and follow Jesus.

*For this section, get into groups of 3-5 and go through the discussion questions, challenge, Bible Project video, and pray together.*



## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Have you ever asked God for something?
- Has God ever given you something that you asked for?
- Have you ever not gotten what you wanted and later realized it was for the best?
- Have you placed your faith and trust in Jesus?



## **CHALLENGE**

Read Philippians says, "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done."

Write down this verse and put it somewhere that you can read it every day. Let it be a reminder to bring your hurts, worries, and requests to God and that He hears and has a plan for you.

Scan scan this QR code to watch a video about the story of Jesus' Good News.



## **CLOSE**

Invite everyone to pray as we close.

# EPIC PRAYER



## CONNECT WEEK



### WELCOME

Welcome to First Priority! Let's play a game.



### TEACH

Today is Connect Week where we are teaching and having conversations about connecting with God and others. Let's pray before we get started.

It's our last week talking about prayer, and our last letter in the PRAY acronym is "Y" for Yield. The first week, we looked at Matthew 6:9-13 where Jesus teaches His disciples how they should pray. The second verse of that prayer says "Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." When we pray, we should have the attitude of yielding to how God wants to use us to grow His kingdom.

Today, that focus is on praying for others to get connected into community with God and a youth group. Get into groups and pray for your friends to get connected. Ask God to give you the courage to invite someone to your youth group.

**Give anyone who would like the opportunity to share about upcoming events at their youth group.**

*For this section, get into groups of 3-5 and go through the discussion questions, challenge, Bible Project video, and pray together.*



## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- How can we help you get more connected to Christ?
- How can we help you get more connected to our FP Club?
- How can we help you get more connected to a youth group?



## **CHALLENGE**

Below is a QR code you can scan to start a YouVersion Bible app plan by First Priority. Today's challenge is to complete this study on your own or with a friend. It is a great way to help a friend who is curious about faith, help a new follower of Jesus take next steps, and help you go deeper in your own faith.



## **CLOSE**

Does anyone have any prayer requests? Invite everyone to pray for prayer requests to close.