

CONVERSATIONS With God

A THREE-PART GROUP STUDY FOR WOMEN

PART 3: WHY SHOULD WE PRAY TOGETHER?

CONNECT

Take a few minutes to discuss this question in your group:

What's something you've done recently that felt intimidating at first but ended up being worthwhile?

LEARN

Before watching the video together and discussing the questions provided, we suggest taking a few moments to pray. Here's a simple prayer you can use:

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of friendship and community. Help us overcome any fears, insecurities, or hesitation that keep us from experiencing the benefit of praying with one another. Give us the courage to be honest, the humility to ask for prayer, and the faith to trust that you often work through the people you've placed around us. In Jesus's name, amen.

After praying, watch the video for Part 3.

APPLY

After the video, discuss the following questions as a group:

1. What do you remember from the first time you prayed with others? If you haven't prayed out loud before, what do you remember from the first time you heard someone else pray out loud?
2. Have you experienced any of these barriers to praying with others?
 - Fear of sounding foolish
 - Comparing yourself to others
 - Anxiety about praying out loud
 - Past experiences praying with others
 - Feeling vulnerable and revealing what's really going on in your life

How did you overcome one of these barriers? Is one currently holding you back?

3. Jesus taught his followers to pray, "Our Father," not "My Father." What does that teach us about the role of community in our relationship with God?

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4. Read **Acts 2:42** aloud:

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

What does this verse suggest about the role prayer played with first-century followers of Jesus? How is that similar to (or different from) your experience today?

5. Praying together turns individual experiences into shared burdens and shared joy. Can you think of a time when someone else's prayers encouraged, strengthened, or supported you? What impact did it have on you?
6. Take a moment to evaluate your group's prayer habits. What are you doing well? Where is there room to grow?

What changes would you like to make as a group moving forward?

7. As you reflect on this study, which of these feel like your next steps:
- Praying more consistently on your own
 - Praying the prayer Jesus taught his disciples to pray
 - Asking others to pray for you
 - Sharing more honest prayer requests
 - Praying out loud with others
 - Praying for someone else

PRAY

To close your time together and this study, have each woman pray this blessing (adapted from **Numbers 6:24–26**) aloud for the person on her left.

*Heavenly Father, I ask that you bless and keep (name of group member).
Make your face shine on her and be gracious to her.
May you turn your face toward her and give her your peace.
In Jesus's name, amen.*

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MOVING FORWARD

No matter where you are in your prayer journey, there is always a next step. As you continue your conversations with God, remember these words from pastor and author Richard Foster: “The only way to get better at praying is by praying.” May your confidence in prayer, your connection with God, and your relationships with others continue to grow.