



**Teach us to Pray – New Testament  
Sermon Discussion Questions – Jan. 15**

***Scripture Passages:***

**Ephesians 6:18 (NLT)** <sup>18</sup> Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

**1 Peter 3:7 (NLT)** <sup>7</sup> In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.

**James 5:16 (NRSV)** <sup>16</sup> Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

**Acts 12:5-16**

<sup>5</sup> So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.

<sup>6</sup> The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. <sup>7</sup> Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists.

<sup>8</sup> Then the angel said to him, "Put on your clothes and sandals." And Peter did so. "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me," the angel told him. <sup>9</sup> Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision. <sup>10</sup> They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by

itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him.

<sup>11</sup> Then Peter came to himself and said, “Now I know without a doubt that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from Herod’s clutches and from everything the Jewish people were hoping would happen.”

<sup>12</sup> When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying. <sup>13</sup> Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant named Rhoda came to answer the door. <sup>14</sup> When she recognized Peter’s voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, “Peter is at the door!”

<sup>15</sup> “You’re out of your mind,” they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, “It must be his angel.”

<sup>16</sup> But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished.

**Psalm 18:6 (NLT)** <sup>6</sup> But in my distress I cried out to the Lord; yes, I prayed to my God for help. He heard me from his sanctuary; my cry to him reached his ears.

**Hebrews 5:7 (NLT)** <sup>7</sup> While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could rescue him from death. And God heard his prayers because of his deep reverence for God.

**Jonah 2:1 (NLT)** <sup>1</sup> Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from inside the fish.

**Matthew 18:19 (NLT)** <sup>19</sup> “I also tell you this: If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you.

**John 14:13–14 (NLT)** <sup>13</sup> You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. <sup>14</sup> Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!

### ***Warm Up:***

This series is all about prayer and fasting. What have been some of the funniest prayers that you have ever prayed?

Who or what in your life has taught you the most about prayer?

### ***Discussion:***

1. Over the past two weeks we have learned about two models for prayer. The Tabernacle Prayer and the Prayer of Jabez.

If you have had a chance to try either of these prayer models, share a bit of what that has been like with the group? Which steps of prayer have been most meaningful to you? If you haven’t used these models, are there any other prayer models that you use? If so, take a few minutes to share your favorites.

2. Read Ephesians 6:18.

What do we learn about prayer from this passage? What might it look like to pray at all times and in every occasion?

3. Read 1 Peter 3:7 and James 5:16.  
What are some things that might hinder our prayers? How might knowing this change the way you see and treat prayer? What are some other things that might be barriers or obstacles to prayer?
4. Read Acts 12:5-16.  
Summarize what's happening in this passage? How do the people in this passage view prayer? Can you relate to their perspective? Why or why not?
5. In his message, Pastor Tom shared these characteristics of effective prayer:
  - Effective prayer is where there is pressure, prompting, or pain.
  - Effective prayer is passionate.
  - Effective prayer is persistent.
  - Effective prayer is in partnership with others.
  - Effective prayer is through the person and power of Jesus Christ.
 As you read through this list, which of these characteristics do you find most exciting or engaging? And why? Which one do you have questions about or causes you to feel the most curiosity and why?
6. Look at the list of characteristics of effective prayer in the question above.  
Can you think of any examples of times when you have prayed prayers with these characteristics or seen others pray in these ways? Take a few minutes to share.
7. Read Psalm 18:6, Hebrews 5:7, and Jonah 2:1.  
What do the prayers in these scriptures have in common? How might seeing prayer through the lens of these verses impact the way you pray?
8. Pastor Tom ended his message by sharing the power in the name of Jesus. Read John 14:13-14.  
What does this scripture say about Jesus' name? How might praying in Jesus' name be different from praying in someone else's name? What do you think it means that there is power in Jesus' name?

**Next Steps:**

*I have learned I need the name of Jesus in my struggle, in my problem, in my powerlessness.*

*The sick are healed in the name of Jesus*

*The sinful are made righteous in the name of Jesus*

*The darkness is defeated with light in the name of Jesus.*

*The broken relationships are healed in the name of Jesus.*

*The lost are found in the name of Jesus.*

*The guilty are forgiven in the name of Jesus.*

*The burden is lifted because there is power in the name of Jesus.*

What are some areas in your life where you are experiencing pressure, prompting, or pain?  
What might it look like for you to pray over those areas this week?

As you look at the list of characteristics of effective prayer, which one do you feel challenged to grow in this week? What's one step you can take to pray with that characteristic in mind?