

when HEAVEN hears

THE TRANSFORMING
POWER
OF PRAYER

Life Group
Discussion
Guide
Week 6

2.15.2026

Sermon Summary: Rev. Dr. Greg Wenhold's sermon reinforces that prayer is not a ritual to master but a relationship to enter. By tracing the disciples' journey through miracles, teaching, and the Transfiguration, he shows that they asked, "Lord, teach us to pray" because they recognized prayer as the source of Jesus' intimacy with the Father. He emphasizes that beyond the pattern of the Lord's Prayer, Jesus invites us into a persistent, relational posture of "ask, seek, knock." The sermon identifies distraction, misplaced priorities, and fear of intimacy as the primary barriers that keep us from experiencing prayer as communion with God. At its heart, prayer is not analysis or performance but falling in love with a God who has already bridged the gap through the cross. This sermon calls believers to re-center their lives around daily, intentional intimacy with the Father as the true heartbeat of Christian life.

Conversation Starter: What's the shortest prayer you've ever prayed, and what was going on?

Prayer: Gracious God, We come to You as we are, distracted, busy, and in need of You. Thank You for inviting us into relationship, not performance. Quiet our hearts, help us listen, and teach us to ask, seek, and knock with trust. Draw us closer to You as we open Your Word together. Amen.

Read Scripture together: Luke 11: 1-13, John 17, Optional: Psalm 27

3-Question Study Method

Use this method to understand the passage.

1. What is the passage about?
2. What do I learn about God?
3. What is the lesson I learn that I can apply to my life?

Discussion Questions:

- In Luke 11:1, the disciples ask, “Lord, teach us to pray.” After everything they had witnessed (miracles, teaching, power), why do you think this is what they asked for?
- Psalm 27:4 says, “One thing I ask...” If you were completely honest, what do you most often ask God for? What does that reveal about what you desire most?
- Rev. Dr. Wenhold named three obstacles:
 - Distraction
 - Misplaced priorities
 - Fear of intimacy

Which one resonates most with you right now, and why?

- In John 17:3, Jesus defines eternal life as “knowing” the Father. How does that reshape how you think about prayer?
- Jesus says, “Ask... seek... knock.” What do you think persistence in prayer looks like in real life?
- If prayer is relationship rather than ritual, what is one small, realistic change you could make this week to lean into intimacy with God?

Memory Verse:

Luke 11:9 “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” (NIV)

Closing Prayer: Loving God, Thank You for meeting us here and inviting us into relationship with You. Teach us to keep asking, seeking, and knocking, not out of duty, but out of love. As we go from here, draw our hearts back to You again and again. In Jesus’ name, Amen.