

# groups.

— Notes | January 19, 2025

## God's Design for Prayer

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Prayer is perhaps the most recognized expression of faith, yet the most elusive experience. We have many Old and New Testament examples of the people of God talking with Him, walking with Him, and seeking His face. To those who knew God, this was the most normal thing in the world to do. Yet, in today's culture, some have concluded that they don't need to pray—that prayer doesn't matter. Or, that prayer is only needed when we are desperate for rescue. God is inviting us to see prayer through His eyes. His design is to draw us near and to invite us into a relationship with Him. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

## Key Scripture | Psalm 34:8

"Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him."

## Related Scriptures

James 1:5, Ephesians 5:21, Acts 6:46, Joshua 23:10-11, Philippians 4:4-7, Genesis 20:17, Genesis 25:21, Genesis 32:9, Exodus 32:11, 2 Samuel 7:18, Daniel 6:10b, Mark 1:35, Matthew 6:5-13, Luke 18:1, Acts 1:14, Acts 6:4, Acts 12:5, James 5:16

## Icebreakers:

Q: What's the most unique invitation you've ever received, and what made it special?

## Key Thoughts and Reflections:

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### I. Prayer is more PARTICIPANT (and not spectator.)

Q: In today's key scripture, King David gives a challenge and a promise. What challenge have you stepped into, that in hindsight, served to refresh and inspire you?

Q: Prayer was designed to "taste & see". How have you witnessed God's presence when inspired to taste of His goodness?

Q: When you have participated in prayer, what inspired you? What surprised you?

### II. Prayer is more DESPERATE (and not duty.)

Q: All real prayer is desperate because we are powerless. When have you felt powerless in a situation and in need of God's rescue?

Q: How has God provided wisdom that has helped you solve problems impossible to solve on your own?

Q: God does not merely rescue with miracles—He rescues with wisdom and favor. Why is it important to invite God into our every decision and every circumstance?

### III. Prayer is more RELATIONSHIP (and not religion.)

Q: David's promise in our key scripture gives us a picture of God's heart. Why are we blessed when we take refuge in God?

Q: When was a time that God awakened you to the power of prayer?

Q: How can an understanding of our weakness and desperate need for the presence of our Heavenly Father lead to our strength?

## Get Practical

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We want to encourage you to soak in Psalm 34:8 and recognize the goodness of God as He reveals Himself to you. Over the next week, start every day by giving honor and **A**doration to the Lord our God. **C**onfess any sin in your life and ask God to search your heart and reveal anything hidden. Ask and receive His forgiveness already given to you at the Cross. Give **T**hanks for God's presence and His goodness. Write down the ways God has shown His love to you. Give **S**upplication, asking God to grant your needs and the needs of others. If you have a need that we can stand in the gap with you for, reach out to your small group leader or text "prayer" to 37748 so we can pray with you.