

4. We may have a concern in our life that seems to have no answer. How do we know that God will answer in a way that is best for us? ~ *And He who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. 28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose. Romans 8:27-28*
5. God tells us to pray with confidence trusting that He will answer our prayer. What is Jesus asking us to do in these verses? ~ *“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. 25 And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.” Mark 11:24-25*
6. Simeon was given the promise that he would see the Lord before he died. What was his reaction when his prayer was answered? ~ *Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. 27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the Law, 28 he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said, 29 “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; 30 for my eyes have seen Your salvation 31 that You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel.” Luke 2:25-32*
7. When our prayers are answered, how should we honor God? Tell about a time when one of your prayers was answered.

## Jesus Prays

### Jesus Prays During His Ministry

#### Luke 3:21-22

21 When all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, 22 and the Holy Spirit descended on Him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are My beloved Son; with You I am well pleased.”

#### Luke 5:15-16

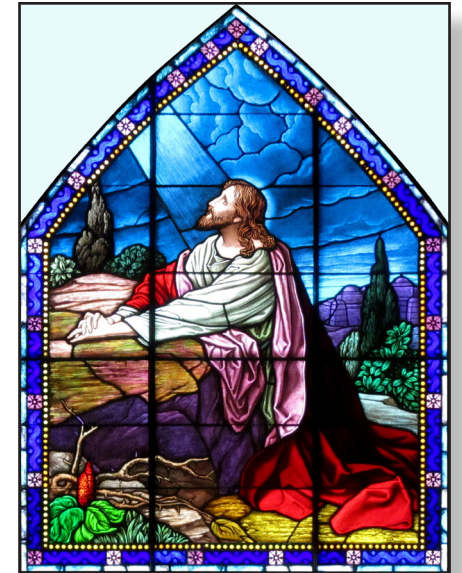
15 But now even more the report about Him went abroad, and great crowds gathered to hear Him and to be healed of their infirmities. 16 He would withdraw to desolate places and pray.

#### Luke 6:12-13

12 In these days He went out to the mountain to pray, and all night He continued in prayer to God. 13 And when day came, He called His disciples and chose from them twelve, whom He named apostles:

#### Luke 9:28-29

28 He took with Him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. 29 And as He was praying, the appearance of His face was altered, and His clothing became dazzling white.



Rejoice always, pray without ceasing.  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-17

## *Jesus Prays in Gethsemane*

### **Matthew 26:36-46**

36 Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and He said to His disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.”

37 And taking with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee (James and John), He began to be sorrowful and troubled. 38 Then He said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with Me.” 39 And going a little farther He fell on His face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.” 40 And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And He said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with Me one hour? 41 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

42 Again, for the second time, He went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, Your will be done.” 43 And again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.

44 So, leaving them again, He went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. 45 Then He came to the disciples and said to them, “Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 46 Rise, let us be going; see, My betrayer is at hand.”  
(Read also: Mark 14:32-42, Luke 22:40-46)

## *Jesus Prays on the Cross*

### **Luke 23:46**

Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit!”

## **A Closer Look: Prayer**

Because God is our Father, we can pray with boldness as Jesus did. God gives us His Spirit through prayer. He gives: power, guidance, serenity, patience, forgiveness, and trust.

1. In Matthew 26, Jesus prayed to His Father because He felt the burden of His coming death for the sins of the world. He prayed for strength to do His Father’s will. There are several examples of Jesus praying in this folder. Read the verses and tell why Jesus prayed in each circumstance.
2. We should not treat God merely as one to grant our wishes. God wants us to come to Him and share our hearts with Him. Jesus prayed fervently in the Garden to take away the cup of suffering. Yet, He prayed that the Father’s will be done.
  - a. How do we know what to pray for? ~ *Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. Romans 8:26*
  - b. How should we pray? ~ *But as for me, my prayer is to You, O Lord, at an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of Your steadfast love answer me in Your saving faithfulness. Psalm 69:13*
  - c. How often should we pray? ~ *Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*
3. Our prayers are a means to glorify God and not make ourselves appear more important. Why was the prayer of the tax collector acceptable? ~ *But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” 14 For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted. Luke 18:13-14*