

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – June 6, 2021

Theme: The Life of Jesus Topic: Jesus: His Prayer Life

Main Text: Luke 9:28-36

Key verse: Luke 9:28 – *“Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray.” (NKJV)*

INTRODUCTION: Prayer was an integral part of Jesus’ life and ministry. Jesus prayed when He had an important decision to make. He prayed when faced with temptation or just before He ate His meals. When faced with the reality of death, in His mission to redeem mankind, Jesus prayed. Even while being crucified, Jesus prayed for His enemies. At certain times, Jesus made simple prayers and at other times He prayed with great passion and agony. Generally, prayer is offered “to a higher being”, someone that has the capacity to intervene and grant answer to the subject of prayer. Jesus is the third Person in the Trinity. And while on earth, He was fully God, yet He prayed so much

1. **(a) Looking at Jesus’ prayer life, how would you define prayer? (b) Why do you think it was necessary for Jesus who shared divinity with God the Father to constantly pray? (c) Read Matthew 6:8. If God knows what we need before we ask, why do you think it is necessary for believers to pray to God?**

Some have defined prayer as talking to God. Or as the believer’s way of communicating our thoughts, needs, and desires to our Heavenly Father. Some say that prayer is an avenue that God has provided for us Christians to express our deepest feelings to our Heavenly Father. Scripture is replete with instances when Jesus prayed. Yet we read that *“during the days of Jesus’ earthly life, He offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the One who could save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence. Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from what He suffered.”* (Hebrews 5:7-9). In Luke 9:28-31, we read how Jesus went to pray and how Moses and Elijah came to talk with Him about His impending death. And shortly after, set out to go to Jerusalem (Luke 9:51).

2. **(a) Hebrews 5:7 tells us that Jesus’ prayers were heard by God, yet He suffered... What can we learn from this concerning the purpose of prayer? (b) What lesson(s) about prayer, can we learn from Jesus from Matthew 26:35, 39, 42 and 44? (c) How can we use these lessons to pattern our own prayers?**

Another key thing to note in the prayer life of Jesus is the variety in where He prayed, when He prayed and what He prayed for. For instance, Jesus prayed during His baptism, at the tomb of the deceased Lazarus and before eating a meal. We also see Him praying in a lonely place, on the mountainside and on the cross. At some times he prayed quietly, and at other times he prayed with ‘loud cries.’ He prayed when the need arose and at other times, He was proactive, like when He told Peter, *“Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you...”* (Luke 22:31-32 NKJV). Apostle Paul must have studied Jesus’ prayer life such that his epistles are littered with prayers. And in one of them admonishes us to *“be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God”* (Phil.4:6). Again, he challenges believers to *“rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you”* (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

3. **(a) Read John 17:9, 20, 24; and discuss in practical terms how to pray without ceasing. (b) What are some implications for us as individuals and as a Church of the command to pray without ceasing?**

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, you lived a life devoted to prayer. Help me to embrace the ministry of prayer like You command us to do without ceasing. Amen.*