

July 2, 2026

Realities of Prayer

Connect Notes.

Dear Leaders,

We're now forming our Connect group discussion questions from our very own C3 SYD Devotional in YouVersion that is connected to each preaching series.

After each series launch, jump into our devotional to experience the rich and rewarding reading plan designed specifically for you and your Connect group. As we follow along in our individual devotions, this works together with our group discussions when we meet, to go deeper in the Word of God and discuss the wonderful truths of scripture.

We encourage you and your connect members to use the YouVersion app, and to follow C3 SYD as we launch each new series: C3 SYD in [YouVersion App](#).

As you have seen already, we have also introduced consistent Go Goals each series to help provide a simple missional framework you and your cg members can easily adopt into their walk with the Lord.

These Go Goals are:

1. Generosity (Ideas include shout someone coffee or lunch, cook a meal, create a hamper etc.)
2. Prayer (Praying for someone. For example, asking, "Is there anything you need prayer for?")
3. Invitation (Inviting someone to church. For example, "Would you like to come to church with me?")

Please discuss these Go Goals each cg with your members. We know as you discuss stories of people putting these goals into action, it will build a great sense of being on mission.

Please see the Announcements below to help your cg members take Next Steps and know what's coming up.

Announcements:

21 days of prayer and fasting	– Monday 13th July to 2nd August 2026
Online Prayer	If someone in your connect group can't make it to a face-to-face prayer meeting, our Online Prayer Meeting is a great alternative! Here's the link to join or share: https://c3syd.church/prayer/
Freedom Ministry	Freedom Ministry is Holy Spirit directed and empowered prayer ministry aimed to bring healing to an individual, spirit, soul and body. If you or anyone in your cg is interested in accessing this ministry, please fill in the form below and our team will be in touch: https://c3syd.info/freedom

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Message Series Overview

Message Series Title:	Realities of Prayer
Message Series Scriptures:	
Series Purpose:	To encourage our people to develop a real, genuine, and life-giving prayer life.
Weekly Overview:	Sunday 12th July to Sunday 16th August 2026. Week 1: Real Prayer Week 2: Ordinary Prayer Week 3: Faith-Filled Prayer (PRE-RECORDED PREACH) Week 4: Persistent Prayer Week 5: Contending Prayer Week 6: Corporate Prayer

Week 1: Connect week notes

Connect Week Notes	Week 1
Message Title:	Ordinary Prayer
Message Date:	19th July 2026
Key Scriptures for this week:	1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Matthew 6:9-13; James 5:16
Historical Context, Commentary + supporting references:	
Prayer as a topic is very broad and multifaceted. It can be defined in many ways, but the framework that this series approaches prayer by is that prayer is a regular and consistent communion with God in which we grow deeper in our relationship with Him, worship and are still, intercede and request, repent and submit, wrestle and contend, and experience God and align to His will. Prayer is not always simple or predictable. It is a journey filled with highs and lows, faith and waiting, clarity and questions. We explore how prayer looks different in every season and how God meets us through it all. Whether the answer comes quickly, unfolds over time, or looks nothing like we expected, prayer keeps us	

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connected to the heart of God. Together, we will learn to build a steady, honest, and strong life of prayer that grows through every season.

We need to be aware of some common obstacles or objections our people might have towards prayer. These could include:

- Feeling of shame/not worthy to communicate with God
- Feeling of not doing enough in having a consistent prayer life (loops back to the first)
- Genuinely not knowing what personal prayer should look like
- o We know there are some differences between personal devotional prayer and corporate prayer, but we need to be aware that what is predominantly modelled in church life is corporate prayer. The risk is that the same model would simply be copied to personal devotional prayer time, and the full breadth of prayer could be missed
- Thinking you have to say the right or most “spiritual” thing
- Prayer has to be a mountaintop experience for multiple hours every morning
- An urge to hide real feelings from God
- Disappointment/grief in prayer life through circumstances and “unanswered prayers”

Resources

- **Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God – Timothy Keller**
- **How to Pray – Pete Greig**
- **Lectio 365 App**

Connect Group Message:

Prayer is an invitation into a real, personal connection with God. Jesus teaches that prayer is part of everyday faith, something expected and accessible for every believer. We are welcomed to approach God with confidence, bringing our thoughts, questions, and struggles honestly.

A healthy prayer life sustains us spiritually. Just as our physical bodies require nourishment, our inner lives are strengthened through regular connection with God. Jesus demonstrated this through consistent times of prayer, showing the importance of staying connected to the Father.

Prayer does not require complicated language or special structure. It grows through honesty, simplicity, and presence. At times it involves speaking; at other times it includes listening or simply sitting with God.

As we expand into “ordinary prayer,” we begin to recognise God’s presence in the rhythms of daily life. Short, consistent moments of prayer throughout the day help cultivate awareness of Him in both significant and routine moments.

Over time, steady rhythms form the foundation of a lasting prayer life. Small, faithful steps build consistency and depth.

Connect Group Discussion Questions:

GATHER

- How has your understanding or experience of prayer been influenced by others?
- Where have you seen prayer become more meaningful within a community setting?
- What practical ways can we support each other in building consistent prayer habits?

GROW

- When you think about prayer, what mindset do you usually bring into it?
- What has made consistency in prayer difficult in the past?
- What simple change could help you engage with God more regularly this week?

GO

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- How might a growing prayer life shape the way you interact with people outside church?
- Who is one person in your life you can begin intentionally praying for?
- What could it look like to include prayer naturally in conversations with others?

Week 2: Connect week notes

Connect Week Notes	Week 2
Message Title:	Persistent Prayer
Message Date:	2 nd August 2026
Key Scriptures for this week:	Ephesians 6:12-13; James 5:16; 2 Chronicles 7:13-16; Mark 9:20-24; Psalm 77
Historical Context, Commentary + supporting references:	
Resources • Draw the Circle – Mark Batterson • Fervent – Priscilla Shirer	
Connect Group Message:	
Prayer shaped by faith shifts our expectations. We approach God trusting that He is present and able to work beyond what we can see. Even when faith feels mixed with doubt, Scripture shows that honesty remains powerful in prayer. Circumstances often influence what we ask for, but faith invites us to think beyond immediate limitations. As we continue to pray, we often notice internal changes first; greater peace, renewed perspective, and strength in challenging situations. There are also real challenges in prayer. Distractions, discouragement, and spiritual resistance can make it difficult to stay focused. Persistence becomes important, not through perfect concentration but through returning again and again. Internal barriers can also affect prayer. Areas such as unresolved sin, pride, or self-doubt may create distance in how we engage with God. Bringing these into the open restores clarity and freedom. At times, prayer may feel quiet or unanswered. These seasons can shape endurance and deepen trust. Continuing to show up, even when it feels difficult, forms maturity over time.	
Connect Group Discussion Questions:	
GATHER • When have you felt strengthened by someone else's prayers? • How can community help when prayer feels difficult or discouraging? • What would it look like for our group to support each other more intentionally in prayer?	

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GROW	
•	What do you tend to expect when you pray?
•	How do you usually respond when answers don't come quickly?
•	Is there anything currently affecting your connection with God in prayer?
GO	
•	Where in your everyday environment could you begin praying with greater faith?
•	What situation outside church could you commit to praying for consistently?
•	How might you step out in praying for someone who does not know Jesus?

Week 3: Connect week notes

Connect Week Notes	Week 3
Message Title:	Corporate Prayer
Message Date:	16 th August 2026
Key Scriptures for this week:	Acts 1:14, Acts 2:42, Acts 4:24-31, Acts 12:5-7
Historical Context, Commentary + supporting references:	
- The Circle Maker – Mark Batterson - The Prayer Course – Pete Greig	
Connect Group Message:	
Some prayers carry a deeper weight and remain on our hearts over time. These moments often reflect a growing awareness of people, situations, or needs that matter deeply. Scripture shows that the Holy Spirit helps guide us in these spaces, even when we struggle to express what we are feeling. Ongoing prayer requires perseverance. Certain situations unfold slowly, and remaining committed develops endurance and trust. Through this process, our hearts begin to align more closely with God's purposes. Prayer also shapes perspective. As we continue, our focus expands beyond personal concerns to include God's will and the needs around us. This alignment leads to greater compassion and awareness. Alongside personal prayer, shared prayer plays a vital role. The early church regularly gathered to seek God together, strengthening unity and creating space for direction and growth. Praying with others helps build faith and reminds us that we are part of something larger. Everyone has a place in corporate prayer. Participation may look different for each person, whether through speaking, listening, or quietly agreeing. Over time, confidence grows as individuals engage more fully. A balanced prayer life includes both individual and shared rhythms, forming a steady and ongoing connection with God.	

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Connect Group Discussion Questions:

GATHER

- What has your experience been with praying alongside others?
- How can we create an environment where everyone feels comfortable to engage?
- When have you seen group prayer make a difference?

GROW

- Is there something you feel drawn to keep bringing before God?
- How has your perspective shifted through prayer recently?
- What step could help you grow in confidence within group prayer?

GO

- Who or what do you feel led to pray for beyond this group?
- How can we pray together for our wider community or city?
- What could it look like to invite others into prayer or spiritual conversations?