



PRAYER

Brian Coles
September 6, 2026

WORSHIP

Begin your group with a time of worship. If someone in your group can lead worship, invite them to lead two or three songs. Alternatively, consider using one or more of these songs from our Sunday morning worship time:

- **Who Else** (*Gateway Worship*)
- **Worthy** (*Elevation Worship*)
- **What a Beautiful Name** (*Hillsong Worship*)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- 2 Chronicles 7:14
- James 5:16
- Acts 10:1-44
- Luke 11:5-13

OPENING PRAYER

Open your time together in prayer.

ICEBREAKER

Go around the group and answer this question: When you were growing up, who modeled prayer for you, and what did that look like?

OVERVIEW

This sermon is not simply a message about prayer — it is a call to action. Specifically, it is a call to intercession: joining Jesus in praying for His Kingdom to come in the lives of others. Two foundations anchor this call: intimacy and intercession. From the secret place of prayer flows vision, calling, and mission. And from a heart aligned with God's flows the selfless, powerful work of praying on behalf of others.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The secret place of prayer is the most powerful place of intimacy with Jesus. It is where we begin to see as He sees, hear His voice, and do His will.
- Vision, calling, and mission all flow from time spent alone with Jesus in prayer.
- Intercession is joining Jesus in praying for His Kingdom to come in the lives of others.
- One of the greatest markers of spiritual maturity is the selfless act of praying for others.
- What we pray for reveals what we truly love and what matters most to us.
- Shameless audacity in prayer — persistent, bold, expectant asking — is met with God's blessing.
- The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective (James 5:16).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Section 1: The Secret Place of Prayer

1. Pastor Brian described the secret place of prayer as the most powerful place of intimacy with Jesus. How would you describe your current experience of that secret place? Is it consistent, occasional, or something you are still trying to establish?
2. The sermon used the story of Peter and Cornelius from Acts 10 to show that both men — completely different in background and role — received vision, calling, and mission through prayer. What stands out to you most about how God worked through both of them? What does that say about who God invites into the secret place of prayer?
3. Pastor Brian offered several examples of people who need the secret place of prayer — parents, business leaders, teenagers, married couples, retirees, and others. Which of those examples resonated most with your current season of life, and why?

4. The sermon asks: *"What divine vision, message, and mission could we be missing if we neglect the place of secret prayer?"* How would you personally answer that question based on your own life right now?
5. Pastor Brian warned against letting school, sports, work, leisure, relationships, and even ministry crowd out time with Jesus. Which of those things most commonly competes with your time in prayer? What has the cost of that been?

Section 2: Intercession

6. Pastor Brian described intercession as joining Jesus in praying for His Kingdom to come in the lives of others, and called it one of the greatest markers of spiritual maturity. How does that definition of intercession challenge or expand the way you have thought about prayer in the past?
7. In Luke 11:5-13, Jesus uses the image of a friend going to another friend at midnight with a desperate, urgent need. The sermon highlights the concept of "shameless audacity" — bold, persistent, unembarrassed asking. Is that how you typically approach prayer? What holds you back from praying with that kind of boldness?
8. The sermon says that intercession *"serves as a mirror, helping us take inventory of what we truly love — because we tend to pray for what matters most to us."* If your recent prayers were the only evidence available, what would they reveal about what you truly love and value?
9. The sermon connects intercession to 2 Chronicles 7:14, which speaks of God's people humbling themselves, praying, seeking God's face, and turning from their ways — with the promise that God will hear, forgive, and heal. What does it look like practically for your small group to take that kind of posture together?
10. Pastor Brian said that what comes out of our mouths in prayer can be both *"a lighthouse, revealing where God may be leading us, and a dashboard, revealing areas of our life and faith that may have grown cold."* Have you ever experienced prayer revealing something about the condition of your own heart? What did that look like?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION (10 Mins)

Choose one or more of the following to commit to before your group meets again:

Establish a secret place. Identify a specific time and location this week where you will get alone with Jesus. Start with 15 minutes of unhurried prayer and simply ask God to give you His vision, voice, and direction for your current season.

Pray for someone by name. Choose one person in your life who needs God to move. Commit to praying for that person every day this week with shameless audacity — bold, persistent, expectant prayer.

Audit your prayers. At the end of each day this week, briefly write down what you prayed about. At the end of the week, review your notes. What do your prayers reveal about what you love and what has grown cold?

Get a prayer partner. Reach out to someone in this group or in your church community and ask them to be a prayer partner — someone who will pray with you regularly and hold you accountable to your prayer life.

Closing Thought and Prayer

Close your group time by praying together. Specifically, pray for one another using the framework from the sermon: ask God to give each person in the group vision to see as He sees, a voice to hear His calling, and courage to step into His mission. Then take a few minutes to intercede for people outside the group — family members, coworkers, neighbors, or community leaders who need God to move in their lives.