How to Pray

Abraham was the friend of God. When the Lord dropped by for dinner one day, He repeated His promise that Abraham and Sarah would have a son. Then the Lord told His friend about the coming judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham pled for mercy because his nephew Lot was living in Sodom. Abraham’s request teaches us how to pray because it follows a pattern we see repeated throughout the Bible.

**How should we pray?**

**1. Appeal to your relationship with God**

A. God has *chosen you*

2 Thessalonians 2:13

B. God has promised *to bless you*

**2. Appeal to the character of God**

A. Appeal to His *justice*

B. Appeal to His *mercy*

**3. Appeal humbly and persistently**

A. Remember that *you are dust*

B. Persistence does not *wear God down*

Persistence draws *us near to God*

**4. Appeal submissively**

A. Let God *be God*

B. Know *your own place*

**For additional study or family discussion**

1. What did the Lord say to you today through His word? Did you learn some new truth about God or yourself? Did the Lord challenge you, convict you, or encourage you?

2. The Bible calls Abraham the friend of God (2 Chronicles 20:7; Isaiah 41:8; James 2:23). What does the Bible call Moses (Numbers 12:7; Deuteronomy 34:5; Joshua 11-2)? How did God speak to Moses (Exodus 33:11)? What is the difference between a servant and a friend? Why does Jesus call us friends, even though we are His servants (John 15:13-15)?

3. What similarities do you see between the prayer of Abraham in Genesis 20 and the prayer of Moses in Exodus 32:7-14?

4. How does Jesus illustrate the idea of persistence in prayer in Luke 11:5-8 and 18:1-8?

5. Why must we approach God humbly (1 Peter 5:5-7)?

6. How did our Lord model submission in prayer (Luke 22:39-42)?

7. Sometimes God spares a city or a nation because His beloved, praying people are living there. On other occasions, He will not spare them. See Jeremiah 15:1; Ezekiel 14:12-20.

8. How does 2 Peter 2:7 describe Lot?