

Simplified Prayer Guide

Week of May 24th, 2020



Scripture Passage: **James 2:1-7**

REMEMBER: These bullet points are *possible prayer prompts*. They work best in groups when the leader leads the group to pray *aloud* (so that everyone can hear), *briefly* (a sentence or two), and *clearly* (one thought at a time).

YOU ARE WORTHY: Jesus' model prayer teaches us to pray, "*Our Father, hallowed be Thy name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...*"

Prompts for younger children to pray– you could have them repeat after you:

- Father, I praise You because You are full of glory!
- I worship You because You are the perfect judge!

- Jesus, I praise You because You are glorious, and...

- You are merciful! Help us to remember Your mercy to us, despite...

WE ARE NEEDY: Next Jesus instructed us to pray, "*give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*"

Prompts for younger children to pray– you could have them repeat after you:

- Father, help me to see all people as important!
- Forgive me for only being kind to some people!

- Help us respond to others in light of the gospel, even when...

- Forgive us for showing partiality towards...

- Deliver us from the pride that leads to partiality by convincing us...

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REMEMBER: These are *possible prayer prompts*, and work best when the leader leads the group to pray *aloud* (so that everyone can hear), *briefly* (a sentence or two), and *clearly* (one thought at a time).

REVERENCE: This is our time to *praise or revere* God as Christ instructed us to begin our prayer with, "*Our Father, hallowed be Thy name...*"

Prompts for younger children to pray– you could have them repeat after you:

- Father, I praise You because You are full of glory!
- I worship You because You are the perfect judge!
- Jesus, one day every knee will bow to You! I praise You because You are glorious, and...
- You have chosen and saved us by Your grace! Apart from You, I would be...

RESPONSE: This is our time to *respond* to God, asking that "*your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...*" as Christ instructed us.

- Father, we need to see people's cross-proven worth! Help us be impartial even towards...
- Help us to remember Your mercy to us, despite...

REQUESTS: Next we make *requests* of our Heavenly Father, in line with what He calls us to ask for. Jesus instructed us to pray, "*give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.*"

- Grow us in humility so that we respond to others in light of the gospel, even when...
- Give us opportunities to practice impartial hospitality very soon, and help us to prepare by...
- Forgive us for showing partiality towards...

READINESS: This is our time to ask God to make us *ready* to live in joyful obedience to His will, as Jesus instructed us to pray, "*lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*"

- Deliver us from the pride that leads to partiality by convincing us...
- Father, when others don't see things the way we do, deliver us from division over...
- Lead me not into the temptation to...

(Discussion & Group Questions on Next Page)

Discussion & Group Questions

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*Note: The Kids' and Students' questions start with an "engaging question," and they transition into the "heart-level truth" we're aiming at. It ends up as more of a "talk" than a simple Q & A. That's why they look long 😊

Discussion Questions for **KIDS**:

- 1) Main Idea: **EVERY PERSON GOD MADE IS VALUABLE** – What's your favorite thing you ever made? How would you like it if someone didn't take good care of it or did something not very nice to it? *God made every single person, and He wants us to show love to all of them.*
- 2) Main Idea: **GOD FORGIVES OTHERS JUST LIKE HE FORGIVES US: BECAUSE OF JESUS** – Have you ever had to ask someone to forgive you for something you did? Why was that? How did it feel when they forgave you for what you did, did it feel good? *Since we are all in need of God's forgiveness because of our sin, and we can be forgiven because of Jesus, we should treat others with God's kindness and patience too.*

Discussion Questions for **STUDENTS**:

- 1) Have you ever felt ignored or left out in a group? How did that feel? Why do you think people find it easy to engage with people who are like them? *Who around you sometimes gets left out of the group? What can you do to show them that they are just as valuable as anyone else?*
- 2) Do most of your friends listen to the same music or watch the same things you do? What kinds of similarities tend to draw you together with your friends? *What does it say about the gospel, since the "honorable name by which you were called" is supposed to be a central reason you engage others in relationship (Jas 2:7)?*

Discussion Questions for **ADULTS**:

- 1) Why are practices of partiality in the church so out of step with the gospel? How can we help to guard ourselves against such partiality?
- 2) While we might not say exact phrases like, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," what are other ways we could end up becoming "judges with evil thoughts" in showing partiality?
- 3) After studying a passage like James 2:1-7, how does that shape your thinking about some of the potential snares of popularity, wealth, and influence?