

# Daily Devotionals

C.E. Prayer Week  
30 Jan - 6 Feb 2022

An important part of Prayer Week each year is the opportunity to connect more deeply with the five C.E. habits: PRAY, STUDY, SERVE, SHARE and WORSHIP. The daily devotionals in this resource are a starting point for you to engage more deeply, think more clearly, and practice more intentionally these daily practices that are encouraged through the C.E. Pledge.

Use these readings as personal devotions during the week of Prayer Week, or reach out to others in your youth group, community, or even in different C.E. groups in other parts of the world to study, discuss and pray through these ideas together!

May God bless you richly, and renew you with an increased sense of His presence as you remember "the Lord is Near!"

Materials Team  
World Christian Endeavor

"The Lord Is Near to all who call on Him, to all  
who call on Him in truth."

Psalm 145:18

<https://www.worldce.org/prayerweek>



# Pray

Christian Endeavor challenges Christians to incorporate five practices into their lives in order to grow in godliness. The first of these practices is PRAYER. Prayer is an incredible opportunity to connect with God. It's a mystery that each of us can continue wrestling with throughout our lives! Understanding prayer can be so challenging! But it's one of the habits that we're clearly directed in scripture to do (1 Chronicles 16:11, Matthew 5:44, Luke 18:1, Romans 12:12, Ephesians 6:18, James 5:13), it was practiced and modeled by Jesus (Matthew 6:9-13, John 17:15) and it has the power to transform us as God meets us and works through our prayers (2 Chronicles 6:21, 2 Chronicles 7:14, Proverbs 15:8, Job 22:27, Mark 11:24). While prayer continues to be a mystery that requires faith and perseverance, it's clear that prayer does indeed change things - most of all, it changes us! Praying ardently and honestly has an incredible way of realigning us to God's mighty and perfect plans. Rather than being an opportunity to 'rub a magic lamp' and get our wish granted, prayer is a privileged opportunity to connect with, listen to, and be refreshed by the Almighty Creator of the universe. It's no simple matter to understand why or how humans are able to connect with the all-knowing and all-powerful God. It's not simple to articulate exactly how that communication channel works either. One certainty is that a person's growth in understanding and practicing daily prayer begins to transform the way he or she understands and approaches life!

## Discussion Questions:

1. On a piece of paper, write down how you would define PRAYER. Next, write down what PRAYER is not.
  - a. PRAYER involves listening to God, sharing your thoughts and feelings with God, asking for help for yourself and for others, PRAYER even involves saying we are sorry for when we have blown it.
  - b. PRAYER is not treating God like a cosmic Coke machine where we ask for whatever we want with a selfish attitude and expect to get it.
2. What keeps you from praying everyday? What helps you?
3. Are you satisfied with when you PRAY and how you pray?
4. What step can you take to grow your attitude and practice of PRAYER?



# Study

It is fun to see the things people have in common. We can also find the commonalities between two objects. There is one important one between cars, motor boats, phones, animals and people. . . They all need fuel in order to run. A car and a motor boat won't run without fuel. People and animals will both run out of energy without the proper food and water for fuel. Along with physical fuel, people need fuel in order to continue growing in their spiritual journey. A major source of this fuel is through STUDYing Scripture. "STUDYing" refers to reading, listening, reflecting on and other methods of taking in the Bible.

Think about a time you forgot to charge your phone and it eventually ran out of power, or your car ran out of gas, or you totally crashed due to lack of energy. How does this relate to a time when you had gone through a dry spell spiritually? Fueling up ensures enough power to make it through the day. In a similar sense, we practice PRAYER and STUDYing God's Word (the Bible) every day in order to be connected and fueled by God's power. Just as God speaks to us and aligns our lives to His purposes through prayer, He also does the same thing as we study His Word.

The Bible is a collection of books and letters written over the course of 1,500 years. It is one of the most historically documented and accurate works of literature that we have. Yet it is more than just a book. It's a cohesive narrative of God's plan at work in the lives of His creation - people just like you and me. The Bible also gives amazing insight into who we are, why we're here, and the confidence that we can have because of the redeeming work of Jesus. Even more than that, the Bible is alive with truth that transforms us as we study it (Hebrews 4:12, Romans 12:2). Developing the habit of STUDYing God's Word daily will revolutionize your understanding of who you are and why you're here. It will give you the assurance and focus you need to live for Christ each day.

## Discussion Questions:

1. What questions do you think people have about the Bible?
2. What keeps you from studying the Bible every day?
3. What would help you get started?
4. Are there sections from the Bible that have been powerful or meaningful as you've read or heard them?



# Serve

We all know people who would rather be served than serve others. This type of self-centered attitude is rampant in our sinful world! In fact, this type of attitude is actually a characteristic of being human - we're naturally bent toward looking out for ourselves, to want to have power over others and to want to be served by others. That's why Jesus' instructions to us in Matthew 20:16 and 20:28 are so counter-cultural and counter-intuitive. Matthew 20:28 reads, "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many." We have the greatest impact when we serve others. We become most like Christ when we're willing to serve and sacrifice for others. The gospel completely changes how we approach the world!

To serve others freely, at first you will need to intentionally program this into your life. Just like with any other habit that we're trying to develop, serving others doesn't come naturally! Even Jesus' disciples resisted the idea of serving others (Matthew 20:1-16, Matthew 20:20-28, Luke 22:24-30). But having an attitude of service can become a lifestyle. When it does, it will become infectious - you'll want to serve more and more and more because the joy you'll experience through serving will be amazing!

Blessing, encouraging and uplifting others is transformative! Think of a time when you received the blessing from an experience of serving others, as well as the challenges that you faced in trying to serve.

## Discussion Questions:

1. Where are you already serving others freely?
2. When and where do you find it most challenging to serve others freely? Why?
3. In what ways can those around you be served?
4. What impact would it make if you served others freely?
5. What is one act of SERVICE you can consistently begin to offer a person close to you?



# Share

So far, we've looked at PRAYER and STUDYING God's Word as daily activities Christians benefit from pursuing. We also looked at SERVICE as an important attitude and action to take toward all people. Today we dive into the fourth practice, "SHARE My Faith Openly." It's vital to understand how we can be open with our faith. When we are willing to share our faith openly we are able to impact people in a positive way for Christ and the Church. However, of all of the C.E. Pledge practices - this one is often the most challenging and fear-inducing! When we think of "sharing our faith openly", often what comes to mind is standing up in front of a large group of people, giving a speech, or trying to defend Christianity's beliefs against a seasoned atheist professor. Some of you may have opportunity for these kind of experiences, and God can work powerfully through them! However, it's important to remember that no one has ever been 'argued' into becoming a Christian.

Sharing your faith openly is far less about having all of the correct answers and saying all the right things, and more about being open, honest and consistent in your relationships and interactions with the people that God has placed in your life. Openly living your life in pursuit of Christ, and genuinely loving the people you come into contact with is more powerful than any argument or social media post! [Share a time you were open about your faith by your actions.

Think of a time when you were "open" by what you said. Think about another time when you totally blew it and missed an opportunity to share your faith. What can you learn from those experiences and carry with you as you seek to share your faith openly every chance you get?

## Discussion Questions:

1. You are challenged in the Christian Endeavor Pledge to SHARE your faith openly. What is your reaction to this portion of the Pledge?
2. What are ways a person can share his or her faith?
3. Which way do you find it easiest to share your faith?
4. How could you use more training, more encouragement, or give more specific attention to sharing your faith?



# Worship

In today's devotional we'll be looking at the fifth Christian Endeavor Practice: **WORSHIP** with my church regularly. Humans are created for community. One of the most essential is the community that helps us grow in our ability to worship the Creator and to live for Him! Just like many of the other habits we've been looking at, the idea of "worship" or "being part of a church" can carry with it a lot of assumptions and preconceptions. The phrase "worship with my church regularly" is most likely being interpreted in different ways based on your culture, heritage and past experiences! That's why it's so crucial to take time to this habit that is part of the C.E. Pledge.

Worship is a lifestyle. Involving more than singing...it's about the attitude and perspective we bring to every facet of our lives! In order for us to live a lifestyle of worship, we need regular and ongoing sharpening (Proverbs 27:17) to keep us focused and committed. This involves solid teaching that helps us understand the Word of God in ways we hadn't before. It means lifting up our voices to God alongside others to express the depth of our praises, cares and belief. It involves having godly examples and mentors whom we can learn from and emulate. It means having the opportunity to use our gifts, talents and abilities to serve others and grow in our understanding of ourselves.

All of this happens within the local church. None of it happens perfectly. Remember, every member of every local church is on a journey, just like you. You are all pursuing Christ and growing in your relationship with Him. Understand that God clearly gave us the local church as His plan to help us. The local church helps us grow in our usefulness for God and as His instrument for sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with others (Ephesians 4:7-16, Matthew 16:18, Romans 12:6-8). Worshipping regularly with other believers is the fuel and focus each of us needs to live a lifestyle of worship. It's also the means through which God's Kingdom continues to advance throughout the world!

## Discussion Questions:

1. Do you go to church regularly? Why or why not?
2. Do you attend or participate in other ministries offered by the church?
3. What is your primary motive for going (or not going) to church and other ministries?
4. Is going to ministries like youth group the same as going to church? Why or why not?
  1. Can you be a strong Christian and not go to church?

