

# Praying for You

COJOURNERS № 2.2 | EXPLORER



Wisdom is the reward  
you get for a lifetime  
of listening when you'd  
have preferred to talk.  
-Doug Larson



Prayer is perhaps the most common spiritual experience in America. More than 80 percent of Americans claim to pray to God. Prayer can provide a door through which to enter others' spiritual journeys. How? By simply asking others how you can pray for them. The request reflects a generally acceptable act of kindness. The answer often reveals a significant need.

Approach a number of acquaintances this week and say, "I try to pray for others, rather than just praying for myself. I was wondering if there is anything you would like prayed for. It could be school, family, relationships, finances, or whatever." If they share something, ask a few questions to understand more about the issue and its importance. Affirm their concern and assure them of your prayers.

Next week, be sure to ask the acquaintance about the issue. Ask if there has been an answer, or, if there is anything else they would like you to pray for?

### Discuss

- How do you think others will respond to the offer for prayer?
- Who would you like to approach about prayer?

### Action Plan

Pray that God will use these attempts to open doors into the journeys of others. Journal your encounters and share them at your next meeting. If appropriate, pray together for any who shared prayer requests.

### Summary

The offer of prayer can open the door to a person's inner life.

# Power Tools

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Listening can reveal many insights into a person's spiritual journey. But through questions, you can discover so much more. Questions can guide conversations to deeper levels and into desired topics. Most conversations remain at a surface level. Questions have the power to take a conversation below the surface.

### Discuss

- What questions do you like to use to discover where a person is spiritually?
- How do you think most people would respond to each of the following questions?
  1. What was your religious background as a child?
  2. What words would you use to describe your life spiritually?
  3. Do you have a spiritual belief of any kind?
  4. What don't you believe?

5. Have you ever experienced God? If so, how?
  6. Has anything dramatic happened that has convinced you that God is real?
  7. Is there a heaven and a hell?
  8. If you were to die tonight, how sure are you that you would have eternal life? Why?
  9. What barriers keep you from trusting God?
- Brainstorm more good questions.

### Action Plan

Choose a question to ask a number of acquaintances this week. Conversationally explore their answers with other questions. Journal your conversations to share and discuss at your next small group meeting.

### Summary

Questions are the power tool to explore others' lives.

# What's Your Story

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Every person's spiritual journey has a past, a present and a future. To understand their journey, you need to explore where they have been, where they are and where they are going. Good questions can help people tell their story.

### Explore where they've been

- What was your religious background as a child?
- Was it positive, neutral or negative for you? Why?

### Explore where they are

- How would you describe your spiritual belief?
- Who is Jesus to you?

### Explore where they are going

- Lately, do you think you have been moving toward God, away from God or staying about the same?

- On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your desire to know God personally?

### Discuss

- Whose spiritual journey would you like to explore?

### Action Plan

Pray for opportunities to explore the spiritual journey of those who you have discussed. This week ask permission: "I really enjoy hearing about others' spiritual experiences and I've never heard much about yours. Can I ask you some questions?"

### Summary

An explorer helps others tell their spiritual story.