

Crossing the Carpark

Opportunities to engage





Discipleship activated

1. Withdraw & Meditate

- ➡ Initiate steps to withdraw with purpose
- ➡ Seek Him - Fill up on God
- ➡ Have a plan an approach (handout)
- ➡ When prompted GO (engage)
- ➡ **God has called us to Cross the Carpark**



Crossing the Carpark (out your driveway)



→ **2. Pray & Listen**
Luke 11:1-13 & John 10:1-16



Disciples of Jesus are people who pray!

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- ▶ Prayer is **COMMUNION** with God.



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Luke 11:1-4 (NIV)

¹One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

²He said to them, "**When you pray**, say: "Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. ³Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.'"

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- ➡ The Bible assumes that God's people **WILL PRAY** to Him.

Philippians 4:6

Do not be anxious about anything, but **in everything**, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

1 Thess 5:16-17

¹⁶ Be joyful always; ¹⁷ **pray continually**; ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.



Disciples of Jesus are people who pray!

- Prayer is ESSENTIAL to our relationship with God.
- Prayer is COMMUNION with God.
- The Bible assumes that God's people WILL PRAY to Him.
- **It is a mark of OBEDIENCE when we come to God in prayer.**

Our Heavenly Father invites us to pray!

Luke 11:2

²He said to them, “**When you pray, say:**
“**Father**, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come.



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Luke 11:5-10

⁵ Then Jesus said to them, “Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶ a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.’ ⁷ And suppose the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’ ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

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Luke 11:5-10 (continued)

⁹ “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

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Luke 11:11-13

¹¹ “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”



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 - Each year on Day of Atonement blood from the Sin Offering was placed on the horns of the Altar
 - Reminder to God's people that prayer was only acceptable to God after they had been made right with Him

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Hebrews 10:19-22.

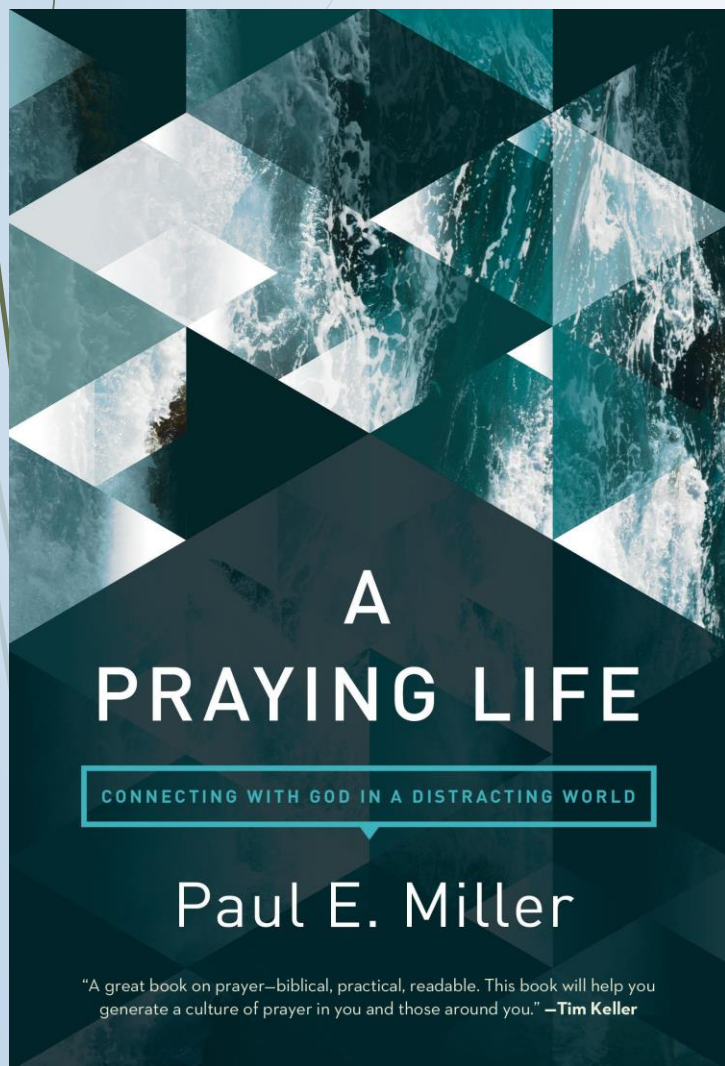
¹⁹ Therefore, brothers and sisters, **since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,** ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² **let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings,** having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

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Hebrews 4:14-16

¹⁴ Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶ **Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence,** so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

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"Prayer mirrors the gospel. In the gospel, the Father takes us as we are because of Jesus and gives us his gift of salvation. In prayer, the Father receives us as we are because of Jesus and gives us his gift of help. We look at the inadequacy of our praying and give up thinking that something is wrong with us. God looks at the adequacy of His son and delights in our sloppy, meandering prayers."



**The Holy Spirit helps us
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Romans 8:14-16

¹⁴ For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵ **The Spirit you received** does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, **the Spirit you received** brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶ **The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.**

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Romans 8:26-27

²⁶ In the same way, **the Spirit helps us in our weakness.** We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because **the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.**

Prayer is not just talking to God it is listening to God!

- ▶ A healthy prayer life requires listening to God in prayer.

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- A healthy prayer life requires listening to God in prayer.
- Learning to hear God's voice is one of the most important tasks of a disciple of Jesus.

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John 10:1-10

¹“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and **the sheep listen to his voice**. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and **his sheep follow him because they know his voice**. ⁵ But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because **they do not recognize a stranger's voice**.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

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John 10:1-10 (continued)

⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but **the sheep have not listened to them.** ⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

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John 10:11-16

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴ **“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—** ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

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▶ John 10:1-16

- ▶ Jesus is the shepherd; His followers are the sheep (v.11,14).
- ▶ All who are truly His sheep (Disciples) will KNOW His voice (v.3-4,14).

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- There are other voices that call out to us as well (v.5,8,12).
- **We need to learn to hear (discern) the voice of God in a culture of noise (v.5,14).**

How to hear God's voice?



How to hear God's voice?

- Look to Jesus – sit at His feet & learn from Him.

Luke 10:38-39

³⁸ As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹ She had a sister called **Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.**

How to hear God's voice?

- Look to Jesus – sit at His feet & learn from Him (cf. Luke 10:39)
- **Jesus is the foremost way we can hear God's voice.**

Hebrews 1:1-3

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but **in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son**, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³ **The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.** After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

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 - ▶ ***Ways to immerse ourselves in the word: personal devotions/study, corporate/community bible study, memorisation, 'Lectio Divina' etc.***

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 - ▶ *1 Samuel 3:10b – ...Speak Lord for your servant is listening.*

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 - ▶ **Jeremiah 33:3 - 'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.'**

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- ▶ Jesus is the foremost way we can hear God's voice.
- ▶ Immerse ourselves in the scriptures.
- ▶ Ask God to speak.
- ▶ **Be mindful of some other ways God might communicate with us.**
 - ▶ *Through nature. (Ps 19:1)*
 - ▶ *Through our circumstances. (Rom 8:28; Gen 50:20; Prov 16:9)*
 - ▶ *Through our desires. (Ps 37:4)*
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- ▶ **Listen for God's voice as you spend time with Him in prayer.**

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- ▶ **If you think God is speaking to you – test it**
 - ▶ Does it line up with scripture? With the revealed character of God?
 - ▶ Discuss it with a trusted Christian friend, your Discipleship Group or a pastor to help you discern.
 - ▶ Remember we are disciples in community, not lone ranger Christians.
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- ▶ **If you want to hear God's voice – be ready to obey Him when He does speak.**

An opportunity to engage...

2. Pray & Listen

- Spend some uninterrupted time in prayer this week.
- Ask God to speak to you as you pray.
- Use the handout (available at the front) as a guide.
- Listen to what God is telling you.
- Record what you hear/see/sense/discover.
- Share with others (or with your discipleship Group, or the pastors) – note on paper/email/text/msg

