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**THE 21  
MOST  
EFFECTIVE  
PRAYERS OF  
THE BIBLE**

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**SMALL GROUP  
DISCUSSION  
GUIDE**

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**MIKE D'ATTOMA**

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# **The 21 Most Effective Prayers of the Bible**

**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE**

**By: Mike D'Attoma**

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**Based on *The 21 Most Effective Prayers of the Bible*  
by Dr. Dave Earley**

## **PRAYER 1:**

### **GIVE ME SUCCESS TODAY: *The Prayer of Eliezer***

*“LORD, God of my master Abraham,” he prayed, “make this happen for me today, and show kindness to my master Abraham.” (Genesis 24:12, CSB)*

1. What is your definition of success?
  
2. How does God’s definition of success often differ from the world’s definition of success?
  
3. In what ways, based on who Rebekah was, did God answer Eliezer’s prayer with an overwhelming “YES”?
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  - 5.
  - 6.
  
4. Why do you believe that Eliezer’s name is not mentioned in Genesis 24?
  
5. Do you believe that Eliezer’s prayer was selfish, or selfless? Explain.
  
6. What is so encouraging about Genesis 24:15?
  
7. How specific are your prayers? Do you give Him a specific target?

*“I asked for success and God answered. I had a need and God met it. When given a target to hit, God drilled a bull’s-eye.”  
- Dave Earley*

## **PRAYER 2:**

### **BLESS ME: *The Prayer of Jacob***

*“Then he said to Jacob, “Let me go, for it is daybreak.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.” (Genesis 32:26, CSB)*

1. What would be the greatest blessing you could receive from God today?
2. How would you describe your most mysterious encounter with God?
3. Explain a time when you’ve found yourself “in a fix” or “in a pickle.”
4. What is the significance of what happens in Genesis 32:27-28?
5. How does the story end in Genesis 32:29-32, and Genesis 33:1-11?
6. What is the difference between humility and timidity? (See 2 Timothy 1:7)
7. Would you describe your prayer life as timid, or bold? Explain.

*“Timidity must not be confused with humility. God blesses humility, not timidity. He also invites boldness in prayer.”*

- Dave Earley

**PRAYER 3:**  
**GO WITH US: *The Prayer of Moses***

*“If your presence does not go,” Moses responded to him, “don’t make us go up from here.”*  
(Exodus 33:15, CSB)

1. When you get to heaven, if given only three questions to ask God, what would you ask?
2. What three concerns does Moses bring before the Lord in Exodus 33?
3. Moses’ prayer life was effective in part because he had a place where he met with God. What is your prayer place to regularly meet with God?
4. What three things does Moses understand about God, and meeting with God?
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
5. Describe a time when you were absolutely certain the presence of God was with you.
6. Why is the presence of God so important in ALL that we do as followers of Christ?

*“God is willing, ready, and available to meet with us when we make time to meet with Him.”*  
- Dave Earley

**PRAYER 4:**  
**GIVE ME A SIGN: *The Prayer of Gideon***

*“Then he said to him, “If I have found favor with you, give me a sign that you are speaking with me.” (Judges 6:17, CSB)*

1. What word best describes you, and why? Gullible or Skeptical?
2. Explain a moment when you have wished you had a clear, undeniable sign from God?
3. Read Judges 6:13-16. What stands out to you about the conversation?
4. Explain a time when God has asked you to do something, and apart from His working, you were heading for absolute failure? How did that calling make you feel?
5. What do you believe about the appropriateness of asking God for a sign?
6. What considerations ought we take into account when asking God for a sign?
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  - 5.

*“Do you need clear confirmation that the direction you are heading is what God is calling you to do? Do as Gideon did. Ask God to give you a sign.”*  
- Dave Earley

**PRAYER 5:**  
**REMEMBER ME: *The Prayer of Hannah***

*“Making a vow, she pleaded, “LORD of Armies, if you will take notice of your servant’s affliction, remember and not forget me, and give your servant a son, I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and his hair will never be cut.” (1 Samuel 1:11, CSB)*

1. What has brought you the most joy over the last few years?
  
2. When has God led you into a time of disappointment before granting your heart’s desire?
  
3. What does it mean that “God is sovereign”? How have you found great comfort in the sovereignty of God?
  
4. What is so painful about the words at the end of verse 2?
  
5. What “aids to answered prayers” does Hannah show us?
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  
6. Take a few minutes to record a prayer of how God has been with you in a time of desperation.

*“Identify the deep, God-sized desire of your heart. Ask God for it persistently, earnestly, and honestly with fasting until you get a response.”*

- Dave Earley

## **PRAYER 6:**

### **I HAVE SINNED: *The Prayer of David***

*“David responded to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” Then Nathan replied to David, “And the LORD has taken away your sin; you will not die.” (2 Samuel 12:13, CSB)*

1. Read 2 Samuel 12:1-6. Why does Nathan speak to David in a parable?
2. How does David initially respond to the parable? Do you see this response in your life when others have confronted you about personal sin?
3. How does our pride and arrogance get in the way of our praying this prayer, “I have sinned”?
4. What is so encouraging about 2 Samuel 12:13?
5. Slowly read these promises, and spend some time thanking God for His mercy.

*Isaiah 1:18; Isaiah 43:25; Isaiah 55:7; 1 John 1:9; Micah 7:18-19; Psalm 103:11-12; Psalm 32:1-2, 5; Psalm 51.*

6. Take a few minutes to pray the prayer of David. Confess your sins to God, and ask for His mercy and forgiveness. He wants to provide it.

*“Guilt is horrible, hideous, terrible, and terrifying. Yet, God is merciful. He does not abandon us to be swallowed in the cesspool of our guilt. Instead, He pursues us. His Spirit haunts us. His Word hunts us down and speaks to us.”*

- Dave Earley

## PRAYER 7:

### ENLARGE MY TERRITORY: *The Prayer of Jabez*

*“Jabez called out to the God of Israel: “If only you would bless me, extend my border, let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm, so that I will not experience pain.” And God granted his request.” (1 Chronicles 4:10, CSB)*

1. Have you ever had a gnawing hunger and restless burden of wanting to do more and be more for God? Explain.
  
2. How does God summarize the entire life of Jabez?
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  
3. What were the four requests of Jabez’s prayer?
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  
4. Why should we not feel guilty about asking God to “enlarge our territories”?
  
5. What must be the motive of asking God to “enlarge our territories”?
  
6. What is the danger in asking God to “enlarge our territories”?

*“When we ask for more territory, we are tapping into the heart of Jesus, whose heart was so large it encompassed the whole world.”*

- Dave Earley

**PRAYER 8:**  
**GIVE ME WISDOM: *The Prayer of Solomon***

*“Now grant me wisdom and knowledge so that I may lead these people, for who can judge this great people of yours?” (2 Chronicles 1:10, CSB)*

1. If you could ask God for anything, and you know He’d provide it, what would you ask Him for?
2. In response to question 1, Where would wisdom fall on your list of what you would ask God for?
3. Why do you believe Solomon asked for wisdom?
4. How is wisdom different from knowledge?
5. Why is wisdom so important to walking with Christ in the world?
6. Where in your life do you need the wisdom of God? Take a minute to ask Him for it.

*“Give me wisdom” is one of the most effective prayers found in the pages of Scripture, and one God loves to answer.*

- Dave Earley

## **PRAYER 9:**

### **ANSWER ME: *The Prayer of Elijah***

*“Answer me, LORD! Answer me so that this people will know that you, the LORD, are God and that you have turned their hearts back.” (1 Kings 18:37, CSB)*

1. Explain a time when you desperately needed an answer from God in prayer.
2. In your own words, explain what is happening in 1 Kings 18:21-37.
3. Do you believe that our prayers can be too complex, over complicated? How so?
4. What is the beauty in Elijah’s prayer?
5. How does the simplicity of Elijah’s prayer demonstrate His faith in the Lord?
6. Take a minute to God to do the impossible in your life, and believe that He can.

*“Nothing is too big, too hard, or too complicated for Him. He is the God over all. He can send fire from heaven in answer to prayer. He can deliver a hot-water bottle and doll to the Congo on exactly the right day.”*

- Dave Earley

**PRAYER 10:**  
**DELIVER US: *The Prayer of Hezekiah***

*“Now, LORD our God, please save us from his power so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you, LORD, are God—you alone.” (2 Kings 19:19, CSB)*

1. Are you a worrier? Do you have a hard time praying because you find yourself worrying?
2. In verses 1-4, what is Hezekiah worried about? What is his antidote to worry?
3. How does this correlate with Philippians 4:4-7?
4. What was the goal of Hezekiah’s desire to be delivered?
5. What two things does Exodus 14:14 encourage us in regard to this prayer?
  - 1.
  - 2.
6. Read Psalm 91. List two encouragements in regard to God’s deliverance of His people.
  - 1.
  - 2.
7. Where do you need God’s deliverance today? Ask for it – it’s available!

*“Only God knows what evil awaits you today. You don’t need to face it alone. God fights many battles for us, especially when we ask Him to deliver us. Make “Deliver us” one of your daily prayers.”*

- Dave Earley

## **PRAYER 11:**

### **HELP US: *The Prayer of Asa***

*“Then Asa cried out to the LORD his God: “LORD, there is no one besides you to help the mighty and those without strength. Help us, LORD our God, for we depend on you, and in your name we have come against this large army. LORD, you are our God. Do not let a mere mortal hinder you.”*  
(2 Chronicles 14:11, CSB)

1. Describe a moment recently in your life when you needed the Lord’s help.
2. Do you find it easy or difficult to ask God for help? Explain your answer.
3. Read 2 Chronicles 14:1-10. What was going well in Asa’s life? What happens in verse 9-10?
4. What was Asa’s response in 2 Chronicles 14:11?
5. What three components of effective prayer can we learn from Asa?
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
6. How did God answer Asa’s prayer? See 2 Chronicles 14:12-15.
7. What is the common word in each of these passages from the Psalms?

*Psalm 46:1-2, Psalm 121:1-2, Psalm 38:22, Psalm 40:13, Psalm 56:9, Psalm 70:1, Psalm 79:9, Psalm 124:8.*

*“Do you need help today? Ask God. He’s listening, He’s able, and He’s willing.”*

- Dave Earley

## **PRAYER 12:**

### **GRANT ME FAVOR: *The Prayer of Nehemiah***

*“Please, Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant and to that of your servants who delight to revere your name. Give your servant success today, and grant him compassion in the presence of this man. At the time, I was the king’s cupbearer.” (Nehemiah 1:11, CSB)*

1. Have you ever been somewhere, yet longed to be somewhere else? Explain.
2. Why was Nehemiah so concerned about being in Jerusalem?
3. How does Nehemiah open his prayer in Chapter 1, Verse 5?
4. Why are praise and perspective so important when we pray?
5. How does Nehemiah continue his prayer in Verses 6-7?
6. How does Nehemiah’s prayers often differ from our prayers?
7. How did God respond to Nehemiah’s prayer? (See Nehemiah 2)

*“Who needs to grant you favor if you are to carry out your ministry? With whom do you need favor if you are going to be able to follow God’s heart? “Grant me favor” is one prayer we may need to use often. Start praying it now, and see what God can do for you.”*

- Dave Earley

## **PRAYER 13:**

### **STRENGTHEN MY HANDS: *The Prayer of Nehemiah***

*“For they were all trying to intimidate us, saying, “They will drop their hands from the work, and it will never be finished.” But now, my God, strengthen my hands.” (Nehemiah 6:9, CSB)*

1. How does it feel to have a rumor be spread about you or someone you care about?
2. How does it feel to have someone oppose you because of your faith in God? Explain a time when you have been made fun of or ridiculed for your faith.
3. What is remarkable about Nehemiah’s prayer in Nehemiah 6:9 in regard to his enemies?
4. Describe a time when you have needed the strength of the Lord.
5. Why is it so important to ask for God’s strength in times of great need?
6. Why is it difficult to rely on God’s strength rather than our own strength?

*“God can give you all the strength you will ever need. Ask Him for it.”*

- Dave Earley

## **PRAYER 14:**

### **SEND ME: *Isaiah's Response to God's Call***

*"Then I heard the voice of the Lord asking: Who should I send? Who will go for us? I said: Here I am. Send me." (Isaiah 6:8, CSB)*

1. How does being called into the principal's, dean's, or your boss's office make you feel?
2. What does the death of King Uzziah mean for the Israelites?
3. How has God shown up in moments of great instability in your life?
4. What do we learn about God in verses 2-3?
5. What do we learn about ourselves in verse 5?
6. Explain a time when you have felt a deep call from God to go somewhere to serve Him.
7. Do you believe God delights in sending His people? Why or why not?

*"I wonder what God has in store for you today. I am curious as to what adventure He may want to send you on, if you are willing to go. Ask God to send you today, and be ready for an adventure that will make a difference in people's lives."*

- Dave Earley

**PRAYER 15:**  
**SAVE US: *The Prayer of the Disciples***

*“So the disciples came and woke him up, saying, “Lord, save us! We’re going to die!” (Matthew 8:25, CSB)*

1. When you were a child, where did you go to hide from thunderstorms?
2. Describe how you have felt in the midst of a storm in your life.
3. Is your natural tendency to run toward Christ or away from Christ in the midst of the storms of life?
4. How did the disciples initially react to the storm in Matthew 8:23-25? Why were they afraid?
5. What is so important about the reality that the disciples did not mention the storm to Jesus?
6. Is it possible for storms to come even when we are doing all the right things? Explain.
7. What lessons can we take away from this story in Matthew 8?
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  - 5.
  - 6.

*“No one is immune to the storms of life. Even if you are doing all the right things and headed in the right direction, storms will find you. The question is not if you will face them, but how you will respond.”*

- Dave Earley

## **PRAYER 16:**

### **HAVE MERCY ON US: *The Prayer of the Blind Men***

*“As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!” (Matthew 9:27, CSB)*

1. Read Matthew 9:27-31. What stands out to you in this story?
2. How do the blind men in this story show faith in Jesus?
3. Do you remember the moment your eyes were opened to the Gospel for the very first time? How did you feel?
4. Where do you need a miracle in your life today?
5. How has God shown you mercy?
6. How did David, in Psalm 51, ask for God’s mercy to be on him?
7. Who in your life has experienced, or is experiencing physical affliction? Have you prayed or could you pray this prayer over them? Do it, now!

*“I don’t know the nature or extent of your physical affliction. But I do know that God can’t answer your prayer if you don’t pray. Go ahead and ask. Pray, “Have mercy on me.” Give God a chance to answer. And when He does, give Him the glory.”*

- Dave Earley

## PRAYER 17:

### LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY: *The Prayer of the Disciples*

*“He was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John also taught his disciples.” (Luke 11:1, CSB)*

1. Recite a prayer that you recited often as a child.
2. What is the funniest prayer you have ever heard a child pray?
3. How does busyness get in the way of our prayer lives?
4. What motivates the disciples to ask Jesus to teach them to pray?
5. What is the roadmap for prayer that Jesus gives the disciples? (v2-4)
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  - 5.
  - 6.
6. Why is it important to be intentional about when we'll pray, how long we'll pray, and where we will pray?
  1. My prayer time: \_\_\_\_\_
  2. My prayer place: \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Length of time to pray: \_\_\_\_\_
  4. My prayer partner: \_\_\_\_\_

*“Spend some time in prayer asking God to help you do your part so you can grow as much as possible as a person of prayer. You're too busy NOT to pray.”*

- Dave Earley

## **PRAYER 18:**

### **LORD, HELP ME: *The Prayer of a Desperate Mother***

*“But she came, knelt before him, and said, “Lord, help me!” (Matthew 15:25, CSB)*

1. What is the farthest distance you have ever walked? For what did you walk that distance?
2. What do we learn about the woman in Matthew 15:21-28?
3. How might you imagine it feels to be a desperate parent praying for your hurting child?
4. How did Jesus respond to the mother in verse 23?
5. Explain a time when you have experienced the thundering silence of God.
6. How can a simple prayer such as, “Lord, Help me..” be so powerful?
7. What lessons can we learn from this desperate mom?
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
8. How does this story end in verse 28?

*“Learn to pray the prayer of the desperate mother for her daughter, “Lord, help me.” If you do not yet have children, begin now to pray for the children that you may have in your future.”*

- Dave Earley

**PRAYER 19:**  
**INCREASE OUR FAITH: *The Prayer of the Disciples***

*“The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith.” (Luke 17:5, CSB)*

1. Why is faith so important to our walk with Christ?
2. What do you believe is the definition of faith? What does Hebrews 11:1 say the definition of faith is?
3. What does Jesus say that faith in God can accomplish in these verses?
  - Matthew 8:5-13
  - Matthew 9:2
  - Matthew 9:23, 29
  - Luke 17:6
  - Matthew 17:18-21
  - Mark 9:23
4. How did Jesus answer the prayer of the disciples to “increase their faith”?
5. Where do you need to pray this prayer in your life asking God to “increase your faith”?
6. What do we need to keep in mind when praying this prayer?

*Faith is a choice. God can provide the reasons to believe, but belief is ultimately our choice.*

- Dave Earley

## PRAYER 20:

### GOD, HAVE MERCY ON ME, A SINNER: *The Prayer of the Tax Collector*

*“But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even raise his eyes to heaven but kept striking his chest and saying, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner!’” (Luke 18:13, CSB)*

1. In school, were you in the “in” crowd, or the “out” crowd? How did being apart of one or the other make you feel?
  
2. List some of the differences between the Pharisee and the Tax Collector in this parable. (Luke 18:9-14)
  
3. What type of demeanor or posture pleases God?
  
4. Why did the Pharisee’s prayer turn out to be ineffective?
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  - 5.
  
5. What made the Tax Collector’s prayer effective?
  
6. How does God feel about pride? (James 4:6) How does God feel about humility? (Luke 18:14)

*“Lose any trace of arrogance, pretense, self-righteousness, self-centeredness, and self-sufficiency as you approach life in general and prayer in particular. Live and pray with humility, honesty, and modesty. Come dependently to God in prayer. Learn to tell Him what you really need.”*

- Dave Earley

## **PRAYER 21:**

### **FATHER, FORGIVE THEM: *The Prayer of Jesus***

*“Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided his clothes and cast lots.” (Luke 23:34, CSB)*

1. What is so powerful about this request from Jesus to the Father?
2. Read Luke 23:1-34. Make note of anything that stands out to you as you read.
3. How does this prayer, “Father, forgive them,” sum up Jesus’ reason for life on this earth?
4. How does the Cross often become “commonplace” in our Christian circles?
5. What is the importance of thinking deeply and often upon the Cross?
6. Why is it so important that we as believers forgive others as Christ has forgiven us?
7. Whom do you need to forgive? Go ahead, forgive much, as you have been forgiven much.

*“Life is too short to be shackled with the ball and chain of an unforgiving heart. Our response to an offense determines our future.”*

- Dave Earley