

WMU of Texas
Missional Disciple-Making Bible Study



SURRENDERED PRAYER

Praying Under the Sovereignty of God

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BIBLE STUDY

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INTRODUCTION

Teri Ussery is a wife, mom, and “Gigi” to five grandchildren. Teri has a passion for sharing the transformative power of God’s Word. Her heart for discipling others has led her to teach Bible studies and speak at women’s events and conferences for over four decades. Teri holds a Master’s in Theology from Dallas Baptist University and serves as the Adult and Young Adult Strategist for WMU of Texas in Dallas, Texas.



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INTRODUCTION

What is Your Mission in Life?

How has God called you to live as a Christ-follower? What is His challenge for your life's journey?

Some question why God doesn't immediately dispatch us to heaven when we become a Christ-follower. Why would He leave us here on this fallen earth to endure the hardships and trials this life brings?

Jesus provides the answer as He tells His disciples, who are being left behind, that they are to bring the Gospel message to the lost. What we call the **Great Commission**.

“And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

MATTHEW 28:19-20

We are commissioned to make disciples of Jesus. He leaves us with the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish the task of bringing others into a saving faith, and then discipling them in how to live out the Christ-life.

To learn more about WMU of Texas and national WMU's missions disciple-making curriculum for all ages, visit wmutx.org/resources.

To download our mentoring resources and missional disciple-making Bible studies, visit wmutx.org/mentoring.

The Principles of Missional Disciple-Making

WMU of Texas has created Bible studies to help you on your disciple-making journey. We hope to equip you in the following ways to accomplish the task for which God has called you.

Consider the following four foundational principles as you begin your disciple-making experience.

MISSION

Luke shares the departing words of Jesus before He ascended to the Father, leaving His followers to consider His mandate.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

Jesus assured His followers that the power coming of the indwelling Holy Spirit would surely compel them to be His Witness. He instructed all Christ-followers to be on mission to share the Gospel locally, regionally, and to the ends of the earth.

MENTORING

While the mandate to share the Gospel with the whole world seems overwhelming, we are also given instructions for how we are to fulfill such a great command. The writer of Proverbs gives us a hint.

“As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.”

Proverbs 27:17

This Proverb refocuses our disciple-making. Here, we are encouraged to build relationships one by one. We are instructed to sharpen each other as we invest in missional relationships through mentoring. So the question becomes, *whose life are you pouring into? Who are you discipling?*

METAMORPHOSIS

What is the purpose of disciple-making? Paul tells us that our goal in disciple-making is to equip and encourage another to realize the heart-transformation God longs to bring.

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Romans 12:1-2

The purpose of our investment in others is to bring about transformation. We derive the word “metamorphosis” from the Greek word for transformation, which is best seen in the life cycle of the caterpillar. Metamorphosis allows realization of the full potential within the caterpillar to become a butterfly.

Our goal of investing in the lives of others through mentoring relationships is to lead them to experience a true transformation, becoming the person God has created them to be.

MULTIPLICATION

The result of the transformation we experience is the need to share our transformation with others. The Great Commission tells us clearly:

“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20

Much like His departing words in Acts 1:8, Matthew records Jesus' command that, as we are going about our daily lives, we are to be about His business of disciple-making. He empowers and equips, but we become the hands, feet, and mouth of Jesus to invest in disciple-making. We are to teach others to obey His commands and baptize others into His Kingdom, until the very end of the age.

May you find Christ and His purpose for YOU as you walk this missional disciple-making journey.

Getting Started

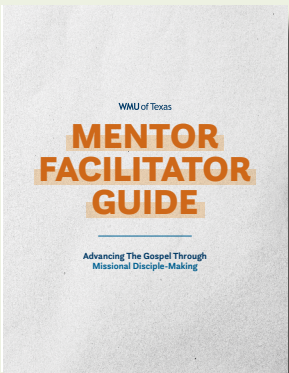
As you begin your journey, either solo, with another person, or in a small group, here are some next steps to help you get started.

You will find five missional disciple-making resources that will help you on your disciple-making journey at wmutx.org/mentoring. You may start with any of the five. There is no anticipated order to the studies. You will find that they all equip you in specific ways to be a missional disciple-maker.

As you embark on your study, consider that God may want you to invite someone else to join you. Feel free to study on your own, but allow space for God to show you others whom you could encourage through the study as well.



Scan to
download the
Mentoring Guide
for Leaders.



MISSIONAL DISCIPLE-MAKING BIBLE STUDIES

Here is an overview of the five spiritual practices you will experience in each Bible study to equip you as a missional disciple-maker.

Each Bible study includes a Bible passage, a short commentary, and a practical tool to help you practice what you have learned. Download at wmutx.org/mentoring

Bible Study	Goal	Application
SURRENDERED PRAYER <i>Matthew 6:9-13,</i> <i>Luke 11:1-4</i>	To deepen intimacy with God and submit every aspect of life to His will.	Learning to use God’s Word to pray.
READ THE BIBLE & APPLY IT <i>2 Timothy 3:16-17,</i> <i>James 1:22</i>	To renew one’s mind and gain wisdom for living in His truth.	To study God’s Word and put it into practice.
PRAYING FOR OTHERS <i>1 Timothy 2:1-4,</i> <i>Colossians 4:2-4</i>	To partner with God in intercession, asking for His work in the lives of others.	Identify people to pray for and include them in your daily prayer time.
SHARE YOUR FAITH <i>Matthew 28:19-20,</i> <i>Romans 10:14-15</i>	To boldly and lovingly proclaim the hope and salvation found in Jesus Christ.	Practice sharing your testimony and the Gospel with others.
GATHER IN COMMUNITY <i>Hebrews 10:24-25,</i> <i>Acts 2:42-47</i>	To grow as disciples within the Body of Christ and be equipped for missional living.	Gathering with other believers for worship, study, fellowship, and service.

How To Use This Study

As you step into each of these Bible studies, you will implement a method of study easily remembered by its acronym: SOAP.

SOAP OVERVIEW

Sometimes studying God's Word can be overwhelming and intimidating at best. However, Jesus tells us in *John 14:26* that the "Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."

As a Christ-follower, you have the Holy Spirit teacher within you to help you understand and apply God's Word. Sometimes it just helps for us to have a structure within which to work.

There are a number of different study methods. The method we will use is the SOAP Method. It provides a framework to read the scripture, observe what the text says, apply the scripture personally, and pray for God to speak through His Word.



SCRIPTURE

Read the passage out loud or write it down. Read it slowly and thoroughly for context.



OBSERVE

What does the passage say?

Read the passage again, focusing on observation. You might ask the who, what, where, when, why, and how questions as you observe. Note key details like repeated words, people involved, locations, and major events. Journal your observations.



APPLY

What does the passage mean to me?

Read the passage again and consider how it applies to your life. This step answers, *"How does this passage apply to my life?"* As you journal, ask yourself if any of the things you see in the passage apply to a current situation or struggle in your life.



PRAY

Ask God to speak clearly through His Word and guide you as you seek to live out the truths you learned from the passage.

A Note on Bible Study Translations

The Bible, originally written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek, has been translated into English many times. This study will primarily use the New International Version (NIV). But reading the same passage of Scripture from more than one translation can be a helpful study tool. You can find a variety of translations on a Bible app or websites such as biblegateway.com.

BIBLE STUDY

JESUS' TEACHING ON PRAYER

PASSAGE 1: LUKE 11:1-4

¹ One 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.”

² He said to them, “When you pray, say:

“Father,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ Forgive us our sins,
for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.
And lead us not into temptation.”

PASSAGE 2: MATTHEW 6:9-13

“This, then, is how you should pray:

**“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,**

**¹⁰ your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.

**¹² And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.**

**¹³ And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.’**



SCRIPTURE

SURRENDERED PRAYER

Praying Under the Sovereignty of God

By: Rev. Jade Evans

It may seem strange to introduce a Bible study on Surrendered Prayer. But we see throughout scripture the powerful impact of intentional, directed, Spirit-led prayer.

The Old Testament shares stories of the power of prayer being the catalyst that moved the heart of God to free His people from Egyptian captivity. We find battles won by miraculous means as warriors prayed.

The New Testament shares stories of healing from disease, restoration of sight for the blind, and unusable limbs restored. People were freed from demonic possession, and even the dead were brought back to life. Early believers observed the incredible power of prayer.

The disciples who walked with Jesus and experienced His activity in the lives of others observed the power and priority of prayer in the Master's life.

Scripture gives us a glimpse into the power of prayer through the life and ministry of Jesus.

Certainly, the disciples witnessed many, many miracles. But the only recorded "how to" question the disciples asked Jesus was simple. **They asked Him how to pray.** They had a front row seat to not only what Jesus did, but how He spent time alone, in prayer.

Come alongside the disciples and observe what Jesus taught them about prayer.



Read Luke 11:1-2a

"One 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.' He said to them, 'When you pray, say...'"

Read Matthew 6:9a

"This, then, is how you should pray..."



OBSERVE

WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE SAY?

What did the disciples ask Jesus to teach them?



APPLY

PRACTICING SURRENDERED PRAYER

Why do you think the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray?

In a military scenario, when an army surrenders, it means that they will no longer resist the advances of a power greater than themselves, ultimately accepting and submitting to its authority. After measuring one's casualties, resources, and competitive advantages, surrendering is the decision to put an end to the battle, thereby stopping the chaos of death and destruction that war has wrought.

Surrendering involves waving a white flag to signal a ceasefire; in playground terms, it is the calling of a "truce." In certain cases, surrendering entails relinquishing one's weapons or even turning oneself over to a greater power. Often, the surrendering party must raise their hands while kneeling to demonstrate without any doubt that they are no longer engaged in combat. Military surrender provides a valuable analogy for understanding the importance of surrendered prayer.

When we practice surrendered prayer, we make it abundantly clear that we wholly submit and accept the sovereignty of our good and perfect God. We may outstretch our hands in praise, weep with joy, or kneel in reverence, showing God that we no longer are at war with His purpose for our lives. Surrendered prayer is the overflow of a surrendered life, a life where we are no longer "enemies of God," fighting against God's

will. Instead, we have been reconciled to God through faith in Jesus Christ (*Romans 5:10*). Just as military surrender requires an admission of weakness, acquiescence to a greater power, and an appeal for mercy, surrendered prayer involves accepting God's merciful help and recognizing just how weak we are apart from God's power.

For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

Romans 5:10

Scripture provides us with a model for surrendering in prayer.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus presents a prayer to His disciples as a succinct and genuine alternative to lengthy, insincere prayers.

The Gospel of Luke reveals Jesus responding to His disciples' earnest desire to learn how to pray in a manner pleasing to God using the same prayer.

While there are some minor differences between these two versions, one thing is certain: **Jesus used this prayer to provide particular instructions on how His disciples must pray.**

Before death on a Roman cross, resurrection from the grave, and ascension to God the Father's right side, Jesus made a point of teaching His disciples what we now call The Lord's Prayer. The Lord's Prayer can serve as a didactic tool for practicing surrendered prayer.

Contemporary Christians globally incorporate The Lord's Prayer in church services, private prayers, and before family meals. However, some limit their engagement with this prayer to mere recitation.

Often, Christians may approach The Lord's Prayer as an automatic, memorized script, or worse, a superficial display of spirituality, rather than utilizing it to reorient and revive their entire prayer life.

Perhaps the reason why many skip drawn-out reflection on this prayer is that The Lord's Prayer reveals four areas of "self" that Christians must surrender to God: *self-centeredness, self-dependence, self-righteousness, and self-indulgence*.

This discussion guide will invite reflection on each part of The Lord's Prayer and foster discussion that addresses these four barriers to surrendered prayer.

Discussion:

How would you describe surrendered prayer in your own words?

How does “self” get in the way of totally surrendering to God?



PRAY

Father, we come before you with the same request Jesus' disciples asked of Him. Teach us to pray. Teach us to seek You, rather than answers. Teach us to come to You as the source for all we need. Teach us the power that can only come when we spend time connected to you, privately and without distractions. Let us be willing to lay aside our own intentions and desires, and be open to hear from You. Thank you, Lord, that You walk alongside us, longing to equip us for Your work. Let us be open and obedient to Your instruction as we abide in You. Amen.



SCRIPTURE

SURRENDER SELF-CENTEREDNESS



Re-Read Scriptures

“Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come...”

LUKE 11:2B

*“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven...”*

MATTHEW 6:9B-10



OBSERVE

WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE SAY?

What does this passage reveal about the name of God?

What is the meaning of “hallowed”?



APPLY

WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE MEAN TO ME?

How does an understanding of this description of God's name inform how you pray to Him?

Jesus' instructional prayer reminds us to pray with a childlike posture of humility, adoration, and reverence. Addressing God as "Father," and declaring before God that His name be "hallowed," or made holy, Jesus encourages his disciples to pray like a respectful and awe-stricken child talking to an adored parent. This power dynamic is not one of abuse. Rather, it speaks to our status as children of God and our station as God's created beings. The possessive adjective, "Our," in Matthew's version demonstrates that prayers must demonstrate an awareness of one's place within a greater community.

Matthew and Luke are the Gospels with the most references to the Kingdom of God. Jesus spreads the message of the Kingdom, or reign, of God as both present (*Luke 17:20*) and future (*Matthew 5:20; Luke 9:62*). He understood His mission, message, and miracles as the present revelation of the coming reign of God.

Reflect:

"Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed,"

LUKE 17:20

"For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

MATTHEW 5:20

"Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

LUKE 9:62

Discuss:

What can we say or do to focus on God and others during our prayer time?

In what areas of your life would it be helpful to pray “your will be done”?



PRAY

Father, if our prayers are solely for and about ourselves, we have not fully surrendered to your will and ways, because your disciples are known by how they love one another and serve the least of these (John 13:35; Matthew 25:40). Help us, Lord, to put you and others before ourselves. We surrender self-centeredness to you. Instead, we pray “Your kingdom come” and “Your will be done” to show you that we completely submit to your redemptive plan for us, prioritizing it over self-made plans. Amen.



SCRIPTURE

SURRENDER SELF-DEPENDENCE



Re-Read Scriptures

“...Give us each day our daily bread...”

LUKE 11:3

“...Give us today our daily bread...”

MATTHEW 6:11



OBSERVE

WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE SAY?

What specifically does this verse reveal about provision?



APPLY

WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE MEAN TO ME?

How does this verse challenge your prayer for personal provision?

While the first section of The Lord's Prayer focuses on reverent submission to God, this next part deals with how to supplicate God for human needs. Bread or food is a human necessity; we need sustenance for bodily survival. We also need Jesus, "the bread of Life," for spiritual nourishment (*John 6:35*). Jesus not only suggests that we must submit to God before making needs-based requests of God, but He also brings attention to the dependency and trust we must place in God for all of our needs.

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

John 6:35

Discuss:

What daily needs have you found it difficult to trust God for?

What does a focus on human needs, not desires, suggest about surrendered prayer?



PRAY

Father, you are Jehovah Jireh, our provider. We need your provision every day. We surrender self-sufficiency and self-dependent habits. Instead, we depend on you daily for everything we need. Amen.



SCRIPTURE

SURRENDER SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS



Re-Read Scriptures

*“...Forgive us our sins,
for we also forgive everyone who sins against us...”*

LUKE 11:4A

*“...And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors...”*

MATTHEW 6:12



OBSERVE

WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE SAY?

What do you observe about forgiveness from this verse?



APPLY

WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE MEAN TO ME?

Consider how you personally deal with forgiveness. How does this verse challenge your understanding of forgiveness?

What do you learn about your role in forgiving others?

The teachings of Jesus make it clear that all individuals are guilty of sin. His guidance on forgiveness in the Gospels emphasizes that we should forgive others because God has forgiven us. This part of the prayer encourages us to extend the same grace and mercy that we have received through faith in Jesus Christ. Forgiveness is hard. However, if God can forgive us for our transgressions and actions displeasing to Him, then we too should be willing to forgive others when they have done something wrong. Thus, He prays, “Forgive us...as we also forgive...”

Discuss:

What does forgiveness look and feel like?

What does it *not* look and feel like?

How does self-righteousness get in the way of forgiveness?



PRAY

Lord, we surrender self-righteousness to you. Instead, we accompany every request we make for your forgiveness with a humble commitment to forgive others. We recognize that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Amen.



SCRIPTURE

SURRENDER SELF-GRATIFICATION



Re-Read Scriptures

“...And lead us not into temptation.”

LUKE 11:1-4

*“...And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.”*

MATTHEW 6:9-13



OBSERVE

WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE SAY?

What is the topic of this verse?

What do you learn about the evil one?



APPLY

WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE MEAN TO ME?

How does this verse challenge you when you consider temptation?

How can you use this verse to encourage you as you encounter temptation?

In many Christian traditions, recitations of The Lord's Prayer end with "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen," which is based on the King James Version of God's Word. Translations that more closely align with the original Greek language of the Biblical text reveal that Jesus' prayer ended with an abrupt request for God to avert temptation and deliver from evil. Jesus underscores how Christians must not be naïve about the ever-presence of temptation and evil; "Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour" (*1 Peter 5:8*). All it takes is bad news, a bad day, or bad company to produce spiritual regression in any Christian. Christians must never reach a point where they believe themselves to be beyond temptation.

11 And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.

2 And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.

3 Give us day by day our daily bread.

4 And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

LUKE 11:1-4, KJV

Discuss:

What does the KJV ending of The Lord's Prayer add to the overall message of the prayer?

How does awareness of our spiritual enemy encourage surrendered prayer?



PRAY

Father, we trust you to not lead us astray. We surrender to you self-gratification, and refuse to give in to temptation and evil. We reject the enemy's schemes, knowing that victory over sin comes from the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit that you've given us. Amen.

NEXT STEPS

The Lord's Prayer provides a powerful outline, teaching us how to pray. The disciples certainly observed the power that Jesus' time away, praying alone to the Father produced.

As you consider your own prayer journey, let this prayer of Jesus help you as you spend time with Him. The elements of prayer all find their place of importance in Jesus' prayer, and can help you on your journey to become a stronger disciple of His.

Perhaps this study has challenged you to be more intentional in how you approach prayer.

ADDITIONAL BIBLE STUDIES & RESOURCES



Ready to continue your disciple-making journey? Explore our other Bible studies and mentoring resources available at wmutx.org/mentoring. These resources provide valuable guidance and support for deepening your faith and helping others grow in theirs.

Bible Study	Goal	Application
SURRENDERED PRAYER <i>Matthew 6:9-13,</i> <i>Luke 11:1-4</i>	To deepen intimacy with God and submit every aspect of life to His will.	Learning to use God's Word to pray.
READ THE BIBLE & APPLY IT <i>2 Timothy 3:16-17,</i> <i>James 1:22</i>	To renew one's mind and gain wisdom for living in His truth.	To study God's Word and put it into practice.
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GATHER IN COMMUNITY <i>Hebrews 10:24-25,</i> <i>Acts 2:42-47</i>	To grow as disciples within the Body of Christ and be equipped for missional living.	Gathering with other believers for worship, study, fellowship, and service.