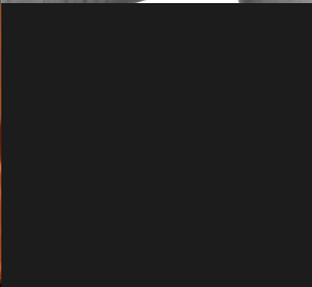


Listen, as  
Jesus  
Prays ...



"Blessed are those who listen to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance"  
Proverbs 1:5

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## Listen, as Jesus prays ... prayers of praise

### Connect

1. What situations have you been in where you have felt praise well up inside you? What was it that prompted that and what did you do?



2. Have you been in a situation where others were praising God but you did not feel like joining in?

### Discover

#### Read Matthew 11:20–26 and Luke 10:17–21

3. What are the circumstances of these prayers? What has just happened and how has Jesus reacted? Does his reaction surprise you?
4. What does his prayer reveal about what Jesus knows about God?

#### Read Hebrews 2:10–13

5. In this quotation from Psalm 22:22 Jesus is talking to His Father. What is he saying? Why does he declare his intentions aloud? Remember this is Jesus before his incarnation.

6. What does this say about praying together with others?
7. Is there a difference between prayers of praise using our speech and singing praises? If so what? If not, why not?

### Apply

8. List as many of the attributes of God that you can think of. Pick two or three and discuss how meditating on this characteristic would help you to praise God.
9. What else helps you to praise God? Think broadly here, there is no silly answer.
10. When do you find it easiest to praise? When is it harder?

### At home

Choose one of the attributes of God you discussed earlier. At home look up the Bible reference (if you don't already know it). Memorise it and stick it up somewhere you will see it throughout the week. Every time you see it, allow it to prompt a reaction of praise to God. Be ready to come back next week and share any stories of this.

## Listen, as Jesus prays ... prayers of surrender

### Connect

1. Share any stories of your experiences of praise this week.
2. Which areas of your life do you have control over? Which areas does someone else have control over?



### Discover

#### Read Hebrews 10:5–7

3. What does Jesus recognise that God has provided for him? What does He not desire and what is Jesus' response? See also **Micah 6:8**
4. What is Jesus' attitude towards his physical body and his purpose on earth?
5. How does this compare to the way you see your own physical body and purpose on earth?

#### Read Mark 14:32–42 and Matthew 26:39–46

6. What is the struggle that Jesus has? What is he thinking/feeling?

7. Why does Jesus submit to His Father? **John 14:31** and **Hebrews 12:3** may help.

### Apply

8. What is your understanding of "will"?
9. What do we already know of what God's will is?
10. What helps you to surrender to God's will? Is it possible to be partially surrendered?
11. Is there a big desire you have for your future? Are you willing to surrender it? What if God says no?

### At home

Ask God to show areas of your life where you are not submitted to his will. You may want to look back at your answers to question 2. Are you willing to surrender them?

# Listen, as Jesus prays ... for others

## Connect

1. Spend a few minutes discussing anything that God has said to you this week about surrender.
2. If you could only ask God for one thing for someone else, what would it be?



## Discover

### Read Luke 22:31-32 and John 17:6-26

3. What does Jesus pray for? Make a list.
4. Why do you think there is no mention of health, wealth, happiness or even physical safety? Does this mean he doesn't want us to have these blessings?
5. What does his prayer reveal of
  - what he wants most for people?
  - what he knows about God?

6. Jesus has great confidence in his prayers. What confidence do we have in approaching the Father? See **John 11:41-42**.

### Read Hebrews 7:25 and 1 John 2:1

7. Who and what is Jesus' praying for here?
8. Why is he still praying for others in heaven?
9. How often do you pray for others? How does what you pray for compare to the things Jesus prays for others? Look back at your answer to Question 2.

## Apply

10. How do you feel when you know others are praying for you? How do you feel knowing Jesus is praying for you?
11. What helps you remember to pray for others?
12. How many prayers for others can you think of that are recorded in the Bible? (Paul's letters in the New Testament are a good place to look.) Read one or two of them aloud together inserting the names of people you want to pray for.

## At home

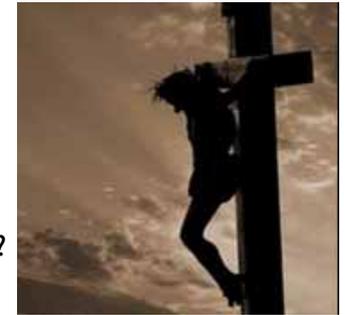
- You may want to make some time to organise your prayer life either by writing a daily list of people to pray for or thinking about praying for different needs on different days. Think about the things that evoke an emotional response in you i.e. what really matters to you? Ask God to give you a burden for something he wants you to pray for. Remember being compelled to pray by the Holy Spirit is very different to feeling you ought to pray about something and then feeling guilty when you don't.
- Listen to David's sermons from the morning services on 18<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March 2012 on John 17. ([www.hrbc.org.uk/talks/](http://www.hrbc.org.uk/talks/))

## Listen, as Jesus prays ...

## on the cross

### Connect

1. How did you get on with your praying this week?
2. Have you ever been in a life threatening situation? What happened?



### Discover

**Read Luke 23:34, Matthew 27:46, John 19 v 30 and Luke 23:46**

3. As you read these verses aloud what do you notice about them?
4. What signs are there of what is on his mind?
5. What do these prayers tell you about what Jesus knows about God? How would a greater awareness and understanding of these attributes of God impact your life?
6. In your experience does intense pain and anguish sharpen and intensify your praying or make it more difficult?

## Apply

7. Try to imagine your death is imminent. What is going through your mind? Do you turn to prayer?
8. Would you be more concerned that God is finding pleasure in you or that you are finding pleasure in God?
9. How could Jesus' example help us approach the process of dying?
10. Do you think it is right to only have these thoughts and pray these prayers when facing death or should we be living our life this way anyway? See Colossians 3:1-3

## At Home

11. **Read Colossians 3:1-3 again.** What do you need to do, say or change to set your heart and your mind on things above?

## Listen, as Jesus prays ...

one to one

### Connect

1. If you feel able, share together anything God has said to you during the week.
2. Get into pairs. Talk to each other at the same time for about 30 seconds. Then try it with one silent and the other talking, then both silent. Which works best? Is silence in itself a form of communication? What does it convey? What are your one to one prayers most like?



### Discover

**Read Mark 1:35–39, Luke 6:12–13, Matthew 14:22–23, Luke 5:12–16**

3. Taking each of these occasions separately discuss:
  - What are the events surrounding these verses?
  - Why does Jesus pray now?
  - What do you think he was praying for?

## Read Luke 9:18–27

4. Jesus is with his disciples. Why do you think he is praying privately rather than with them?
5. What do you think he was praying for?
6. When we pray one to one with Jesus, what happens in heaven, in our hearts and to our day?
7. What can we learn from Jesus' prayer habits for our own prayer lives?

## Apply

8. Share any memories you have of a special time or place where Jesus met you one to one and you knew he was present?
9. When and where are you most likely to pray one to one? Are you alone, with others, in a regular pattern, only in a time of need?
10. **James 4:8, Matthew 7:7–8, 1 Chronicles 28:9, Jeremiah 29:12–13** all talk about God meeting with us when we seek him. Choose one to memorise.

## To Finish

This study completes a series focussing on prayer. What have you been praying for over the last six months?

- Which prayers have been answered how you expected?
- Which ones have been answered in an unexpected way?
- Which ones are you still praying?

For your notes



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