

YOUTH STRATEGY

PRAY

REACH
EVANGELISE
SPIRITUALLY CHALLENGE
ESTABLISH
NOURISH
TRAIN

Colossians 1:9 “For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.”

Prayer must be the basis of all that we do. It's a good idea to be in regular prayer for an unsaved friend who you want to see come into a relationship with Jesus Christ.



PRAY



“We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.”
- Colossians 1:28

PRAY



I believe God always answers prayer.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	I believe God has lost interest in my prayers.
I am regularly thanking and praising God in prayer.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	I only ever seem to ask God for things.
I often pray to God.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Days go by and I never pray.
When God answers my prayer my faith is strengthened.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	When God appears to answer my prayer it is probably coincidence.
I feel comfortable praying publicly.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	I won't pray in public.
My prayer life is really developing.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	My prayer life is really dead.
I will pray for something continually until God gives a clear red or green light.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	I only ever pray for something once.

Why Do We Pray?

Prayer is both natural and unnatural. Throughout the world, prayer is exercised by people of all nationalities. Yet it is often a difficult discipline to engage in. Many struggle to pray while others struggle in prayer.

Prayer is an expression of our relationship with God. It is the means by which we demonstrate our faith in and dependence upon him. When we pray, we ask God to do that which we cannot.

We are created in his image (Genesis 1:26) and as such are able to relate with him. However, that image has been damaged by the fall such that we lost our access to him (Genesis 3:22-23).

Yet, in his great mercy, God has acted through Jesus to restore us (2 Corinthians 3:18; 5:17) and enable access to himself once more (Ephesians 2:18; 1 Peter 3:18).

Having been restored to God, we are not only invited to pray (John 14:13-14) but commanded to do so as well (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Check It Out!

1. What do the following passages reveal about the priority Jesus places on prayer? (Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16; 6:12; 9:18, 28; 18:1)
2. What does Jesus teach about prayer in Matthew 7:7-11?
3. What are some important conditions for answered prayer? (John 15:7; 1 John 5:14-15)

Prayer is the basis of our whole youth ministry strategy. As can be seen from the diagram over the page it is the hub of everything else that we do. We need to be mindful that we are engaged in a spiritual battle when we seek to share the message of Jesus with our friends and so prayer is vital as we depend on the resources of our Lord.

4. What does Paul reveal about his prayers for the Colossians (whom he had never personally met) and the prayers of Epaphras? (Colossians 1:3-12; 4:12-13)
5. How might Paul's request in Colossians 4:2-4 help us to know what to pray about?
6. What does John 16:7-11 reveal about what we should be asking God to do in the life of our unsaved friends?
7. Who will you commit to praying for each day for 1 minute?

Spend some time praying together for the friends you have committed to.

