

**Influence**  
MAGAZINE

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An eight-week study  
for leadership teams



**THE PRAYER LIFE  
OF THE LEADER**

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**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

## The Prayer Life of the Leader

## The Leader's Motive for Prayer

**Assess:** What difference has prayer made in your life as a leader?

**Insights and Ideas**

**A** leader on Jesus' team once made a special request after observing Him in prayer: "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1).

Jesus had a lot to say about prayer. Perhaps His most familiar teaching on this topic is from the Sermon on the Mount, in Matthew 6:5–13. This passage doesn't begin with a 1-2-3 formula. Instead, Jesus first told His disciples how *not* to pray. These opening words provide a motive check and an important warning, especially for those in leadership.

Jesus said, "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him" (Matthew 6:5–8).

When Jesus said, "close the door," He was referring to the inner room of a home. It was a private room, unobservable from the street. Some even considered it a private chamber where a person might retire for the night. In other words, prayer is about intimacy, not publicity; it's about privacy, not pride; it's relational, not transactional.

Jesus' opening instructions on prayer are clear: The way you pray is as important as the words you pray. The motive behind your prayers is more important than the subject matter of your prayers.

In leadership, pride and our personal agendas can easily cloud our motives. When tainted motives find their way into a leader's prayers, everything the leader is praying for takes the hit. As a result, what the leader currently has is all the reward he or she will ever have.

God weighs the heart. If we desire to see God do something extraordinary in the people we serve and the organizations we lead, we must begin with humble and authentic motives — even in our prayers. The motives with which we pray make all the difference.

**Reflect and Discuss**

1. Why do you think Jesus emphasized the importance of motives so clearly when He talked about prayer?
2. What strikes you about the Pharisees' motives for praying?
3. When have you found your motive for praying skewed?

**Apply**

Jesus said, "Your Father knows what you need before you ask him." Don't taint your prayers with impure motives or praise-seeking pride. That's how *not* to pray. Instead, let authenticity and humility be the engines that drive your prayers. That's the kind of prayer to which our Heavenly Father responds. Ask the Lord to search your heart and reveal to you any impure motives. Then spend a few moments in confession and repentance.

## The Prayer Life of the Leader

**The Leader's Motive for Prayer**

**Assess:** What difference has prayer made in your life as a leader?

A leader on Jesus' team once made a special request after observing Him in prayer: "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1).

Jesus had a lot to say about prayer. Perhaps His most familiar teaching on this topic is from the Sermon on the Mount, in Matthew 6:5–13. This passage doesn't begin with a 1-2-3 formula. Instead, Jesus first told His disciples how *not* to pray. These opening words provide a motive check and an important warning, especially for those in leadership.

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Jesus' opening instructions on prayer are clear: The \_\_\_\_\_ you pray is as important as the \_\_\_\_\_ you pray. The \_\_\_\_\_ behind your prayers is more important than the \_\_\_\_\_ matter of your prayers.

**Apply**

Jesus said, "Your Father knows what you need before you ask him." Don't taint your prayers with impure motives or praise-seeking pride. That's how *not* to pray. Instead, let authenticity and humility be the engines that drive your prayers. That's the kind of prayer to which our Heavenly Father responds. Ask the Lord to search your heart and reveal to you any impure motives. Then spend a few moments in confession and repentance.

## The Prayer Life of the Leader

## The Leader's Purpose for Prayer

**Team Review:** How did the Lord challenge you as you asked Him to search your motives?

**Assess:** What do you believe is the highest purpose for prayer?

## Insights and Ideas

**A**fter telling His followers how *not* to pray in Matthew 6, Jesus turned a corner with these transforming words: “This, then, is how you should pray.”

I can imagine everyone leaning in to hear what Jesus would say next. Jesus said, “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one” (verses 9–13).

For most of us, prayer is about us, but Jesus begins His prayer teaching by shifting the focus to “our Father in heaven.” From this single verse, we discover that the highest purpose of prayer is a relationship rather than a transaction. Four insights drive home this principle:

1. *We are adopted by Him.* When we call God “our Father,” we recognize our adoption into His family. Many leaders feel driven to perform because they could never satisfy their earthly father’s expectations, but “our Father” gives us the security to lead from a place of acceptance, as His child.
2. *We show affection for Him.* People often see God as a distant, unknowable God, but when Jesus called God “Father,” it was deeply personal and intimate. The point Jesus made was that prayer is more than a laundry list of needs and wants. Prayer is about cultivating affection for God. As author and pastor Gerald Brooks observed, “I can’t let my prayer list become my prayer life.”
3. *We have access to Him.* Jesus said to pray, “Our Father in heaven ... .” Those opening words tell us that we have access to God. Leaders often gain access to people and places because of the influence they carry, but your influence isn’t what gives you access to God. As a member of His family, you have access to your Father.
4. *We exhibit adoration of Him.* Verse 9 concludes, “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.” “Hallowed” means “revered as holy.” In other words, via our relationship with our Heavenly Father, we adore Him and revere Him as the holy God that He is.

If we’re not careful, our prayer lives can become so consumed with what God *does* that we’ll forget who God *is*. Jesus began with adoration of His Father’s name, because prayer, at its core, is relational, not transactional.

## Reflect and Discuss

1. Why are leaders so tempted to make prayer nothing more than a transaction?
2. How does focusing on prayer as a relationship help a leader manage stress?
3. What would it look like practically to focus on prayer as a relationship rather than a transaction?

## Apply

Rather than focusing on your prayer list this week, focus solely on prayer as a way to get to know God. Let relationship take precedence over your requests.

The Prayer Life of the Leader

## The Leader's Purpose for Prayer

**Assess:** What do you believe is the highest purpose for prayer?

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one” (Matthew 6:9–13).

For most of us, prayer is about us, but Jesus begins His prayer teaching by shifting the focus to “our Father in heaven.” From this single verse, we discover the highest purpose of prayer is a \_\_\_\_\_ rather than a \_\_\_\_\_.

Why prayer is a relationship, not a transaction:

1. *We are* \_\_\_\_\_ *by Him.*
2. *We show* \_\_\_\_\_ *for Him.*
3. *We have* \_\_\_\_\_ *to Him.*
4. *We exhibit* \_\_\_\_\_ *of Him.*

### Apply

Rather than focusing on your prayer list this week, focus solely on prayer as a way to get to know God. Let relationship take precedence over your requests.

## The Prayer Life of the Leader

## The Leader's Bravest Prayer

**Team Review:** How did focusing on your relationship with God, rather than your requests, change your view of prayer?

**Assess:** What's the bravest thing a leader can pray for?

## Insights and Ideas

**J**esus said, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:9–10). We've already talked about focusing on God's name in prayer, but then Jesus moves to a focus on "kingdom" and "will." Whose kingdom? Whose will?

As leaders, these are especially important questions. There is a temptation to build *our* kingdom, but as author Warren Wiersbe so accurately observed, "We have no right to ask God for anything that will dishonor His name, delay His kingdom, or disturb His will on earth."

A common theme throughout Jesus' teaching is the kingdom of God. We think of "kingdom" as a territory or a piece of real estate, but that wasn't what Jesus meant. Kingdom was a reference to the rule and reign of a king. In Matthew 6:33, Jesus said, "But seek first his kingdom ... ." Jesus was saying to seek out the rule and reign of God in and over your life. "Your kingdom come" is a prayer of continual surrender and submission to Jesus as King.

Then Jesus said, "your will be done." This statement is an example of parallelism. Hebrews would often use different words or phrases to communicate the same idea twice. So, when Jesus says, "your will be done," He was saying "Lord, your perfect will be done in my life, where you rule as King."

Finally, Jesus says, "on earth as it is in heaven." Prayer is how we bring a taste of heaven to earth. This focus on kingdom and will provide two important lessons for leaders:

1. *Prayer brings our life and leadership into submission to Christ.* In leadership, you will face a constant temptation to use your influence for selfish gain. Pride and self-centered kingdom building must come under Christ's lordship. This isn't a once-and-done prayer; it's a daily submission of our kingdom to His kingdom, and of our will to His will.
2. *Prayer aligns our leadership with the redemptive purposes of God.* God's purpose for leadership is redemptive in nature. By submitting to Christ's continual lordship, we align our God-given leadership with His redemptive purposes. A taste of heaven can then come to earth.

Praying, "Your kingdom come, your will be done" is the bravest prayer a leader can offer, because it's the prayer of submission to a greater Person and a greater purpose. Robert Law once said, "Prayer is a mighty instrument, not for getting man's will done in heaven, but for getting God's will done on earth."

## Reflect and Discuss

1. How does Jesus' prayer, "your kingdom come, your will be done" challenge you?
2. What part of your life, leadership or ministry needs to come into a place of submission to King Jesus?
3. What part of heaven needs to manifest on earth, in your ministry?

## Apply

Take a few minutes to pray with your team, collectively submitting your plans as leaders to the lordship of Christ. Include this practice in your daily prayer life.

The Prayer Life of the Leader

## The Leader's Bravest Prayer

**Assess:** What's the bravest thing a leader can pray for?

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:9-10).

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"But seek first his kingdom ..." (Matthew 6:33).

Focusing your prayers on God's kingdom and God's will provide two important lessons for leaders:

1. *Prayer brings our life and leadership into \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ.*
2. *Prayer aligns our leadership with the \_\_\_\_\_ purposes of God.*

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### Apply

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## Study 4

## The Prayer Life of the Leader

## The Leader's Plan for Prayer

**Team Review:** What has God been doing in your heart as you've submitted your plans to the Lord in prayer each day?

**Assess:** What is your biggest challenge when presenting your needs to God in prayer?

## Insights and Ideas

**P**erhaps the most familiar six words in the Lord's Prayer are, "Give us today our daily bread" (Matthew 6:11). That prayer is symbolic of every need we have. No matter what the needs entail, God invites us to present them to Him.

So, what exactly do Jesus' words here mean? Three lessons emerge from verse 11 that have extraordinary relevance for leaders today:

1. *Pray dependently* ("Give us"). When we read the word "give" in this verse, our first thought is the thing we want God to give to *us* — whether that thing is food, money, or an open door to expand our church or organization. But "give" doesn't just remind us of what we need *from* God; it reminds us of our need *for* God. Think about it: The very fact that we have to ask God for something is evidence of our need for Him. When we pray, "Give," we are praying dependently, acknowledging our dependence on God. The word "us" is a reminder that we can pray for our own needs, as well as the needs of others. There is not a limit to our prayers.
2. *Pray regularly* ("today"). Leaders are rarely short on ideas. We can work harder and harder, exhausting ourselves on the latest strategies and the best practices. The unintended casualty is the power found in prayer. The word that follows "Give us" is "today." Today acknowledges that our dependence on God is continual. It's not a yearly, monthly or even a weekly dependence on God. It's a daily dependence on God. "Today" also acknowledges our need to be content, not greedy. The emphasis in this passage is today's need, not the needs of tomorrow or the rest of my life.
3. *Pray specifically* ("our daily bread"). Bread is a common theme throughout Scripture. When the Israelites were wandering in the wilderness for 40 years, God provided them with daily manna to eat. In the New Testament, Jesus calls himself the "bread of life" (John 6:35). When we pray, we are looking to the Bread of Life to provide our daily bread. Again, our daily bread is symbolic of all our needs.

As leaders, there is much to worry about — organizational direction, hiring decisions and funding the vision, just to name a few. But worry only adds to the stress of leadership. Jesus — the greatest leader of all time — instructs us to pray dependently, regularly and specifically. Your leadership demands it. Your followers depend on it. Your mission requires it.

## Reflect and Discuss

1. How does Jesus' challenge to present our needs to God encourage and inspire you?
2. What is your greatest challenge: praying dependently, regularly or specifically? Why?
3. How do you think you should pray differently after discovering a greater understanding of Jesus' words?

## Apply

Make a list of things your team can pray for dependently, regularly and specifically. Pray together, and then revisit these items at least once a week as a team.



Study  
4  
TEAM GUIDE

The Prayer Life of the Leader

## The Leader's Plan for Prayer

**Assess:** What is your biggest challenge when presenting your needs to God in prayer?

“Give us today our daily bread” (Matthew 6:11).

Three lessons for today:

1. *Pray* \_\_\_\_\_ (“Give us”).

2. *Pray* \_\_\_\_\_ (“today”).

3. *Pray* \_\_\_\_\_ (“our daily bread”).

As leaders, there is much to worry about — organizational direction, hiring decisions and funding the vision, just to name a few. But worry only adds to the stress of leadership. Jesus — the greatest leader of all time — instructs us to pray dependently, regularly and specifically. Your leadership demands it. Your followers depend on it. Your mission requires it.

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Make a list of things your team can pray for dependently, regularly and specifically. Pray together, and then revisit these items at least once a week as a team.

## The Prayer Life of the Leader

## Using Prayer to Handle the Pain of Leadership

**Team Review:** How have you found yourself praying dependently, regularly and specifically?

**Assess:** What are the most painful aspects of leadership for you?

## Insights and Ideas

**O**ne of the most difficult parts of the Lord's Prayer is this line: "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" (Matthew 6:12).

Those first five words deal with the ugliness of our own sin. As a leader, your sins can have a ripple effect with the people you lead, especially when your attitudes or actions have hurt others. The question is this: Did you own it? Forgiveness requires confession. You must admit you have sinned and need God's forgiveness.

It's the second part of verse 12 that often stumps us the most: "as we also have forgiven our debtors." In other words, the grace and forgiveness God extended when you sinned against Him are what you should extend to those who sin against you. Jesus took this so seriously that He said, "For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins" (Matthew 6:14–15).

People can hurt us in horrible ways, and it's easy to justify unforgiveness. But when you refuse to forgive, you let the offender live rent free in your head. Life and leadership are too demanding to give somebody else that much control over your life. When you refuse to forgive, *you* are the only one who suffers.

So, how do you deal with the offenses you experience in leadership? Paul said, "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32). The key to granting forgiveness is to remember how much God forgave you.

Author and pastor Andy Stanley says, "In the shadow of my hurt, forgiveness feels like a decision to reward my enemy. But in the shadow of the cross, forgiveness is merely a gift from one undeserving soul to another."

It's possible that the shoe is on the other foot — maybe you've hurt somebody you lead. For you, forgiveness is also a choice. While the key to granting forgiveness is to remember how much God forgave you, the key to seeking forgiveness is to put the person before your pride. In leadership, you have to value the relationship more than insisting you're right. Whether giving or requesting forgiveness, prayer is the starting place for dealing with the pain of leadership.

## Reflect and Discuss

1. What is more difficult for you: asking forgiveness or extending forgiveness? Why?
2. How has unforgiveness held you prisoner at some point in your past?
3. What complicates forgiveness in leadership? Have you let those complications become an excuse for why you haven't sought or extended forgiveness?

## Apply

Do an inventory of your life by asking yourself two questions: *Whom do I need to forgive? From whom do I need to ask forgiveness?* It's up to you what you will do next, but freedom is found on the other side of forgiveness.

The Prayer Life of the Leader

## Using Prayer to Handle the Pain of Leadership

**Assess:** What are the most painful aspects of leadership for you?

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While the key to *granting* forgiveness is to remember how much God forgave you, the key to *seeking* forgiveness is to put the \_\_\_\_\_ before your \_\_\_\_\_.

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## The Prayer Life of the Leader

## Using Prayer to Overcome the Temptations of Leadership

**Team Review:** How have you experienced forgiveness as you've spent time in prayer this past week?

**Assess:** How has prayer helped you overcome temptation?

## Insights and Ideas

**S**ome common temptations in leadership are pride, greed, the abuse of power, and the advancement of self-serving agendas (just to name a few). The trouble with temptation in leadership is that the collateral damage is usually wider when a leader falls to sin. Others get hurt — many others, in some cases. That's one reason why the next part of the Lord's Prayer is so important: "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one" (Matthew 6:13).

Pastor Ed Litton said, "God is not an absentee landlord. He is Lord, and He is on that field with me in my struggle." That's good news when we face temptation, and the apostle Paul gave us the secret to overcoming our temptations: "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Most of us want a quick fix to temptation. We want a one-time solution to the temptations that taunt us so we never have to face them again. Unfortunately, it usually doesn't work that way, which is why each day in prayer we need to ask God for two things:

1. *Show me the way out.* Temptation doesn't come from God. God isn't the one who tempts; rather, He's the one who provides a way out of the temptation. Our prayer each day should be, "God, show me the way out."
2. *Give me the strength to take the way out.* This should be the second half of our prayer each morning. It's ultimately our choice, but God empowers us with His Spirit to do the right thing.

The key is to act quickly. The longer you linger in the garden of sin, the more likely you are to have a picnic in it.

How would your life look different if the two things above became a regular part of your prayer life? What sin and heartache would you avoid? And what pain would the people you lead never suffer because you exited the highway of reckless behavior? One day you would tell a different story because you chose the path of least regret. Prayer makes that possible. Each day, pray, "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

## Reflect and Discuss

1. What are some of the biggest temptations you've seen leaders struggle with?
2. When you pray, how often do you pray specifically about the temptations you face in leadership?
3. How do you think praying for God to show you the way out and take the way out would impact your victory over sin?

## Apply

This week, begin praying for the two things noted above — for God to show you the way out, and for God to give you the strength to take the way out. At the end of the week, reflect on how this prayer has impacted your life and leadership.

The Prayer Life of the Leader

## Using Prayer to Overcome the Temptations of Leadership

**Assess:** How has prayer helped you overcome temptation?

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one” (Matthew 6:13).

“God is not an absentee landlord. He is Lord, and He is on that field with me in my struggle.” — Ed Litton

“No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it” (1 Corinthians 10:13).

When tempted, ask God for two things:

1. *Show me the \_\_\_\_\_ out.*
2. *Give me the \_\_\_\_\_ to take the way out.*

### Apply

This week, begin praying for the two things noted above — for God to show you the way out, and for God to give you the strength to take the way out. At the end of the week, reflect on how this prayer has impacted your life and leadership.



## The Prayer Life of the Leader

# The Multiplication of Prayer

**Team Review:** What difference have you noticed since asking God to show you the way out and give you the strength to take the way out when you're tempted?

**Assess:** Who regularly prays for you?

### Insights and Ideas

**L**eadership is demanding, no matter what area of life God has called you to lead. Whether it's church, business, government, education or your family, leadership comes with a price tag. That price tag often shows up in two ways:

1. *Leadership vision.* Leadership is a calling to move the ball forward in a specific arena. For many, moving the ball forward is a significant endeavor. The vision a leader carries can be so large that it takes many hands to see it fulfilled. Visions are free, but seeing them fulfilled is costly.
2. *Leadership pain.* Leadership carries with it an enormous amount of pressure. Author and pastor Gerald Brooks observed that at least 10 percent of the people will not be in favor of the leader at any given time. That means, if you lead 100 people, 10 of them probably are not your biggest fans. If you lead 1,000 people, at least 100 of them don't like your decisions. If you can't handle 10 people being upset with you, you'll never be able to handle the pressure of 100 people not supporting you. And if your career is in politics, the 10 percent number is much, much higher. Simply put, leadership hurts.

Because of these two realities — leadership vision and leadership pain — one thing is certain: A leader's prayers are not enough. That doesn't mean you don't know how to pray. Nor does it mean your prayers aren't effective. Rather, it means you carry a vision and a burden that are too large to shoulder on your prayers alone. You need reinforcements.

When others support you in prayer — interceding for you, your family and your ministry — you find the strength to face the challenges and the pain. When a team of people stand with you in prayer, you glean the wisdom and discover the resources to see a bold vision unfold into reality. Your prayers make a difference. The prayers of many make a multiplied difference.

One of the best things a leader can do is seek out others who will support him or her in prayer. Having a team of faithful, committed people who will cover you in prayer can produce extraordinary impact in the places God has called you to lead. Don't go it alone. Experience the power of multiplication in your prayer life.

### Reflect and Discuss

1. Can you think of a time when others prayed with you for a specific need, and then God showed up in a beautiful and powerful way?
2. What vision or pain are you carrying right now for which you need prayer support?
3. Whom could you ask to join your personal prayer team?

### Apply

Make a list of three to 10 people you could invite to be your prayer partners. What could you do to engage them in this task, and how can you communicate your needs to them regularly?

The Prayer Life of the Leader

## The Multiplication of Prayer

**Assess:** Who regularly prays for you?

Leadership is demanding, no matter what area of life God has called you to lead. Whether it's church, business, government, education or your family, leadership comes with a price tag.

The price tag of leadership:

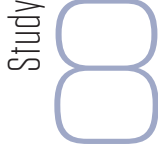
1. *Leadership* \_\_\_\_\_.

2. *Leadership* \_\_\_\_\_.

Because of these two realities, one thing is certain: A leader's prayers are not \_\_\_\_\_ . That doesn't mean you don't know how to pray. Nor does it mean your prayers aren't effective. Rather, it means you carry a vision and a burden that are too large to shoulder on your prayers alone. You need reinforcements.

### Apply

Make a list of three to 10 people you could invite to be your prayer partners. What could you do to engage them in this task, and how can you communicate your needs to them regularly?



## The Prayer Life of the Leader

# Leading With Bold Prayers

**Team Review:** Whom have you recruited to your personal prayer team?

**Assess:** What's the boldest prayer you've ever prayed?

### Insights and Ideas

**A** uthor and pastor Mark Batterson says, "Bold prayers honor God and God honors bold prayers."

As leaders, this insight should compel us not only to pray, but to extend the tent stakes of our prayers. Jesus said, "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours" (Mark 11:24). Jesus didn't define "what-ever." That tells me there is no limit with God.

Too often we play it safe; and because we play it safe, our need for God to come through on our behalf, or on behalf of the church or organization we lead, is minimal at best. How do we play it safe? Here are three ways:

1. *We have small dreams.* When you dream small, there's no need for God, because your dreams are always within reach. Small dreams give you nothing big to pray for.
2. *We rationalize what is and isn't possible.* Our rationalizations get us in trouble because they define the boundaries of our prayers. If you can rationalize it, you've probably edged out God from your plans for the future. Simply put, if God doesn't answer your prayers, you've got it covered on your own.
3. *We shift from innovation to protection.* Leaders often struggle with the fear of failure. Understandably, nobody wants to fail. But if you give that fear the keys of authority over your life, you'll quickly shift from innovating the future to protecting the present. In other words, your goal will be to protect what *is* rather than create what could be.

This is not how God intends us to live. Yes, we should use wisdom. Yes, we should plan and prepare. But wisdom and planning are not the enemies of bold prayers. In fact, prayer increases our wisdom and helps us develop better plans. But prayer doesn't end there. Bold prayers thrust us into a place of greater faith and greater vision. Bold prayers move us out of our comfortable routines and into a place where we have to trust God completely.

A.W. Tozer believed that a low view of God leads to a hundred lesser evils. What about you? What is your view of God? How often do you give Him an opportunity to show up in a big way in your life and leadership?

### Reflect and Discuss

1. When have you played it safe in your leadership? What was the result (or lack of results)?
2. How have you seen a low view of God produce greater problems (or, as Tozer put it, "a hundred lesser evils") in your life or the lives of other leaders?
3. What's the boldest thing you could pray for right now in your ministry or organization?

### Apply

Consider your answer to the question, "What's the boldest thing you could pray for right now in your ministry or organization?" When you look at your answer, does it really qualify as a "bold prayer"? If not, ask God to stretch your faith and deposit in you a greater dream.



The Prayer Life of the Leader

## Leading With Bold Prayers

**Assess:** What's the boldest prayer you've ever prayed?

“Bold prayers honor God and God honors bold prayers.” — Mark Batterson

“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours” (Mark 11:24).

How we play it safe:

1. *We dream \_\_\_\_\_ dreams.*
2. *We \_\_\_\_\_ what is and isn't possible.*
3. *We shift from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_*

A.W. Tozer believed that a low view of God leads to a hundred lesser evils. What about you? What is your view of God? How often do you give Him an opportunity to show up in a big way in your life and leadership?

### Apply

Consider your answer to the question, “What's the boldest thing you could pray for right now in your ministry or organization?” When you look at your answer, does it really qualify as a “bold prayer”? If not, ask God to stretch your faith and deposit in you a greater dream.