

Inquiry Session: Prayer

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA

Inquiry Session

(Approximately 60 minutes)

Prepare

Set the space and provide a focal point with a candle and a Bible, marking the Scripture citations noted in the participant materials. Provide name tags, and have some refreshments available. If the group is larger than five or six people, guide the participants to share in smaller groups.

Gather

1. Greet the participants as they arrive, and take time for introductions as the session begins. Survey the group to see how everyone is doing. Ask whether anyone has any questions, then invite them to share, in small groups, any experiences of prayer, worship, or God they have had since the last session.
2. Read **Reflect on Your Experience** aloud to the group. Then invite the participants to share their responses to the questions with one other person. After they have shared, invite volunteers to share with the large group. Continue by exploring together the many different ways that people can find a place of quiet in the busyness of their lives.

Expand

1. Ask the participants to share their thoughts about prayer. Invite them to consider how they would describe or define prayer, and encourage them to share their own experience of prayer.
2. Read and discuss **Hear the Good News About Prayer**. Include the following points in your conversation:
 - Prayer is a conversation with God.
 - Prayer is a time to “be still” with God.
 - Prayer can take place anywhere at any time.
 - There are many different ways to pray.

3. Read aloud each Scripture passage in **Read the Word of God**, following with a moment of silent reflection. Then discuss each passage using these or similar questions:

What message do you hear in the passage?

What does this passage reveal about prayer and the different types of prayer?

Reflect and Share

1. Ask the participants to read **Respond Through Action**. Allow some quiet time for the participants to consider the **For Reflection** questions. Then invite the group to read **Witness to the Gospel**.
2. Invite the participants to share any insights they have gained from this session on prayer and any questions that might still remain.

Pray

Lead the participants in a brief guided meditation prayer experience by having them close their eyes and imagine a beautiful place. Encourage them to create a place of beauty in their minds where they would like to be. Have them look around the place they have created and discover what they can see, hear, and smell. Next, invite them to see Jesus approaching them, asking them to share their questions, hopes, and fears. Encourage them to listen to Jesus' response. After a few minutes of quiet, say “Amen” and invite the participants to open their eyes.