

20 Questions for Confirmation

Q8: How does prayer work? Does God really answer my prayers or even hear me? How often do I need to say “Amen?” What does that even mean? By Carole Joyce

Introduce the Question: What are some ways you pray? When do you pray? Enjoy this video and see if you can relate. [The Skit Guys - How to Pray - YouTube](#)

Video Response: Prayer is all about relationship. God wants to be with you, hang out with you, be a part of your life. When you take time to talk and listen to God, it makes a difference in the way you think, feel, and act. You can pray with words or thoughts, with dance or music, with others or alone, in church or in the world. I especially like to pray running and hiking.

When do you feel God’s presence?

Have you ever wanted God to be like a vending machine? Push the button (pray) for good grade on a test and ta dah you get it. Push the button (pray) for a parking place in a busy parking lot and there one is. That’s not how prayer works. God already wants the very best for you. When you spend time with God—sharing your hopes, dreams, fears and love—**you are changed**. Life is not always fair. Bad things will happen. Through it all, God is present in and with you. God works through people, experiences, creation, the faith community and God’s Word to bring forth hope and possibility even in the roughest times. So go ahead and talk to God about anything!

How have you been affected by prayer?

What does God say? Jesus prayed. He went off alone to spend time with God. When Jesus returned, his followers ask how to pray. Read Luke 11:1-4 in NRSV Bible.

Response:

- Why do you think the disciples asked Jesus how to pray?
- What questions would you like to ask Jesus about prayer?
- Notice the first things Jesus tells us to pray for connect us to God. (vs 2) The next connect us to the world and other people. (vs 3, 4) What does that teach us about prayer/hanging out with God?

What about Amen? You may have noticed that Jesus did not include an Amen in his prayer. Amen means “it shall be”. Christians add this at the end of prayers kind of like a team cheer. Put your hands in the center and shout:” Go God. We trust you. We’re with you in this.”

Deeper Dive

If you need ideas of how to pray, some people use the acronym ACTS to think about how to pray. A-adoration C-confession T-thanksgiving S-supplication I prefer the following prayer prompts to help me remember different ways to pray.

God you are...

I'm sorry for...

Thank you for...

Please help...

Try these out alone or together with a partner.

Prayer:

Loving God, thank you for sending Jesus to teach us that we can talk to you about anything at any time. We don't need fancy words or even clear thoughts. You are always waiting to spend time with us. You care about us and want the best for us. Help us to look and listen for you.

Amen—Go God! We trust you and are with you!