

# What Is Prayer?



### Pray Together

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyh Surpo, Amen. Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name. I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever. Psalm 86:11-12

## Chapter Checkup

Write the correct answer.

1. The first marriage took place in what book of the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_
2. In whose image did God make humankind? \_\_\_\_\_
3. In I Corinthians 13:4-8, God talks about fifteen qualities of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. List three of the things God tells us about love in I Corinthians 13:4-8  
1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Name one of the books of the Bible from which the deacon reads at an Armenian wedding ceremony. \_\_\_\_\_

### God's Line Is Never Busy

What makes a close friend? Most people report that a close friend is one who will listen to them. Prayer is our way of becoming closer friends with God. Through prayer, we grow closer to him as we share our lives with him. As we speak with God in prayer and study his Word, he becomes closer to us as we learn his plan for our lives. He loves to hear from us anytime, anywhere.



Answer the following questions about your prayer life:

How often do you pray? \_\_\_\_\_

Where do you pray? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you pray for most often? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you hold your hands when you pray? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you make up your own prayers? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your favorite prayer? \_\_\_\_\_

## The Four Kinds of Prayer

Prayer may be seen as falling into the following four basic categories: supplication, thanksgiving, adoration, and confession. Prayers of supplication ask God for something for yourself or another person. An example of a prayer of supplication is “Lord Jesus, please help Grandma and Grandpa arrive home safely after their visit.”

We offer prayers of thanksgiving when we are thanking God for something. A prayer of thanksgiving would be, “Father, thank you for helping me remember everything I studied so I could do well on the math test.”

Prayers of adoration offer praise to God. They tell him how much we love him, and how wonderful and amazing he is. “Lord, everything looks so beautiful after the snowstorm. You make so many wonderful things,” is an example of a prayer of adoration.

We say prayers of confession when we have done something wrong and we want to tell Jesus we are sorry. “Lord, I’m sorry I took so long getting out of bed this morning that I made everyone late,” is a prayer of confession.

Place the following prayers into their categories by writing the letters S (supplication), T (thanksgiving), A (adoration), or C (confession) in the space provided.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ “I’m sorry I didn’t study for that test, Lord. If I had listened to the teacher and studied, I would have done better.”
2. \_\_\_\_\_ “Thank you that nobody got hurt during our game today, Jesus.”
3. \_\_\_\_\_ “Jesus, please forgive me for fighting with my sister.”
4. \_\_\_\_\_ “Lord, please steer that storm away from land so nobody is harmed.”
5. \_\_\_\_\_ “The ocean is such a great creation, Father! It’s so big and powerful.”
6. \_\_\_\_\_ “Jesus, I really appreciate that you gave us such a nice time at the picnic.”
7. \_\_\_\_\_ “You are so wonderful and I love you so much.”
8. \_\_\_\_\_ “Please, Father, help my friend Sarkis get out of the hospital soon.”
9. \_\_\_\_\_ “Lord, I’m sorry I was lazy and didn’t clean my room.”
10. \_\_\_\_\_ “Thank you for helping me with my basketball tryouts.”

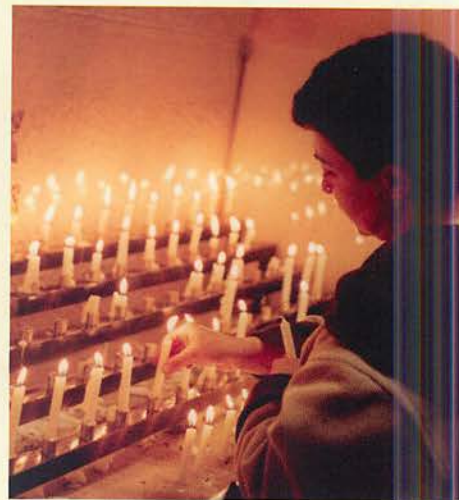
## Bothering the Lord

Did you ever not pray because you just didn’t feel like you could put the words together? Read I Thessalonians 5:17.

How often does the Bible tell us to pray?

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Philippians 4:6-7 tells us, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” Long after even your best friend is sick of talking to you, God will still be there!



### Faith Word *Supplication*

A humble petition or request



## God's Will vs Our Will

Did you ever pray very hard for something important, and God seemed to not answer you, at least not in the way you wanted? Sometimes this can be terribly painful, but we need to understand that what we were asking for is not always within the boundaries of prayer! Asking for an A on a test or for a bike for Christmas or even for a loved one to get well may not be what prayer is about. There's a beautiful verse in 1 Corinthians that tells us that now we understand God's ways as if looking in a cloudy mirror; someday we will see clearly and understand. One thing we can be sure of, though: like talking with a best friend, prayer keeps us in touch with God, helps us grow closer and understand his ways more and more. In Romans 8:28 God tells us, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

God also wants us to never give up on him. Read the Parable of the Persistent Widow in Luke 18:1-8. The difference between the powerful judge and the humble widow paints a picture of where we stand in relation to God. God is all-powerful, and we are weak before him, but, unlike the judge, God wants us to come to him.

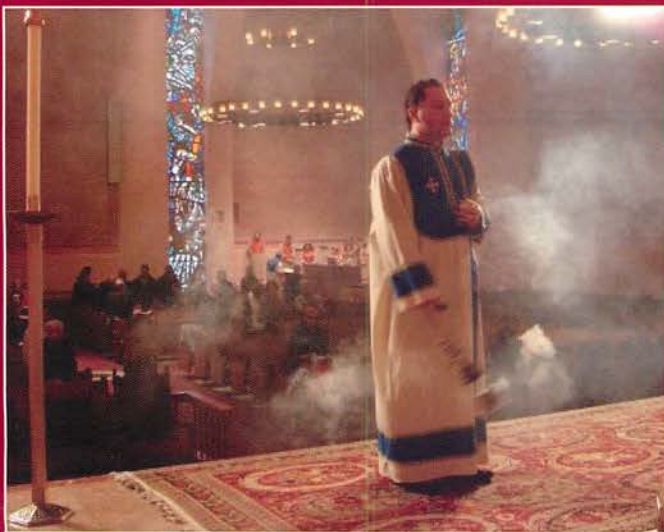
God wants us to be like that widow, to never give up hope. He tells us to come before him as many times as it takes, so that we will learn patience and grow in our closeness with him. He may not remove the problems we take to him in prayer, but he will support us through our trials.



## Our Armenian Way

*Shnorya, Der  
Der Voghormya*

**Շնորհեա Տէր  
Տէր ողորմեա**



During the Badarak, there are prayers said in the form of litanies – the deacon says the prayer line and we respond with a “Lord have mercy” or “Grant it, Lord” - during which we pray for many things: for peace in the world, for the stability of the Armenian Church, for our Catholicos, for our bishops and priests, for the people that govern us, for travelers, for prisoners, for captives, for the sick and suffering, for normal weather and enough food, for those who help the poor, for all the living and for all the dead.

We can enjoy praying this and other prayers, both official and personal, during the Badarak. It is a special time with other believers, when we know we are among those who also love Jesus. The lovely fragrance of the incense rises throughout the church and reminds us that our prayers rise to the ear of God.

## FAMILY FOCUS: For Parents



### Lesson Roundup

In today's session, your child studied prayer. The class made observations about their own prayer lives, then learned about the four types of prayer: supplication, thanksgiving, adoration, and confession. Your son or daughter learned about balancing our will with God's, and read about praying together during the Badarak. The students made a paper chain with prayers from every class member – encourage your child to pray these every night!

### Family Faith Activity

Time spent in prayer leads to a richer relationship with our Lord. Try to complete at least one of the following activities with your family.

1. Say "Jashagestzook" before meals this week:

Let us in peace eat this meal which has been provided for us by the Lord.

Blessed is the Lord in his gifts. Amen.

*Jashagestzook khaghaghootyamp uzgeragoorus, vor barkevyal eh mez ee Dyarneh  
Orhnyal eh Der ee barkevus yoor, Amen.*

2. As a family, memorize this prayer of St. Nersess Shnorhali:

O Jesus, Wisdom of the Father, grant me wisdom

That I may always think, speak and do that which is good in your sight.

Save me from evil thoughts, words and deeds.

And have mercy upon me, a sinner.

3. Put up a chart with the four types of prayer. Have each family member write their name in the appropriate category each time they pray.

### A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup \_\_\_\_ and tried at least one activity as a family \_\_\_\_.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_