

# ASK

## **Prayer Series Overview:**

- Talk to God (Luke 18:1-8)
- The Model Prayer (Luke 11:1-13)
- Praying in Weakness (Romans 8:1-30)
- Praying with Confidence (Hebrews 4:14-16, 10:19-22)
- Just Pray (A full night of praying together)
- Helping One Another Pray (D-group rhythm)

## **Introduction: [Hebrews 4:14-16, 10:19-22](#)**

Last week we looked at how we can pray to God in our weakness because he did what we could not do in salvation and he continues to help us in our weakness. This week, we'll look at how, despite our weakness and even *in* our weakness, we can pray to God with confidence.

### **This week's main point:**

Pray with confidence because Jesus sympathizes with us as our Great High Priest and gives us access to God as our perfect sacrifice.

We might define prayer most simply as talking to God. But think about what this means: In prayer, we enter the royal presence of the divine Creator King who reigns over heaven and earth, approach his holy throne, and request permission to speak and be heard. And, we find him concerned and inclined to respond in our favor. How is this possible, especially when we consider who we are? As sinners, our sins are acts of treason against the very King we approach in prayer. In light of these realities, how can we pray at all, let alone pray confidently? How can we know that we can approach God and find help? Today's passages tell us how. They show us why we can and *should* pray with confidence. First we'll explore obstacles to confident prayer. Then, we'll examine what God has done to overcome those obstacles and open the way for us to talk to him with confidence and even boldness.

Since we are looking at two passages this week, you can find both next to each other at the end of this guide.

## **Read Hebrews 4:14-16 and 10:19-22.**

### **Introductory Question:**

1) Why do people think God may or may not listen to them when they pray? (Feel free to answer for the less spiritual people not sitting in your group right now!)

### **Bible Study Questions:**

2) Hebrews 4:14 commands believers to "hold fast our confession." What is the confession we are to hold fast to as Christians?

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3) What do the passages from Hebrews say or imply are obstacles to confident prayer?

4) These passages describe some very specific attributes of Jesus. List out everything they say or imply about who he is and the work he has accomplished.

## **4:14-16**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

## **10:19-22**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

5) Based on the observations we have made thus far, how does the writer of Hebrews want us to relate to Jesus?

6) Hebrews 4:15 says that Jesus “in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet [is] without sin.” Is this a difficult concept for you to believe? Why or why not?

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7) What do these passages exhort (command) us to do in light of these truths about Jesus?

8) How is all of this good news for you? Which of these truths about Jesus help you pray, and why?

## **Group Application Questions:**

9) Earlier, we talked about why “other people” may not be confident that they can go to God in prayer. In what ways are you not confident in prayer? How do you overcome these doubts or fears that God does not sympathize with your prayers?

10) As a small group, how can you help one another pray more confidently?

## **Prayer:**

- What do you need/want to pray more confidently about?
- Break up into groups of two to four.
- Share what you desire to pray more confidently about in your life.
- Take turns praying boldly together.

## **Hebrews 4:14-16 (ESV)**

(14) Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. (15) For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. (16) Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

## **Hebrews 10:19-22**

(19) Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, (20) by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, (21) and since we have a great priest over the house of God, (22) let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.