



What if prayer became less about mastering an art of God  
and more about God meeting us along the way?

### **A Renewed Definition of Prayer**

- In prayer, Jesus offers us a language to speak **to**, **about** and **with** God.

*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.* Matthew 6:5–6 (NIV)

- Prayer in its \_\_\_\_\_ recalls who we are as children of a God who loves us as a loving parent would.
- Prayer is certainly about finding the space to pray, but even more so, the opportunity \_\_\_\_\_.

*And when you pray, do not keep 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 6:7–8 (NIV)

### **The Church's Role in Prayer**

- No one person has the sole claim to prayer.
- As fellow ministers of prayer, we do three things:
  1. We \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. We \_\_\_\_\_ where God can meet each of us in unique ways.
  3. We \_\_\_\_\_ in places where hope feels stale.

*Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.* 2 Corinthians 4:16–18 (NIV)

## How Does Prayer Change Us?

- Prayer is about a posture of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Prayer is the intermingling of stories.
- Prayer does not always have to feel \_\_\_\_\_.
  - *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.* Psalm 51:10–12 (NIV)
  - There is just as much faith in our \_\_\_\_\_ as there is in our praise.

### Thoughts To Take With You

- In what settings do I find I experience God the most in prayer?
- Where or when do I feel challenged to pray?
- Where have you seen prayer speak hope into your life or into someone else's?
- What does prayer look like in your life right now? Is it difficult, frustrating, life-giving, refreshing?