

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE



CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE

LORD

WELCOME

PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY

The goal of this study is to help participants deepen their relationship with God through intentional prayer and reflection. By exploring what it means to call on the Lord in different aspects of life—repentance, battle, intercession, daily living, and hope—this guide encourages both personal growth and community formation. It's designed to move beyond theory, inviting believers to actively practice dependence on God and to experience the transforming power of His presence.



GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THIS GUIDE

- Don't rush. Let silence and reflection be part of your group's rhythm.
- Be honest about struggles. This isn't about "getting it right" but about learning to depend on God together.
- Celebrate small steps. Every moment you call on God's name is a victory.
- Remember: The goal isn't to "finish" the questions, but to grow in relationship—with God and with each other.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is designed to help your small group practice calling on the Name of the Lord together over 12 weeks. Each week includes four elements:

1. Focus Scripture – the main biblical text for the week’s theme.
2. Reflection – a short devotional thought to prepare your heart.
3. Discussion Questions – conversation starters for your group gathering.
4. Practice for the Week – a simple step you can take to live out the theme between meetings.

1

IN A SMALL GROUP

- Before the meeting: Ask group members to read the Focus Scripture and Reflection ahead of time.
- During the meeting: Begin with prayer, then read the scripture aloud together. Use the Reflection as a springboard for the Discussion Questions. Allow time for everyone to share without rushing.
- After the meeting: Encourage each person to engage with the Practice for the Week. Begin the next week by sharing insights or stories from the previous week’s practice.

IN A ONE-ON-ONE DISCIPLESHIP SETTING

2

- Meet with a partner and work through one week at a time.
- Share honestly about how the practice is shaping your prayer life.
- Pray for one another based on what comes up in conversation.

3

IN PERSONAL DEVOTION

- Use the guide as a 12-week prayer journey.
- Read the Focus Scripture each morning, linger over the Reflection, and choose one Discussion Question to journal about.
- Commit to doing the Practice for the Week as part of your rhythm of life.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE: CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD - WEEK 01

Focus Scripture: Genesis 4:25–26; Psalm 116:1–4, 13, 17; Romans 10:13

Reflection

The call to “call on the name of the Lord” emerges in the midst of brokenness and alienation (Genesis 4). It signals a hopeful turning toward God—a move from chaos to relationship. Psalm 116 reveals how calling on God is both a cry for help and an expression of love and worship, a transformation from despair to thanksgiving. Romans 10:13 reminds us that calling on the Lord is not just about asking for help but entrusting ourselves to Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Prayer is not simply a last resort but a posture of ongoing faith and dependence.

Discussion Questions

- What does “calling on the name of the Lord” mean to you personally? How does Genesis 4’s context shape that meaning?
- How do you relate to the psalmist’s journey from distress to praise in Psalm 116?
- Romans 10:13 links calling on the Lord with salvation. How does this connection affect your understanding of prayer and faith?
- Is prayer more often your emergency response or your daily rhythm? Why?
- Can you share a story of a time when you genuinely called on God? What did you learn from that experience?

Practice for the Week

- **Practice:** Begin each day by saying, “Lord, I call on You today—not just with my words, but with my trust.”
- **Reflection:** Keep a simple journal or note your thoughts after each prayer—what you feel, what you notice about your trust or connection with God.

Next Week: Come prepared to share with the group one insight or challenge you experienced while practicing daily dependence on God.



SMALL GROUP GUIDE: CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD - WEEK 02

Focus Scripture: Psalm 105:1-6; Psalm 100; Ephesians 5:19

Reflection

Calling on the name of the Lord isn't only about asking for help—it's also about worshiping and praising God for who He is and what He has done. Psalm 105 calls us to proclaim God's name and remember His faithfulness throughout history, connecting worship deeply with memory and gratitude. Psalm 100 invites us to approach God joyfully and with thanksgiving, engaging our whole selves—heart, mind, and voice. Ephesians 5:19 reminds us that worship includes various expressions—from Scripture-rooted songs to spontaneous, Spirit-led praise—building community and glorifying God.

Worship as calling on God is an active, ongoing response, shaping us into a people formed by God's story.

Discussion Questions

- How does the idea of worship as “calling on the Lord” shape your view of worship?
- What does it mean to “proclaim His name” in both personal and communal worship?
- How does remembering God's deeds help us worship more genuinely?
- What are some ways you've experienced worship as involving your whole person—heart, mind, and voice?
- How can you bring the variety of worship expressions (psalms, hymns, spiritual songs) into your daily life beyond Sunday?

Practice for the Week

- **Practice:** Each day this week, spend time intentionally praising God aloud or silently—using Scripture, a hymn, or a spontaneous prayer.
- **Reflection:** Notice how focusing on God's name and deeds changes your attitude or connection with Him throughout the day.

Next Week: Prepare to share one insight or experience about worship as calling on the Lord when we meet next time.



SMALL GROUP GUIDE: CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD - WEEK 03

Focus Scripture: Psalm 50:15; 2 Chronicles 20:1-12

Reflection

God invites us to call on Him honestly in times of fear, crisis, and trouble. Psalm 50:15 is a divine promise that when we call on God in our trouble, He will deliver us and be glorified. The story of King Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles 20 models this kind of prayer—honest, desperate, and trusting God’s power rather than our own. Calling on the Lord in trouble is not about hiding pain or pretending everything is okay; it’s about lament as a faithful act rooted in hope and trust.

Discussion Questions

- How does Psalm 50:15 encourage you to bring your troubles honestly before God?
- What stands out to you about Jehoshaphat’s prayer in 2 Chronicles 20? How does it model faithful lament?
- How do you personally experience or struggle with calling on God in moments of trouble?
- Why do you think lament can be difficult in some Christian communities? How can we overcome that?
- Can you share a time when calling on God in trouble led to peace or a deeper trust?

Practice for the Week

- **Practice:** This week, practice bringing your fears, anxieties, and troubles to God in honest prayer—no need to hide or fix them first. Use the prompt: *“Where am I facing trouble, and how can I call on God with trust, not fear?”*
- **Reflection:** Pay attention to how focusing on Jesus’ name impacts your confidence, peace, and perspective throughout the week.
- **Next Week:** Come ready to share one experience or insight about calling on the Lord in trouble.



SMALL GROUP GUIDE: CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD - WEEK 04

Focus Scripture: Joel 2:12-13, 28-32; Luke 18:9-14

Reflection

Calling on the Lord includes turning from sin and seeking His mercy. Joel calls us to a wholehearted return to God—an inward turning of the heart rather than mere outward acts. Jesus' parable in Luke shows that true repentance is marked by humble dependence on God's mercy, not by self-righteousness. Repentance is both an act of grace and a gateway to transformation, restoring our relationship with God and our identity as His beloved children.

Discussion Questions

- What stands out to you about Joel's call to "return to the Lord with all your heart"?
- How does Jesus' parable of the Pharisee and tax collector challenge common attitudes about repentance?
- Why is humility essential in calling on God in repentance?
- How can repentance be an ongoing posture rather than a one-time event in your life?
- In what ways have you experienced God's mercy and transformation through repentance?

Practice for the Week

- **Practice:** Each day, pray: "Lord, reveal to me where I need to turn back to You, and help me call on Your mercy."
- **Reflection:** Journal or quietly reflect on any areas God brings to your heart that need repentance and trust Him to lead you toward healing and transformation.
- **Next Week:** Prepare to share one insight or experience about repentance and calling on God when we meet again.



SMALL GROUP GUIDE: CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD - WEEK 05

Focus Scripture: Exodus 17:8-16; Psalm 20

Reflection

In Exodus 17, Moses' raised hands symbolize dependence on God's power in the midst of battle. When his hands are lifted, Israel gains strength; when they lower, the enemy gains ground. This shows how prayer is an active, ongoing part of spiritual warfare, not just a passive act. The support Moses receives reminds us that prayer often happens in community.

Psalm 20 emphasizes trusting God's name above earthly power. Together, these passages teach us that calling on the Lord in battle means standing firm in faith and surrender, trusting God to bring victory.

Discussion Questions

- What does Moses' posture of lifting his hands teach you about prayer in conflict?
- How does the support Moses receives encourage you about praying with others?
- How does Psalm 20 challenge your confidence during struggles?
- Where in your life might prayer be a frontline weapon?
- How can you adopt Moses' posture of dependence in your daily prayer?

Practice for the Week

- **Practice:** Pray Psalm 20 daily, focusing on trusting God's power. Try Moses' posture by intentionally lifting your hands in prayer as a sign of dependence and surrender—whether physically or symbolically.
- **Reflection:** Notice how this prayer posture and practice affect your confidence and peace in facing struggles.
- **Next Week:** Prepare to share one insight or experience about calling on the Lord in battle.



SMALL GROUP GUIDE: CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD - WEEK 06

Focus Scripture: 1 Samuel 12:23, Job 42:10, 1 Timothy 2:1

Reflection

Intercessory prayer is a profound act of love—standing in the gap for others by aligning our hearts with God’s. Samuel’s commitment to pray for a people who rejected him shows intercession as a steadfast, loving responsibility, not just a spiritual duty. Job’s prayer for his friends brings restoration, revealing that intercession heals both the one who prays and the one prayed for. Paul calls the church to prioritize intercession as a bold, confident appeal for all people, highlighting that prayer for others is one of the church’s front-line ministries. Intercession is relational, powerful, and Christ-like—inviting God’s grace, healing, and transformation into others’ lives through our faithful prayers.

Discussion Questions

- How does Samuel’s example challenge your view of intercessory prayer?
- What stands out to you about Job praying for his friends despite their treatment of him?
- How does Paul’s instruction in 1 Timothy 2:1 shape your understanding of prayer for others?
- Who are the 3-5 people you feel called to intercede for this week, especially those difficult to pray for?
- How can we as a community cultivate a culture of intercession, not just conversation?

Practice for the Week

- **Practice:** Make a list of 3-5 people to pray for intentionally this week—family, coworkers, leaders, or even those hard to love. Try praying Psalm-like prayers—deep, empathetic, and bold petitions.
- **Reflection:** Notice how praying for others affects your heart and perspective.
- **Next Week:** Be ready to share an insight or experience about intercessory prayer.



SMALL GROUP GUIDE: CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD - WEEK 07

Focus Scripture: Psalm 5:1-3; Nehemiah 2:1-5

Reflection

Calling on the Lord isn't just for moments of crisis—it's meant to be woven into the fabric of our everyday lives. David models intentional, ordered prayer each morning, approaching God with expectation and trust. Nehemiah shows us quick, reflexive prayer in the midst of work, reminding us that communion with God can happen anywhere, anytime.

When prayer becomes both planned and spontaneous, it shifts from a task to a way of life. We learn to live attuned to God's presence, making space for His wisdom, peace, and direction in every decision, conversation, and challenge.

Discussion Questions

- What would it look like for prayer to be a normal part of your daily routines, not just emergencies?
- How do David's "ordered" prayers challenge your approach to starting the day?
- When was the last time you offered a "Nehemiah prayer" in the middle of an activity or decision?
- What might keep you from integrating prayer into the small moments of life?
- How could our group encourage each other toward this rhythm?

Practice for the Week

- **Practice:**
 - 1. Schedule Your Prayer** — Choose a set time each day for intentional, focused prayer. Protect it like any other important appointment.
 - 2. Offer Nehemiah Prayers** — Throughout the day, whisper quick prayers in the moment: "*God, help me,*" "*Thank You,*" or "*Guide me now.*"
- **Reflection:** Notice how combining scheduled prayer with quick prayers throughout the day shapes your awareness of God's presence.
- **Next Week:** Be ready to share an experience where an in-the-moment prayer made a difference.



SMALL GROUP GUIDE: CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD - WEEK 08

Focus Scripture: Acts 1:14; Acts 2:42-47; Acts 4:23-31

Reflection

The early church demonstrates that community prayer is a vital expression of unity and faith. When believers come together with one heart and purpose, their prayers become a powerful force that invites God's presence and activity. This shared practice not only strengthens individual faith but builds community, producing boldness, generosity, and spiritual renewal. God responds to unified prayer by shaking circumstances, emboldening witnesses, and advancing His kingdom. Our communal prayers connect us deeply to one another and to God's mission, reminding us that we do not stand alone but are part of His living body.

Discussion Questions

- What stands out to you about the early church's practice of praying together?
- How have you experienced God's presence or encouragement through community prayer?
- Why is unity important in community prayer?
- What challenges or opportunities do we face in growing a culture of group prayer here?
- How can we support one another in developing regular, expectant community prayer?

Practice for the Week

- **Practice:** Commit to praying daily with at least one other believer—whether in person, by phone, or video.
- **Reflection:** Notice how praying with others impacts your faith, courage, and sense of unity.
- **Next Week:** Be ready to share a moment when you felt God's presence or encouragement through praying together.



SMALL GROUP GUIDE: CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD - WEEK 09

Focus Scripture: Acts 4:12, Romans 10:9-13, Philippians 2:9-11

Reflection

Calling on the name of the Lord in the new covenant centers entirely on Jesus Christ—the one who fully embodies God’s authority and character. Salvation, hope, and power are found exclusively in Him. When we call on Jesus’ name, we are not just uttering words but placing our trust in His identity as Savior, Lord, and King. Paul’s teaching highlights that confessing Jesus as Lord is the pathway to salvation, breaking down every barrier and inviting all to bow before Him. Praying in Jesus’ name means praying with His authority and aligning our will with His purposes, fully dependent on His victory and sufficiency.

Discussion Questions

- What does it feel like to call on Jesus’ name in your everyday prayers? Have you noticed any difference when you do?
- Have you ever found yourself relying on something other than Jesus—like your own strength, money, or other “names”? How did that impact you?
- How does knowing Jesus holds all authority change the way you approach prayer?
- When you pray “in Jesus’ name,” what does that mean to you personally? How might that change how you pray or live?
- Can you think of a time when calling on Jesus’ name brought peace, courage, or help in a difficult moment?

Practice for the Week

- **Practice:** Make a daily practice of calling on the name of Jesus in your prayers—whether in thanks, decision-making, or struggle and not just to end your prayers.
- **Reflection:** Pay attention to how focusing on Jesus’ name impacts your confidence, peace, and perspective throughout the week.
- **Next Week:** Be prepared to share an experience of how calling on Jesus’ name affected your prayers or daily life this week.



SMALL GROUP GUIDE: CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD - WEEK 10

Focus Scripture: Romans 8:26-27, Ephesians 6:18

Reflection

Prayer is not something we do alone. In fact, our human weakness in prayer creates space for the Holy Spirit to step in and help us. When we don't have the words or feel unsure how to pray, the Spirit intercedes with groanings beyond words—communicating perfectly with the Father on our behalf. This means that even when prayer feels hard or awkward, it is still powerful and heard because the Spirit prays through us.

Praying “in the Spirit” invites us to yield to God's presence and guidance, to listen and respond to the Spirit's leading in what and how we pray. It moves prayer from a religious duty to a dynamic partnership where the Spirit empowers and aligns our hearts with God's will. This changes how we approach prayer—less performance, more surrender.

Discussion Questions

- What does it mean to you that the Spirit “helps us in our weakness” when we pray?
- Can you recall a time when you felt unsure what to pray, but somehow found peace or direction? How might that have been the Spirit's work?
- How do you usually know when the Spirit is prompting you to pray for someone or something?
- What might it look like to practice “praying in the Spirit” in your daily life?
- How does knowing the Spirit prays with us change the pressure or expectations you put on yourself in prayer?

Practice for the Week

- **Practice:** Set aside a few minutes each day to be still and quiet before God. Invite the Spirit to bring people, situations, or scriptures to your mind. Notice what comes and simply hold those in prayer.
- **Reflection:** Notice this week how your prayers feel different when you rely on the Spirit's help instead of your own.
- **Next Week:** Be ready to share an experience or insight about praying in partnership with the Holy Spirit.



SMALL GROUP GUIDE: CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD - WEEK 11

Focus Scripture: Lamentations 3:55-58; Revelation 22:17

Reflection

In Lamentations 3, the writer recalls a time of deep distress, crying out to the Lord from “the depths of the pit.” God’s response is personal and immediate—He comes near and says, “Do not fear.” This reveals that our hope in calling on God isn’t rooted in ideal circumstances, but in His faithful presence.

Revelation 22:17 invites all who are thirsty to come and drink freely from the water of life. This is the ultimate hope toward which our prayers point—the full restoration, healing, and life that God promises. Prayer in hope means living with one foot in the present reality and one in God’s promised future, letting that hope shape how we see and respond to the world today.

Discussion Questions

- How does God’s nearness in Lamentations 3 encourage you in times of hopelessness?
- What does it mean for you to “come” to God when you feel weary or thirsty?
- How can hope for the future strengthen your prayers today?
- In what areas of your life do you need to pray with the expectation of God’s ultimate restoration?
- How might hope change the way you persevere in prayer?

Practice for the Week

- **Practice:** Each day, pray for one area of your life or world where you long for God’s restoration and picture what it will be like to see God’s promises fulfilled.
- **Reflection:** Notice how praying in hope shifts your perspective on present challenges.
- **Next Week:** Be ready to share one way hope influenced your prayers this week.



GOING DEEPER

Recommended Books

- **Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference? — Philip Yancey**
Yancey explores the practical and theological dimensions of prayer, addressing doubts, frustrations, and the mystery of how God answers. This book encourages honest questioning while offering hope for a vibrant prayer life.
- **A Praying Life — Paul E. Miller**
Miller combines personal stories, biblical insight, and practical guidance to help readers cultivate a consistent, authentic prayer life. He emphasizes prayer as relational rather than ritualistic, teaching how to bring all of life to God.
- **Hearing God — Dallas Willard**
Willard focuses on discerning God's voice in everyday life. He offers tools for listening prayer and understanding how God communicates through scripture, circumstances, and the Spirit, helping believers deepen their spiritual awareness.
- **How to Pray: A Simple Guide for Normal People — Pete Greig**
Greig offers a straightforward, approachable guide to prayer that addresses both beginners and seasoned believers. His practical tips, exercises, and reflections aim to help anyone pray with confidence, honesty, and expectancy.
- **Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools — Tyler Staton**
Staton blends ancient monastic practices with modern life, showing how disciplined prayer, worship, and spiritual rhythms can transform ordinary living. He encourages a radical, joyful commitment to God in every aspect of life.