

# DISCOVERING GOD'S WORD

## MERIT BADGES

### Praying



#### PURPOSE

To help Cadets understand what prayer is and to help them apply the principles of prayer in their own lives.

#### SCRIPTURE

##### Matthew 6:9–13

“This, then, is how you should pray:

‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’ For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

##### 2 Corinthians 12:7b–10 (CEV)

One of Satan’s angels was sent to make me suffer terribly, so that I would not feel too proud. Three times I begged the Lord to make this suffering go away. But he replied, “My kindness is all you need. My power is strongest when you are weak.” So if Christ keeps giving me his power, I will gladly brag about how weak I am. Yes, I am glad to be weak or insulted or mistreated or to have troubles and sufferings, if it is for Christ. Because when I am weak, I am strong.

#### LEARNING

Praying is talking. But it’s not just talking to anyone. And it’s not always talking out loud. Prayer is talking to God, sometimes out loud, and sometimes only in your mind and heart.

1. We don’t usually talk to people with our eyes closed. Why do we learn to pray with our eyes closed? Why do we pray with our hands folded? Put the letters from the right color and shape in the blanks for an answer.



T	O	B	L	O	C	K	O	U	T	
☆	☆	○	▲	☆	▲	★	☆	■	☆	
S	T	U	F	F	A	R	O	U	N	D
□	☆	■	●	●	●	△	☆	■	■	○
U	S	A	N	D	T	O				
■	□	●	■	○	☆	☆				
C	O	N	C	E	N	T	R	A	T	E
▲	☆	■	▲	■	■	☆	△	●	☆	■
O	N	G	O	D						
☆	■	☆	☆	○						

This is such a common thing for people who grew up in the church, but we shouldn’t assume that all the Cadets know why we do it. The purpose is to block out everything that’s going on around us so that we can concentrate only on our conversation with the One who made the universe.

2. Jesus gave us a sample prayer in Matthew 6:9–13. Each part of His prayer is a promise that God will answer. Match each part to what it means.

#### Phrases

- 1 Our Father in heaven
- 2 hallowed be your name
- 3 your kingdom come
- 4 your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
- 5 Give us today our daily bread.
- 6 Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
- 7 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.
- 8 for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

#### Meanings

- 5 Asking and trusting God to give us what we need today
- 1 Addressing God, our heavenly Father
- 8 Praising God because He reigns over heaven and earth and has the power to do what we ask. We want to give Him the glory He deserves forever.
- 3 Asking for God to reign everywhere and for His Good News to be told until Jesus returns
- 2 Honoring God who is holy
- 4 Asking that God’s plan for His creation be done both on earth and in heaven — our part is to obey Him and we ask for His help to do that here

**6 Asking God to forgive our sins while knowing that we can't expect Him to forgive us if we won't forgive others**

**7 Asking God to keep us from being tempted or tricked into sin by Satan. We look to God for rescue.**

The Lord's Prayer, in Matthew 6:9-13, is a model to help us with our prayer life. It tells us what God wants to hear from us, and in that sense it is also a promise that God will answer. We learn this prayer as an example, not simply as something we repeat whenever we are asked to pray publicly. This exercise is to help your Cadets understand each part. They will probably need your help with this requirement.

3. Sometimes God answers our prayers in ways we do not expect. What happened to Paul (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)?

Paul prayed three times and asked God to remove his thorn in the flesh (a physical problem or disease). God's answer was to help Paul understand that Paul became strong in his weakness because he had to depend on God for that strength. God answers our prayers in the ways that are best for us.

### DOING

1. A way to remember all the things your prayers should include is to learn the ACTS of prayer.

**A — Adoration or praising God.**

**C — Confession or telling God about your sin and asking Him to forgive you.**

**T — Thanks to God for all He has given and done for you.**

**S — Supplication or asking God to do something for you or for others.**

**Memorize the ACTS of prayer and tell what each word means.**

Having to also memorize the ACTS of prayer will help your Cadets focus on the elements of prayer rather than on simply memorizing a prayer to be repeated when needed.

2. Keep a prayer diary for one week. Talk with God at least once each day. You may pray ...

- **By yourself — talking with God when no one else is around.**
- **In a group — as part of a group where each member prays silently or out loud.**
- **Leading a group — where you stand in front of a group and pray for them as their representative.**

Each time you pray, write in your prayer diary. Write down:

- **Date — remember to pray at least once a day.**
- **What I asked God — list your prayer requests.**
- **God's answer — this may not happen for each request. It probably won't happen right away. But if you discover that God has answered one of your prayers, go back and write His answer next to your request (with the date).**

Start your prayer diary on the next page. When the page is filled, begin a new page on plain paper. Write down the same things.

To assist the boys in completing their prayer diary, give your Cadets opportunities to lead the cadre in prayer as well as have group prayer where everyone (or those willing) takes part.

3. Share your prayer experiences with your counselor. What did Jesus teach you about prayer in His prayer? Talk about your prayer diary. Ask your counselor about his prayer life. Pray together.

When your Cadets meet with you to complete this requirement, be sure to tell them about your prayer life. And, pray with them.



## Executive Committee

*(left to right)*

*John Kaashoek (DYM Alternate, Rush Creek)*

*Warren Post (vice-president, Grand River)*

*Mike VanderMeer (president)*

*Dick Broene (executive director)*

*Scott Machiela (DYM representative, Grand Rapids)*

*Steve Haaksmma (director-at-large, Thornapple Valley)*

*Ron Noorman (chaplain)*

*Steve Machiele (secretary, Ottagon)*

*Ken Vanderzwan (treasurer, Saint Clair)*