

Prayers to open Bible Study

*General prayers,
hymn verses (which can be spoken or sung),
and prayers based on specific bible passages for opening Bible Study.*

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The theological content was reviewed by Professor-emeritus Joel Gerlach.

Prayers

General Prayer 1

Heavenly Father, as we gather together to study your Word, we pray that you would send your Holy Spirit to be with us. Clear our minds from the distractions and concerns of the day and open our hearts to receive the truth of your Word. Guide our study and discussions that we may grow closer to you and honor you in all we do and say. Strengthen our faith according to the promises in your Word and bind our hearts to one another in fellowship and love. May the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, our Rock and Redeemer. Amen.

General Prayer 2

Lord Jesus, it is a privilege and pleasure to gather together as sisters in Christ to study your Word. Bless our time together and strengthen our faith with your Word. Deepen our understanding of your truths and grant us wisdom as we learn to apply all that we have studied. When we see the truth of the law in your Word, pierce our hearts to see our sin, and then quickly comfort us with the blessing of your gospel. When we feel discouraged because we cannot keep all your commands, remind us that Christ has indeed lived a perfect life on our behalf. Help us focus on your amazing gifts of grace, forgiveness and righteousness. May our time together leave us with joyful hearts, renewed faith, confidence in the gospel and motivation to live for your glory. In the name of Jesus our Savior we pray. Amen.

General Prayer 3

Lord Jesus, as we gather around your Word we pray that you would teach us as children learning from their dear Father. Remind us of the blessed waters of baptism which washed us clean and filled us with your Spirit. Give us faith to be child-like in accepting your truth with unquestioning hearts; but grow us into mature believers who love your Word and search its depths for your wisdom and love. Guide and direct our study that we may keep your truth pure and grow in the knowledge and grace of your Son, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Hymn Verse Prayer 1

Christian Worship Hymn 282 v. 1 (public domain)

Lord, open now my heart to hear,
And through your Word to me draw near.
Let me your Word e'er pure retain;
Let me your child and heir remain. Amen.

Hymn Verse Prayer 2

Christian Worship Hymn 283 v. 3 (public domain)

Lord, your words are waters living where I quench my thirsty needs.
Lord, your words are bread life-giving; On your words my spirit feeds.
Lord, your words will be my light through death's cold and dreary night;
Yes, they are my sword prevailing and my cup of joy unfailing. Amen.

Hymn Verse Prayer 3

Christian Worship Hymn 290 v. 3 (public domain)

Wisdom's highest, noblest treasure,
Jesus, can be found in you.
Let me find in you my pleasure;
Make my will and actions true,
Humility there and simplicity reigning,
In paths of true wisdom my steps ever training.
If I learn from Jesus this knowledge divine,
the blessing of heavenly wisdom is mine. Amen.

Scripture Verse Prayer 1

The following prayer is based on Psalm 1. You may read the verses before the prayer if you wish:

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers.

Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction. (Psalm 1 - NIV)

Heavenly Father, you have promised your blessing as we study the Scriptures. Be with us as we gather to listen, learn and grow in our faith. Guide us to delight in your Word and move us to meditate on it day and night. Feed our faith with a constant stream of your living water that we may be found strong and fruitful in the seasons of our life. Shield us from the influence of the wicked and those who mock you. Direct our path away from sin and destruction, and find us righteous in your eyes because of Christ our Savior, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Scripture Verse Prayer 2

The following prayer is based on Isaiah 55:10-12. You may read the verses before the prayer if you wish:

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. (Isaiah 55:10-12 - NIV)

Lord Jesus, as the rain and snow come from heaven to water the earth, you have given us your Word that we may grow in faith. Thank you for that precious gift; bless us as we gather to study it with thirsty hearts. As plants bud and flourish with your tender care, we know that our faith will grow and produce fruits because of your great mercy and love. We praise you because we know that your Word works among us with power and effectiveness. Help us to ever treasure and cherish it, knowing that it will not return to you empty but accomplish your purpose. Fill our hearts with joy through your Word and lead us in the peace of your forgiveness, which comes through Jesus our Savior. It is in His holy and precious name that we pray, Amen.

Scripture Verse Prayer 3

The following prayer is based John 15:1, 5 & 7. You may read the verses before the prayer if you wish:

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. (John 15:1,5,7 - NIV)

Lord Jesus, you are the True Vine and your Father is the Master Gardener. Because of your sacrifice and the Father's great mercy we have been grafted into your family. Bless us as humble branches that we may grow and bear fruit for your glory. We know that your Word alone strengthens us to remain in you and it alone creates the will and power for us to live as your children. Bless our study that your Word would remain in us; plant it deep in our hearts and strengthen us to bear much fruit. Give us wisdom to pray for those things that will advance the gospel and bless your Kingdom. We ask all this in the name of Jesus, confident because you have promised to hear and answer our prayers. Amen.