

Prayer

Coming to the Throne with Purpose, Passion and Praise

Teacher/Leader Guide

SAMPLE PAGES:

Table of Contents

Lesson Seven Guide

Material on the following pages is copyrighted. All rights reserved.

Second Edition
Copyright © 2009 Kristie Gant
In Praise of God Ministries
P.O. Box 856
Bellevue, NE 68005-0856
(402) 292-2244
(888) 792-2244
www.inpraiseministries.com

Kristie Gant

Contents

Guide At-A-Glance	7
Preparatory Helps.....	8
<i>Weekly Leader's Guides: A Preview</i>	
<i>Board Layouts</i>	
<i>Personal Preparation for Leading or Teaching</i>	
<i>Preparing to Lead or Teach in a Classroom Setting</i>	
<i>About Prayer</i>	
<i>Introductory Meeting with Leader's Handout</i>	
Leader's Guide to Lesson One.....	23
<i>Board Layout</i>	
Leader's Guide to Lesson Two.....	27
<i>Board Layout</i>	
Leader's Guide to the Special Section Prayer Quiz.....	31
Leader's Guide to Lesson Three.....	33
<i>Board Layout</i>	
Leader's Guide to Lesson Four.....	37
<i>Board Layout</i>	
Leader's Guide to Lesson Five.....	41
<i>Board Layout</i>	
Leader's Guide to Lesson Six.....	45
<i>Board Layout</i>	
Leader's Guide to Lesson Seven.....	49
<i>Board Layout</i>	
Leader's Guide to Lesson Eight.....	53
<i>Board Layout</i>	
Leader's Guide to Lesson Nine.....	57
<i>Board Layout</i>	
Leader's Guide to Lesson Ten.....	61
<i>Board Layout</i>	
Appendices.....	65
<i>Appendix A: Prayer Request and Praise Sheet</i>	
<i>Appendix B: Promotional Poster</i>	
<i>Appendix C: Reproducible Student Handouts</i>	
<i>Appendix D: Suggested Topics for Small Group Discussions</i>	
Endnotes and Bibliography.....	85

Leader's Guide to
Lesson Seven

Aims

To increase thankfulness, trust, and prayer by opening spiritual eyes to the everyday blessings and provisions of God.

To ponder the wonder of God's care given the transcendence of His nature.

Conversation Starter

What is your favorite flower...and, if it comes in more than one color, what color is your favorite?

Tie-in

(My personal response follows. In class, give your own preference.) I don't know the name of my favorite flower. It is some sort of wild flower that grows down South. You can see fields of this flower blowing in the wind and shining in the sun. The deep purple ones are my favorite.

SAY: God has made and given us many things: flowers and color are just two ordinary things that should draw our hearts to God. And there are many others! You looked at several of them in this week's lesson: well-known, everyday truths that we need to be careful not to take for granted!

Leading Students to Discover God's Truth

Cover the questions in order. For time considerations, you might choose to briefly state the answers or sum up Scripture references to some questions. For instance, you might sum up or briefly state the answers to Day Two, #2a and then ask the class for answers to #2b. On Day Three, you might state the truths which should have been underlined and then ask class members to share which of the truths they have the easiest time living in light of, and which they have the hardest time.

Discussion Questions

- *Day One—after #1*

Why ponder these two truths together?

(Emphasizing only transcendence makes God seem inaccessible—emphasizing only God's care can elevate man's opinion of himself and make him think he is more important than he really is.)

How important to prayer life and spiritual stability are such thoughts as these? How do they help to increase prayer?

It is easy to see how they increase worship (awe, thanksgiving), but do they also prompt prayers of dependence and repentance?

(Dependence: Where else would you go? Who is more powerful, more caring, more able?)

(Repentance: We see self in right perspective. We are so small and finite to be so proud and independent!)

- *Day Two—after #4*

How is prayer different when we don't just desire answers or help or provision, but we desire God Himself?

(Worship increases because we see His perfections.

Dependence is affected because we know who He is and why we should go to Him.

Repentance increases as we realize how much more we should trust Him than we do!)

- *Day Four—after #2*

How can remembering that its not “all about me” help increase prayer?

(Worship increases because as we decrease, He increases.

Dependence grows when we understand it is not within our own ability to overcome the tendency toward self.

Repentance should be our first action every time we recognize that we are responding to the idol of self.)

- *Day Five—after #2*

One reason it is difficult to remember all God does and provides is because, “Food often comes in cardboard boxes or metal cans, and ready-made clothing is available at the store.” *(A quote from the intro to Day Five.)* Cardboard boxes and metal cans are not our only problems! What are some other reasons we tend to “forget” God or don't remember to be thankful and appreciate all He does?

Do you think taking time to appreciate God's provision will most increase prayers of worship, dependence or repentance? Why?

(All three increase. Which increases most will differ from person to person.

Worship increases as we recognize Him and have a thankful heart.

Dependence grows when we acknowledge that all comes from Him and ask for continued supply...or, when we recognize our need for His help to see everything as coming from His hand.

Repentance will increase as we see how much we take for granted and ask for forgiveness.)

Responding to the Thoughts of Others

“It is of utmost importance that we don't think God is too small to meet our needs.” Frans Bakker ²⁸

“God provided for man even before He created him.” John MacArthur ²⁹

Application Questions

1. Have you been overlooking the wonder of God's daily provision for your life?
2. Do you see Him as your “Fount of every blessing” and respond in worship, dependence and repentance?
3. Who do you know that you could encourage with the truths from this week's study? Will you make it a point to share some thoughts with them in the next day or two?