



“For prayer is nothing else than being on terms of friendship with God.”

— Teresa of Ávila

## Materials

- Bibles
- Markers
- Poster board or large sheet of paper
- Scrap paper and pencils,
- Song to play for reflection

## Opening Prayer

My Lord God,

I have no idea where I am going.

I do not see the road ahead of me.

I cannot know for certain where it will end.

Nor do I really know myself,

and the fact that I think that I am following your will  
does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.

And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.

I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road  
though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore, will I trust you always

though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.

I will not fear, for you are ever with me,

and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. Amen

- *Prayer of Unknowing* by Thomas Merton

## Opening Activity

*In pairs or small groups:*

- Instruct each group to look through the Bible for a passage pertaining to prayer that strikes them.
- Have them use markers to write the passage on one poster board or large sheet of paper so that everyone's passages are displayed together.
- Have each group read their passage and explain why it struck them.

## Discussion Questions

### Part I: Large Group

- What stood out to you about your experience of prayer at Bethlehem Farm?
- What did you learn about prayer at Bethlehem Farm?
- How did prayer affect your experience at Bethlehem Farm over the course of the week?

### Part II: Individual Reflection

*Play an instrumental or otherwise appropriate song and ask everyone to reflect silently on the next two questions. Have scrap paper and pens available in case it's helpful to write or doodle.*

- What is your own prayer life like? What is prayer to you?
- How easy or difficult do you find it to pray?

### Part III: Large Group

*Lead large group sharing of individual reflection questions. After allowing for some silence to pass to be sure people are done sharing, pose the last two questions.*

- What support do you need in your prayer life? (i.e. Bible Study group, faith sharing circle, Spiritual Direction)
- Where can you find that support?

## Closing Prayer

Dear God,

May today there be peace within.

May we trust God that we are exactly where we are meant to be.

May we not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May we use those gifts that we have received,

and pass on the love that has been given to us.

May we be content knowing that we are children of God.

Let this presence settle into our bones,

and allow our soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.

It is there for each and every one of us. Amen

- Teresa of Ávila