

**JEREMIAH 33:3 "CALL TO ME" GROUP BIBLE STUDIES – LEARNER'S STUDY -
LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES**

LESSON #1 – A CHRISTIAN'S CALL TO PRAY – WHY BOTHER

A CHRISTIAN'S CALL –We all know that prayer is part of a believer's job description. Even though the Father invites Jesus' followers to call upon Him many followers of the Lord don't. When they do call to the Lord, their prayers are often offered with questioning confidence and doubtful determination. This lesson, *Why Bother*, takes a look at the reasons why people ignore the opportunity to pray.

THE PRAYER – Dear Lord, You have invited us to pray. Because of Jesus, You have promised to hear us. Now we ask that the Spirit would remove any barriers, which keep us from making use of this wonderful opportunity. In the Name of Jesus, our Intercessor, we pray it. Amen.

ILLUSTRATION – Now, having prayed that prayer, it's time to begin with a little test. The prayer wasn't a long one. Without re-reading the prayer, what was the one, simple thing the prayer asked for?

SATAN'S SUMMONS –Satan summons us from the simple faith of a child to the mature, and often doubting faith of adulthood. That is not what Christianity should be.

THOUGHT: We cannot reduce God's promises to the same level as a fairytale. We dare not fall for the other reasons Satan gives us not to pray. Take a look at these Scripture passages and answer the questions that accompany the text:

SCRIPTURE SEARCH 1 –

TEXT	QUESTION	ANSWER
Job 21:14-15	Why don't people want to pray?	They don't think it's profitable.
Psalms 14:4	Two marks of evildoers are:	Devouring God's people and not praying.
Psalms 79:6	What nations will experience God's anger?	Those that don't pray.
Jeremiah 10:21	What happens to the shepherds that don't pray?	Do not prosper.
Daniel 9:13	What should a God-fearing nation do?	Seek God's favor; turn from sins; pay attention to the truth.

FIRST APPLICATION: In these passages, the participants came up with all kinds of reasons not to pray. How about us? How would many people respond if you said

LET'S PRAY FOR

- A new car
- Good weather
- That we find \$5 dollars we lost.
- That terrorists be punished.
- That grandpa get healed from his illness.
- That I make a sale/get a raise/get good prices.

WHAT SOME (not all) MATURE CHRISTIANS MIGHT RESPOND

The truth is that many men, feel uncomfortable praying. List some reasons that might stop us:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | |

Did you see some fatalism in your answers? Too many Christians believe God controls everything.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH 2 - CHRIST'S CALL - Looking at these passages, and say whose will was served:

TEXT	EVENT	WHOSE WILL WAS ANSWERED
Genesis 4: 8-12	_____	_____
2 Samuel 12:7-10	_____	_____
Matthew 2:16	_____	_____
Acts 5: 1-5	_____	_____
Acts 12: 21-23	_____	_____

The truth is the evil that happens in this world, is rooted in our sinful nature. Not everything is the Lord's will.

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Lutheran Hour Ministries proclaims that God wants the best for His people. That is why He urges us to pray. Look at these passages and see what is REALLY God's will.

PASSAGE	WHAT IS GOD'S ATTRIBUTE HERE?	WHAT SHOULD WE DO
2 Chronicles 5:13	_____	_____
Psalms 34:8	_____	_____
Psalms 68:19	_____	_____
Psalms 107:8-9	_____	_____
Psalms 119:68	_____	_____
Psalms 143:10	_____	_____
Isaiah 63:7	_____	_____
Lamentations 3:25	_____	_____
Nahum 1:7	_____	_____

THOUGHT & ILLUSTRATION - Whenever Scripture talks about God's intentions toward sinful humanity, it describes Him as being good to us and wanting nothing but the best for us. Scripture is equally plain that God will not force good upon us. We need to call upon Him in prayer and trust His decision. We come to Him. We listen to Him. We do what He says and believe He is right. Let's close with prayer.

THE WAY OF PRAYER – Dear Lord, we come to You because You have told us to. That is reason enough. We also come because You have, over the years, proven You have nothing but the best of intentions toward us. We may not always understand Your will. We may not always agree with the way things work out. But having seen Jesus on the cross, we know Your ways are best. In His Name. Amen.