

# **Skegness Community Church - Weekly Bible Study 2025**

## **52 passages of Scripture that every believer should know**

### **Week 11 GOD'S PHONE NUMBER**

#### **Jeremiah 33: 3**

**"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."**

In this verse we find one of the most amazing promises in the Bible. You could call it God's phone number. The line is never busy. Your call never goes to voice mail. God always answers - and he answers in a way that far exceeds our most optimistic expectations. Prayer is one of the awesome privileges of the Christian life. Jesus said, "my house shall be a house of prayer" (Mark 11:17). Before it is to be called a house of Bible teaching, a house of evangelism, a house of discipleship, or a house of social action, God's house is to be called a "house of prayer". It is also interesting to note that the disciples asked of Jesus, "Lord teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1). They observed Him for three years. They saw the intensity of His own personal prayer life. They knew that if they could capture the essence of prayer, they would be well on their way to preaching or doing any other ministries needed to be performed. As we dial up God's phone number today, let's join the disciples in this request: "Lord teach us to pray".

#### **WHAT IS PRAYER?**

Does the art of prayer mean praying ancient prayers by rote or ritual? God said, "Call to me." Prayer is a two way communication. It is not just one-sided. Prayer is the talking part of a relationship. To have a positive and productive relationship with our wives, husbands, children, parents, or whomever else, there must be a verbal communication. An early sign that a relationship is going sour is a lack of communication. Yet some Christians think they can go for days, or even weeks, without communicating with God. Prayer is vital for our own spiritual growth.

#### **WHY WE PRAY**

We should pray because the Lord knows better than we do about what we really need. It is prayer that makes God real to us. Just as the Bible gives our prayer direction, prayer brings a new dynamic to our Bible reading: God speaks to us through His word, and we speak to Him through prayer. Another reason we should pray is because Jesus prayed. Think about it. He who never sinned saw the need to pray so often, how much more do we, sinful as we are, need to call upon Him? Prayer has a way of setting us free.

#### **WHEN TO PRAY**

The Bible encourages us to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). That is, we should live our lives in a constant state of communication with God as we go about our work and witness. On occasion Jesus spent whole nights in prayer. He prayed before each great crisis of life as evidenced in His prayer at the tomb of Lazarus. He prayed after the great accomplishments of life, as seen after He fed the multitudes on the Galilean hillside. Gethsemane reminds us of how Jesus prayed before the great temptations of life. The busier our Lord's life became, the more He gave priority to His own prayer life.

#### **HOW TO PRAY**

The place to begin in prayer is with the prayer of confession (Isaiah 59:1-2; Psalm 66:18). Confess means "to agree with God." Our sin is not something to be minimised because it may not be as bad as someone else's. Nor is it to be excused because everyone else is doing it. Sin is so serious it necessitated the cross. We have the promise that "if we confess our sins, (God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and to purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Next we progress to the prayer of **thanksgiving**. Here we thank God for material blessings, physical blessings, spiritual blessings, and certain people who are important to us. Thanksgiving has a liberating effect. The prayer of confession and the prayer of thanksgiving lead us to the prayer of **praise**. We thank God for what He has done; we praise Him for who He is! In the prayer of praise, we remember the question of our Lord to Peter, "Do you truly love me more than these?"



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Here we tell God that we love Him. We praise Him for His great attributes - His goodness, patience, holiness, and mercy. This brings us next to the prayer of **intercession**. Here we approach God's throne on behalf of others. This is the prayer for our individual family members, friends, political leaders both national and local, those in need of Christ, and even those who may have spoken against us. After the prayer of intercession, we move to the prayer of **petition**. Here we ask God for anything and everything He may have put on our heart. Finally, we arrive at the prayer of **communion**. This is the prayer that goes beyond mere words; this is when, with an open Bible, we are still and listen to God!

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As you memorise God's phone number, and meditate on the reality that prayer is a vital part of Scripture memorisation and meditation. The Bible and prayer are inseparable. Call to Him ... He will answer you .. and He will show you ... He will let you see ... Not just some things, but  
**"great and unsearchable things you do not know."**