

## 3.5 INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

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# Prayer Resources

## Covenant Print Resources

Praying Scripture (Growing Deeper Tool #2)

Praying Your Community (Growing Deeper Tool #4)

Reviewing Your Day (Growing Deeper Tool #5)

Walking with God (Growing Deeper Tool #6)

Keeping a Spiritual Journal (Growing Deeper Tool #8)

Using a Rule of Life (Growing Deeper Tool #14)

(All Growing Deeper Tools can be found at <http://www.covchurch.org/resources/growing-deeper-tools/>)

Devoted: Praying Our Way to a Rule of Life,

<http://www.covchurch.org/resources/?s=Devoted%3A+Praying+Our+Way+to+a+Rule+of+Life++>

New Birth: Living a Life of Prayer, <http://www.covchurch.org/resources/week-of-prayer-2010/>

Praying through God's Word: To Know and Be Known, <http://www.covchurch.org/resources/praying-through-gods-word/>

Prayers Public and Personal, by Arthur A. R. Nelson (Covenant Publications),

<http://www.covchurch.org/resources/prayers-public-and-personal/>

The Prayer that Focuses Life, <http://www.covchurch.org/resources/prayer-that-focuses-life/>

Missionary Prayer Calendar, <http://www.covchurch.org/resources/missionary-prayer-calendar/>

Week of Prayer (general, <http://www.covchurch.org/resources/?s=Week+of+Prayer>

Covenant Book of Worship, <http://www.covchurch.org/resources/covenant-book-of-worship/>

## Covenant Prayer Experiences

*Moment to Moment – An Invitation to Prayer* is a guided experience offering extended time and space for God. In the midst of an overly busy and increasingly demanding world, the nourishment of a rich and varied prayer life too often becomes a rarity, even a luxury. Under the leadership of a trained facilitator, and together with friends from your own faith community, this experience is designed to encourage participants:

- to hear God speak to them personally;
- to feel more deeply connected to others;
- to discover, or rediscover, a longing to continue deeper levels of prayer, both personally and communally; and
- to become more attentive to the Holy Spirit in order to live in the stream of God's will.

It is our prayer that such continued, deep, and rich prayer experiences will filter outward, empowering each person and each community through the Spirit to live as disciples of Christ, impacting the church

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and the world. To learn more about Moment to Moment, go to:

<http://www.covchurch.org/resources/invitation-to-prayer/>

*Streams and Pathways: An Exploration of Spiritual Practices*

In Isaiah 43:19 God says, “I am about to do a brand new thing! Streams of living water in the wasteland and pathways through the wilderness.” Our focus of *Streams and Pathways* is to allow God to shape these “streams of living water and pathways through the wilderness” in our lives. *Streams and Pathways* is designed to allow us time to listen, to notice the movements of God in our lives. We will be working through a variety of spiritual practices in order to allow us time to hear God’s still, small voice. As we experience these practices, we will have an opportunity to draft a rule of life—a pattern of spiritual practices that provides structure and direction for growth in holiness. The rule of life offers unique and regular rhythms that free and open each person to the will and presence of Christ. The journey allows us a way to partner with the Holy Spirit for personal transformation. We invite you to journey with us. For available *Streams and Pathways* prayer material, go to: <http://www.covchurch.org/resources/streams-and-pathways/>.

*A Time to Breathe* is an invitation to a place and time to hear God’s still small voice. This interactive and experiential retreat for youth is designed to provide guidance and experience in spiritual practices so that participants may grow in their journey with God. Youth workers and students will explore together what it means to be in the presence of God. Come take time to breathe where you will experience quiet, space for God’s transformation, intentional time to be with God, techniques to look at prayer in new ways, and multi-sensory approaches to interact with God. <http://blogs.covchurch.org/ywupdate/speaker-team/>

## Check Out the M!X (Ministry Idea Exchange)

The Ministry Idea Exchange is made of resources recommended and developed by Covenanters for use in your ministry. You are encouraged to use what is here and submit your own personally developed resources in the areas of best practices, tips, tricks, and worship materials. Follow this link and enter prayer in the search box. <http://www.covchurch.org/idea-exchange/>

The following titles provide a glimpse of what you will find in the M!X:

A Prayer for the Church (as a new year of ministry begins)

The Lament Prayer: Being Honest and Raw Before God

10 Days of Global Prayer

A Prayer of Confession and Commitment

A Responsive Prayer of Confession

Benediction Prayer

Devoted Audio Recording – 2011 Week of Prayer

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### Books and Curriculum Resources from Other Sources

*A Guide to Prayer for All Who Seek God*, by Rueben P. Job and Norman Shawchuck (Upper Room, 2006)

A compilation of scripture, prayers, and spiritual readings, this inexhaustible resource contains thematically arranged material for each week of the year and for monthly personal retreats.

*The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People*, by John Ortberg (Zondervan, 2002)

With a new chapter on prayer and study guide questions, this expanded edition presents readers with what it means to live as Jesus would on a day-to-day basis—one filled with new meaning, hope, change, and a joyous, growing closeness to Christ. NOTE: A 6-session DVD curriculum for small groups is also available.

*The Only Necessary Thing: Living a Prayerful Life*, by Henri J. M. Nouwen (Crossroad Publishing, 2008)

"Prayer is the bridge between my unconscious and conscious life. Prayer connects my mind with my heart, my will with my passions, my brain with my belly. Prayer is the divine instrument of wholeness, unity, and inner peace" ( Henri J. M. Nouwen).

*Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?* by Philip Yancey (Zondervan, 2010)

Philip Yancey explores the intimate place where God and humans meet in prayer. He tackles the tough questions and in the process comes up with a fresh new approach to this timeless topic. 'I have learned to pray as a privilege, not a duty,' he says, and he invites you to join him on this all-important journey.

*Prayer - DVD Curriculum - Six Sessions on Our Relationship with God*, by Philip Yancey (Zondervan)

[www.zondervan.com](http://www.zondervan.com)

In this six-session ZondervanGroupware™ video curriculum, award-winning author Philip Yancey probes the very heartbeat—the most fundamental, challenging, perplexing, and deeply rewarding aspect—of our relationship with God: prayer. What is prayer? How does it work? And more importantly, does it work?

*Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*, by Richard Foster (HarperOne, 1992)

Foster offers a primer on prayer, helping us to understand, experience, and practice it in its many forms—from the simple prayer of beginning again to unceasing prayer. He clarifies the prayer process, answers common misconceptions, and shows the way into prayers of contemplation, healing, blessing, forgiveness, and rest. He shows how prayer can move us inward into personal transformation, upward toward intimacy with God, and outward to minister to others. He leads us beyond questions to a deeper understanding and practice of prayer, bringing us closer to God, to ourselves, and to our community.

*Prayer: Opening Your Heart to God*, by Bill Hybels and Kevin & Sherry Harney (Zondervan, 2005)

If you long for a spiritual life that is deep, fruitful, and profoundly real, these studies will help you draw heart to heart with God (six sessions).

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*The Prayers of Jesus: Six In-Depth Studies Connecting the Bible to Life*, edited by Matt Williams (ZondervanGroupware™ Small Group Edition, 2007)

Prayer was the backbone of Jesus' life and ministry. From his baptism to his crucifixion, the Gospels portray Jesus as a man of prayer who knew and deeply valued intimate communion with his heavenly Father. This in-depth DVD format looks at the prayers of Jesus and will give you new insights into prayer, the character of God, and how to deepen your relationship with him.

*Praying: Finding Our Way Through Duty to Delight*, by J. I. Packer and Carolyn Nystrom (InterVarsity, 2009)

J. I. Packer and Carolyn Nystrom show how prayer is an essential, expected practice as a follower of Christ, but also a privilege and joy. With wisdom, humility, and sincerity the authors lead us through different moods of praying, including brooding, praising, asking, complaining, and hanging on. Their personal stories offer hope and encouragement to those who pray.

*The Praying Church Idea Book: Practical Ways Your Church Can Pray*, by Douglas A. Kamstra (Faith Alive Resources, 2001)

This companion to the popular *Praying Church Sourcebook* includes dozens of prayer strategies that can work in your church. Also includes sample worship services, retreat plans, and a comprehensive list of prayer initiatives.

*The Praying Church Sourcebook*, by Alvin J. Vander Griend (Faith Alive Resources, 1997)

You'll discover how to implement effective prayer strategies, including:

- concerts of prayer
- solemn assemblies
- houses of prayer
- prayerwalking

It also features essays on prayer, true stories of prayer in action, a directory of selected prayer ministries, and a reading list of classic and contemporary books on prayer.

*Praying with the Church: Following Jesus Hourly, Daily, Today*, by Scot McKnight (Paraclete, 2006)

The author invites us to the heart of Jesus' own practice of prayer, as well as to the intentions of the first disciples, by returning to ancient rhythms of daily prayer.

*Red Moon Rising*, by Pete Greig and Dave Roberts (Relevant, 2003)

Even with the world getting darker, a new generation is learning to pray and obey like never before. This is their extraordinary story, an honest account of pain and perseverance alongside a pioneering mission and miraculous answers to prayer. It's the story of the 24-7 prayer movement, which started in 1999 in England and has since exploded to more than fifty countries. An army of normal individuals are now simultaneously praying night and day around their world. Things will never be the same.

*Serving in Your Church Prayer Ministry*, by Charles E. Lawless, Jr. (Augsburg Fortress, 2003)

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This short, practical manual shows how to participate in a praying church. It is based on the premise that to have a praying church, the pastor needs to be a praying leader who is supported by a team of praying laypersons. Then the fire of prayer will spread throughout the congregation. Chapters include activity suggestions, charts, and discussion questions for both church staff and lay leaders for individual or group use.

*Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices That Transform Us*, by Adele Ahlberg Calhoun (InterVarsity, 2005)

Instead of just giving information *about* spiritual disciplines, this *handbook* is full of practical, accessible guidance that helps you actually *do* them.

*Too Busy Not to Pray*, by Bill Hybels (InterVarsity, 2008)

The urgent need for prayer is clear, but busyness still keeps many of us from finding time to pray. The author shares ideas on slowing down to pray. This revised edition includes a new chapter on prayer and compassion for the world, calls us to make prayer a priority, and broadens our vision for what God does when his people slow down to pray.