

Session 2— Prayers

These will be printed on separate pieces of paper then placed in 4 envelopes (3 prayers in each envelope). Give the prayers out then open 1 at a time, let the person who opens the envelope give the prayer of confession and the prayer of repentance to 2 others. Pray all 3 prayers from 1 envelope before going to the next one.

All the prayers of profession are adapted from *God's Story for You* by Neil Anderson.

Envelope 1: The Glory of God—

Prayer of Profession—The Glory of God

Lord, You are holy, distinct and separate from all other things. You are exalted over all the nations and you live above and beyond all creation. The stain of sin and evil that defiled the world never had any effect on You. You have always been morally perfect and separate (or transcendent) from the rest of Your fallen creation.

None of us has ever fully grasped your glory, however, a few people witnessed a portion of your holiness. Moses asked to see your glory and You hid him in the cleft of a rock, and allowed Your glory to pass before him. (Exodus 33:20) When Moses came back from spending time in Your presence, His “face was radiant.” (Exodus 34:29). Later Isaiah was given a vision of You seated on your throne, surrounded by seraphim who called out to one another, ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.’ And he cried out, “Woe is me!” (Isaiah 6:3). Ezekiel had a similar experience and fell facedown (Ezekiel 1:28).

We acknowledge that as new creations in Christ, we have also been set apart to live righteous lives. Give us an appreciation of Your glory so that we might produce fruit and reveal Your glory to others.

Prayer of Confession—The Glory of God

Father we confess that while You are holy, distinct and separate from all other things, we continue to love the things of this world. We confess our affection for what the world has to offer us. We confess our pursuit of happiness when You have called us to a pursuit of holiness. Forgive us for failing to worship You in spirit and in truth. Our minds are so preoccupied with ourselves that we often attend worship, sing the songs, sit for the sermons then leave unchanged—unmoved—so pre-occupied with the cares of this world that we completely miss the opportunity to come face to face with Your glory. We even dare to teach lessons and plan strategy all apart from You.

Forgive us, LORD for bringing the world's ways to the work You've called us to. Forgive us for depending on our own strength, our own power, our own cleverness and our own skills. Forgive us for failing to declare our desperate need of You. How can we possibly bear fruit that brings glory to You if we aren't set apart from this world like You are set apart?

Forgive us Lord, both personally, and as Your Church. Forgive us for failing to reflect Your glory.

Prayer of Repentance—The Glory of God

(from John 15)

Lord, You are the vine, we are the branches. Apart from You we can do absolutely nothing. You are the air we breathe and the very life that we live. We repent of these things the world offers us (invite us to name specific “hooks” the world offers that we attach ourselves to):

(things like food, drink, recreation, houses, cars, prestige and success, accolades from others, these kinds of things)

Together we choose to put away the things of this world, to count them all as rubbish in exchange for Your glory; in exchange for living the life You want us to live; in exchange for being the Church You want us to be. In Jesus’ powerful and precious Name we pray. Amen.

Envelope 2: The Omnipresent God—

Prayer of Profession—The Omnipresent God

In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.” (Hebrews 1:10). Your story has no beginning and no end. You are the Creator, not the creation, and while everything in the universe is present in one place in time, You are everywhere present (omnipresent) for all time. Solomon said, “Who is able to build a temple for You, since the heavens, even the highest heavens, cannot contain You?” (2 Chronicles 2:6) You are not a tree or a rock, but You do sustain “all things by Your powerful word” (Hebrews 1:3), If You ceased to exist, so would all creation. We cannot think of You as being in one place or another. David wrote, “If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me.” (Psalm 139:8-10)

It is impossible to flee from You. You fill the heaven and the earth, even darkness cannot hide us from You, because darkness is as light to You. The expanse of space cannot set limits on You, for You contain space. Because You are everywhere present, You are near to all who call on You (Psalm 145:18). We may think of You as being remote from us, but that is not because You reside in some far-off galaxy, rather it is because of how different Your nature is from our own. Sin separated us from You and there is nothing we can do to reconnect ourselves to You.

Except You made a way. You reconnected us to Yourself through the saving work of Jesus Christ. Emmanuel, “God with us.” You are with us, and the “with-ness” of You makes all the difference in the world. We don’t have to invite You to be present because you already are. Oh God, make us aware of Your presence here...with us, now.

Prayer of Confession—The Omnipresent God

Oh Lord, forgive us for forgetting. Forgive us for allowing the circumstances that surround us to overwhelm Your constant and consistent presence with us. Forgive us for focusing our emotional energy and attention on the smoke screens the Deceiver puts in our path to keep us from living the truth of Your

presence. Forgive us for behaving as if You are waiting on something from us in order to grace us with your presence. What can we possibly do that could add to what You have already done? Forgive us for failing to walk humbly with You when you are walking consistently with us. Forgive us, LORD for acting as if you've left us when You are dwelling in our midst every minute of every day. Forgive us for crying out so desperately for you when we are already sustained by You. Forgive us for being so self-absorbed that we have tarnished the radiance that ought to be on our faces because You dwell right here among us. Restore to us the radiance of Your glory—a natural physical phenomenon of dwelling in Your presence daily.

Prayer of Repentance—The Omnipresent God

Lord, we repent of our self-sufficiency and pride. We repent of our behavior that fails to acknowledge that You are always present everywhere. We repent of anxiety, and frustration, worry and tension. We repent of stress. We repent of taking our privilege of relationship—intimate relationship with You—for granted. Oh God, we will change! We will rejoice that we get to be with You as You are with us, every minute of every day; in every relationship; in every marriage; in every home; in all our offices and teams and assignments and tasks and ministries and in our church! Thank You for your never-ending grace that continually bathes us with favor, and honor and so much more that we do not deserve. Thank You for your mercy that stands in the gap and shields us of what we do deserve. We invite You into each and every question, each and every plan, project, situation, relationship—and into every detail of our lives and work and home and ministry and church. We acknowledge that You didn't wait for this invitation...You are already there.

Envelope 3: The Omnipotent God—

Prayer of Profession—The Omnipotent God

“Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns!” (Revelation 19:6) Such will be our praise in the final judgment when You have proven to everyone that You are “King of Kings and Lord of Lords” (verse 16) You alone have the power to create something out of nothing. You perform mighty acts that no created thing can accomplish. You continue to express Your power by creating new things according to Your good pleasure because nothing is too hard for You. In You, O Lord resides the power to produce and control everything that comes to pass.

You demonstrated Your power by fulfilling all the prophecies regarding Jesus. You have the ability to orchestrate whatever events are necessary in order for Your Word to come true. When Elizabeth became pregnant with John in her old age, and when Mary gave birth to Jesus You proved that “nothing will be impossible with God.” (Luke 1:35, 37)

Your power is limited only by Your Word and nature. You cannot lie, You cannot contradict Yourself by sinning or dying. You cannot pretend that what has happened has not happened. You cannot use Your power in an unwise or unholy way, and therefore You will never abuse Your power. Absolute power corrupts absolutely for those who are corruptible, but You are incorruptible. Your omnipotence is controlled by Your love.

You protect us (Psalm 91:1-2), You meet all our needs (Philippians 4:19), You give us the strength to ALL that You command us to do (Philippians 4:13). You extend Your power to us; You have given us the power to do all that You want us to do. We can literally do everything through Christ that is consistent with Your nature and Your will. You are omnipotent and we are able.

Prayer of confession—The Omnipotent God

“I can’t do it” ought never be in the vocabulary of a child of Yours unless we are attempting to do something You have not asked or desired for us to do. In that case, forgive us for being so slow to understand that You never thought we could. Forgive us for failing. Forgive us for storming ahead and forgetting that You who are all powerful are also interested in the details! Forgive us for being foolish enough to think for even a moment that You needed us to do Your work for you! Forgive us for forgetting that You are able and we are not. Forgive us when we storm ahead in our own strength in the idiocy and of our own power. Forgive us for failing to acknowledge our failure, impotence and utter desperation apart from You.

Prayer of Repentance—The Omnipotent God

Forgive us when we succeed and deep down inside find satisfaction in a job well done as if we did it ourselves. Forgive us for any success we’ve experienced apart from Your power, and forgive us for calling something successful that fell far short of Your glory. Oh God, forgive us for forgetting that a church that is built by man will be subject to the impotence of man; but that a church built by the hand and heart of God is a church that will never fall. Oh God we beg You, let our Church be built by the power of God—have at us, LORD—do what You need to do to get us out of the way; to posture us in a position of surrender, defeat, and desperation so that we might be oh so aware that You and You only are worthy of praise. “Hallelujah, for our Lord God Almighty reigns!”

Envelope 4: The Omniscient God—

Prayer of Profession—The Omniscient God

Scripture clearly reveals that You, O Lord are all-knowing. Great are you Lord and mighty in power; You understanding has no limit. (Psalm 147:5) You have perfect knowledge of the past (Malachi :16), and of the future (Isaiah 46:9-10). You knew us from eternity past (Ephesians 2:10), and “for those You foreknew You also predestined to be conformed to the image of Your Son” (Romans 8:29). You search every heart and understand every desire and every thought.

You know.

“Nothing in all creation is hidden from Your sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.” (Hebrews 4:13) Secret sin on earth is open scandal in heaven.

Because You are everywhere all the time, Your awareness is complete. You see the past, present and future simultaneously. For You everything is “one eternal now.” That which our finite minds see in sequence You see immediately in its totality. You participate with us in making legitimately free choices in such a way that You can know for certain the outcome. We can’t even begin to understand how You do this.

“Your thoughts are not ours, neither are your ways our ways, for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are your ways higher than our ways, and Your thoughts greater than our thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9)

Your omniscience is too wonderful for us to ever truly appreciate. But we can know that because You know all things, we can be certain that when You give us Your Word, you will keep it. We can also walk in confident truth when we follow the leadership of Your Spirit, and we never have to worry about tomorrow for You are already there!

Prayer of Confession—The Omniscient God

Forgive us Lord, for living as if we can hide from You. Forgive us for deceiving ourselves into believing that if we are hidden from others we are also hidden from You. Forgive us, Lord for having a public life that is different than our private life.

Forgive us Lord, for being so full of ourselves that we would bring our problem-solving methods to the prayer closet. Forgive us for failing to truly acknowledge that nothing has ever “occurred to you” and for realizing that our best suggestions are not sudden inspiration to Your eternal soul!

Lord, forgive us for talking so much when You have the answers we are dancing around only we can’t ever hear them because we won’t be quiet. Forgive us for being too busy to be still even when You plainly explained that it would be in our stillness that we would gain an ounce of Your knowledge (Psalm 46:10)

Prayer of Repentance—The Omniscient God

And Father, forgive us for not talking to you at all. Forgive our prayerlessness that is the biggest affront to Your omniscience. You have all the answers to all our problems. You know what we need to know and You invite us to draw near; to sit with you awhile where we can know what you know; only we are so full of ourselves that we ignore Your plea and treat the gift of Your “open door policy” with disdain. We live as if it doesn’t matter that You shed the precious blood of Your only begotten Son to pave the way for us to enter in.

Forgive us, Lord!

You who are all knowing, and all powerful; You who are present everywhere, all the time; You who know best how to bear fruit in us that will bring You glory; You Lord!

—and we bumble about as if we are complete without you! Forgive us, Lord. We repent. We determine right now that we will pray. We will pray with one another. We will pray with our staff, we will pray with our leaders, we will pray with our families, we will lead TSC to pray! We will acknowledge You, we will depend on You, we will make prayer priority.