

HOW TO PLANT AN ORCHARD

Week 7: FORMS OF PRAYER Pt. 1

Kaleo Mission & Vision

To equip everyday people to *GO, LOVE, SERVE* in the ordinary spaces God has placed them.

Principles We Practice

ABIDING: Right Position
OBEDIENCE: Right Action
SURRENDER: Right Attitude
GO: Right Response

Prayer invites us into a relationship with God, aligns our hearts with His purposes, and allows us to participate in what He is doing.

Prayer, at its basic level, is communication with God.

(NIV) John 11:32-35 [32] When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." [33] When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. [34] "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied.

(NIV) Psalm 77:1-9 [1] I cried out to God for help; I cried out to God to hear me. [2] When I was in distress, I sought the Lord; at night I stretched out untiring hands, and I would not be comforted. [3] I remembered you, God, and I groaned; I meditated, and my spirit grew faint. [4] You kept my eyes from closing; I was too troubled to speak. [5] I thought about the former days, the years of long ago; [6] I remembered my songs in the night. My heart meditated and my spirit asked: [7] "Will the Lord reject forever? Will he never show his favor again? [8] Has his unfailing love vanished forever? Has his promise failed for all time? [9] Has God forgotten to be merciful? Has he in anger withheld his compassion?"

DISCUSS: What do you notice about HOW Mary and Asaph speak to God?

DISCUSS: In Mary's case, Jesus already knows he is going to raise Lazarus from the dead, yet he weeps with Mary (v. 33-35). Why do you think Jesus chose to grieve with her first instead of immediately explaining his plan?

DISCUSS: If God already knows what we need & what he is going to do, what does that tell us about the purpose of prayer?

(NIV) Job 13:3 But I desire to speak to the Almighty and to argue my case with God.

(NIV) Job 31:35 Oh, that I had someone to hear me! I sign now my defense—let the Almighty answer me; let my accuser put his indictment in writing.

ASPECT	JOB ("Prove why")	MARY (If only you had been here)
Primary Emotion	Indignation, shock, demand for justice	Deep grief, sorrow, and disappointment over delayed help
Core Motivation	Vindication: Proving his innocence & demanding a hearing with God (Job 13:3, 31:35)	Grief Processing: Expressing heartbreak over a preventable loss while trusting the power Jesus had
Posture & Need	Stands as a defendant demanding formal answers & charges	Martha runs to meet him; Mary falls at his feet needing his presence.
God's Response	Humbles Job from the whirlwind, yet affirms Job spoke truthfully (Job 42:7)	Gives Martha resurrection's truth (v. 25) & weeps alongside Mary (v. 35)

DISCUSS: Job wants an explanation & vindication, while Mary & Martha simply wish Jesus had been present. Do you think Job has a right to feel & speak this way & why? If yes, why did God react to Job in the way he did?

DISCUSS: In hard seasons, do you tend to react more like Job or like the sisters?

DISCUSS: How does God meet both postures with grace?

HOPE SHOT: 2 Peter 2:1-3 (TLB) *To:* All of you who have our kind of faith. The faith I speak of is the kind that Jesus Christ our God and Savior gives to us. How precious it is, and how just and good he is to give this same faith to each of us. [2] Do you want more and more of God's kindness and peace? Then learn to know him better and better. [3] For as you know him better, he will give you, through his great power, everything you need for living a truly good life: he even shares his own glory and his own goodness with us!

GOD WANTS TO KNOW THE REAL YOU

REFLECT:
Do you communicate with God openly & honestly? If not, why is this a struggle for you? What needs to change?

What kind of help/resources/direction would help you to come to a place of raw honestly with God?