

# Faith-Sharing/Discussion Questions

## Prayer

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by Joyce Rupp

These faith-sharing questions accompany *Prayer* by Joyce Rupp. Joyce Rupp has lead retreats throughout North America, as well as in Europe, Asia, and Africa. She is the author of many bestselling books, including *Praying Our Goodbyes*, *The Circle of Life*, and *Walk in a Relaxed Manner: Life Lessons from the Camino*. In *Prayer* Rupp inspires us not only to talk to God but to listen to the “still, small voice of God within us.”

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### CHAPTER ONE—“ENTERING INTO A RELATIONSHIP”

*Begin your reflection with the prayerful reading of the poem on pages 17 and 18. Conclude with the prayer on page 40.*

- What do I most agree, or disagree with, in this chapter?
  - How would I describe my relationship with God?
  - What people, circumstances, and resources have helped me most in learning how to pray?
  - What does “grace” mean to me? How have I experienced grace in prayer?
  - What key insight in this chapter will help me develop the habit of prayer? How can I integrate that concept into my life of prayer?
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### CHAPTER TWO—“THE TIDAL PATTERNS OF PRAYER”

*Begin your reflection with the prayerful reading of the poem on pages 41 and 42. Conclude with the prayer on page 62.*

- What insight or reflection most struck me in this chapter?
  - How have I experienced the “tidal patterns” (the fluctuating fullness and emptiness) in prayer?
  - What are my thoughts and feelings in regard to surrendering to the mystery of God?
  - What are my greatest challenges and obstacles in prayer?
  - What are some specific ways that I might address some of the challenges and obstacles that I face in prayer?
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### CHAPTER THREE—“THE TIDAL PATTERN”

*Begin your reflection with the prayerful reading of the poem on pages 63 and 64. Conclude with the prayer on page 93.*

- What would I describe as the key message of this chapter?
  - Which of the aspects of prayer described in this chapter most resonate with my experience and beliefs about prayer?
  - How would I describe my pattern of prayer? When and how do I pray most often?
  - When have I experienced “unexpected prayer”? What was it like?
  - What are some general changes that I might be called to make in my prayer life?
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## CHAPTER FOUR—“TURNING PRAYER INSIDE OUT”

*Begin your reflection with the prayerful reading of the poem on pages 94 and 95.  
Conclude with the prayer on page 120.*

- What does the author mean by the phrase “turning prayer inside out”?
- In what ways has prayer changed me?
- What aspect of my life particularly challenges me to live compassionately?  
How might I meet that challenge?
- When was I called to “go forth”? What was this experience like for me?
- How might my prayer life be enriched as a result of reading this book?