



Dear Friend,

We are so grateful you are a part of the study "Leveling the Praying Field" based on the book by Donna L. Barrett. The study can be done individually, at your own pace, with your family, connect group, or friends. Feel free to invite others to join along!

How the book study works

The study will consist of two devotionals each week, one on Monday and the other on Thursday for six weeks. The devotionals coincide with the chapters in the book, and each devotional can be found at www.LevelingThePrayingField.com. Books are available for purchase through [My Healthy Church](#), [Amazon](#), and [Audible](#).

We are excited to journey with you as we all learn to connect with God in prayer. This week we will cover the Introduction and Chapter One. Check out the video and devotional below.

Sincerely,

Pastors Nate and Jodi Ruch
Lead Pastor
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Introduction: Devotional One



Click Video to Play

Introduction

Athletes make millions of dollars playing sports so fans can sit in the stands and watch. It's much easier to be a bystander than participate on the field. Social media is full of "influencers" who travel, try products, and tell us all about it. We watch their lives unfold through video clips and photoshopped pictures. For whatever reason, we live vicariously through others and find fulfillment watching them succeed.

It's easy to become a bystander in our spiritual lives as well. We classify some people as "super spiritual" and ourselves as "less than qualified." The super spiritual Christians study the Bible and pray while we watch. You know, the 'professional' Christians, who really know God, the ones we want to do the praying for us? Author Donna Barrett says it this way:

Excerpt from Leveling the Praying Field:

"We don't call them 'professionals,' but you know who I'm talking about. They love to attend prayer meetings and never blink when someone asks them to pray. Their flowing words move the emotions of those who listen: we call the 'prayer warriors' or 'intercessors.' But where does that leave the rest of us? Doesn't God want to hear from each one of us? Doesn't He want to speak to every person, not just a few representatives? Of course, He does!" p. 16

God wants to share his ideas with you. Prayer is not for professionals, it's for everyone! You're being called out of the stands and recruited to "pray."

2 Chronicles 7:14 says, *"Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land."*

If you are one of His people, then you are called to pray and as we do, we will see amazing things in our land.



Prayer:

Lord, teach me to pray! Give me confidence to talk to you. Please help me not to rely on others to do the praying for me. I know you want to hear from me. I am excited to journey with you. Amen.

Reflection Questions:

- 1) How do you think of prayer, from a "bystander" or a "player" point of view? Explain.
- 2) What is one thing you hope to take away from this study?

Key Thought – *God wants to hear from all of His children.*

LEVELING THE PRAYING FIELD STUDY SCHEDULE		
	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>
WEEK ONE	Introduction	Chapter 1
WEEK TWO	Chapter 2	Chapter 3
WEEK THREE	Chapter 4	Chapter 5
WEEK FOUR	Chapter 6	Chapter 7
WEEK FIVE	Chapter 8	Chapter 9
WEEK SIX	Chapter 10	Chapter 11