



Chapter Ten: Devotional Eleven

Relational Wisdom and Prayer

Hello Friend!

Welcome to the final week of the study "Leveling the Praying Field" based on the book by Donna L. Barrett. This week we will cover Chapters Ten and Eleven. So let's get started with the video and then the devotional!



[Click Video to Play](#)

At the beginning of Chapter Ten, the author describes an experience of attending a 90-minute prayer meeting that only included five minutes of prayer at the end. Unfortunately, this has happened in many churches, many times, throughout the years. This highlights the need for each of us to develop relational wisdom, like Jesus had, as we pray with others. Author Donna Barrett gives a great example of how we can *Level the Praying Field*:

Excerpt from Leveling the Praying Field:

"When we pray for others, we intervene or mediate on their behalf to our Heavenly Father. If we want to level the praying field, what better way to start than by standing beside others as a prayer mediator, especially for those who are learning to pray or lack the confidence to pray." page 182

Jesus demonstrated relational wisdom in prayer throughout his life on earth. A great example of Jesus modeling relational wisdom in prayer is found in the book of John, chapter 11 when He raised Lazarus from the dead. Jesus demonstrated how listening, sharing, weeping, and praying aloud can bring glory to God with signs and wonders following.

Relational wisdom can help each of us participate in a healthy way during group prayer meetings. Donna Barrett breaks down relational wisdom into six behaviors or attitudes. Relational wisdom can be categorized as self-aware, self-engaged, others-aware, others-engaged, God-aware, and God-engaged (p. 173-174). These behaviors allow us to pray more effectively while leading others to engage in prayer more confidently.



Prayer:

Lord, help me to pray effectively with my brothers and sisters in Christ. Give me relational wisdom like Jesus. Help me to stand beside and encourage others. Amen.

Reflection Questions:

- 1) It may seem ironic that we would not be God-aware and God-engaged about prayer while we are praying. How does that happen and what can we do about it?
- 2) How can we love others by being a "bridge of prayer" for them?

Key Thought – *We have a role in helping others engage in corporate prayer through praying for them and with them.*

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