



Chapter Four: Devotional Five

Hello Friend!

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



[Click Video to Play](#)

What Matters Most Is Who Is on the Other End of the "Line"

When a crisis occurs, we often hear people say, "I am praying for you" or "people are gathering for prayer." Sometimes a news anchor will report in front of a prayer vigil honoring a person who passed away tragically, saying "people are gathering to pray." In this chapter Author Donna Barrett shares an experience where she said, "I'll pray for you about that" to her Hindu and Muslim friends who then responded, "I'll pray too." Check out this excerpt from the book:

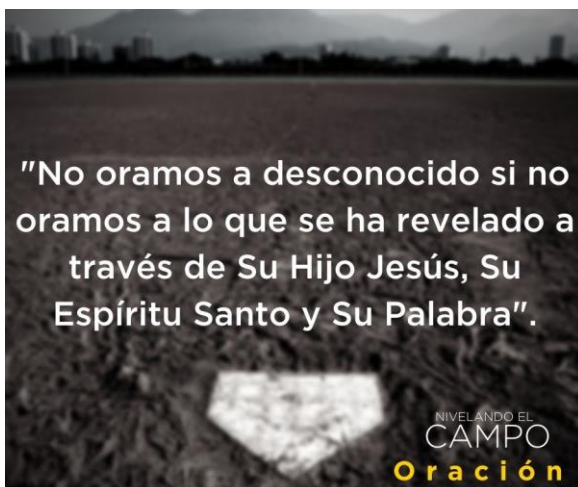
Excerpt from Leveling the Praying Field:

"This experience helped me understand that prayer is the communication tool and the focal point is that we pray to Creator God in the name of Jesus. This thought has challenged my thinking to move beyond glibly saying, 'Prayer works,' to think about the person of Jesus Christ who acts in response to our talking to Him and hearing from Him. Among friends who aren't Christ-followers, it became more evident to me that to say, 'Prayer works' or 'I've been praying for you,' was unclear and stopped short of giving credit to Jesus Christ. Rather than referring to prayer, why not take it a step further and talk about the activity of the God to whom we pray? So, I began saying things like, 'Jesus Christ is helping Dave recover from his injuries in response to prayer.' 'I'm so thankful to the Lord Jesus for saving my friends' marriage.' 'When I pray, Jesus helps me have greater compassion for my coworker.'" P 70-71

Have you considered that it matters to who it is we are praying? People of other religions "pray" to their god(s). So as a Christ-follower, when we pray, we need to remember that we are praying to the one and only true Father God, in Jesus' name.

The Bible says, "God's Son shines out with God's glory, and all that God's Son is and does marks him as God." Hebrews 1:3 (TLB).

God is infinite, transcendent, immanent, unchanging, omnipotent, all powerful, sovereign, omnipresent, omniscient, good, and holy. We need to remember that when we pray to our God, he hears and responds to our prayers! It changes EVERYTHING when we remember to who it is we are praying!



Prayer:

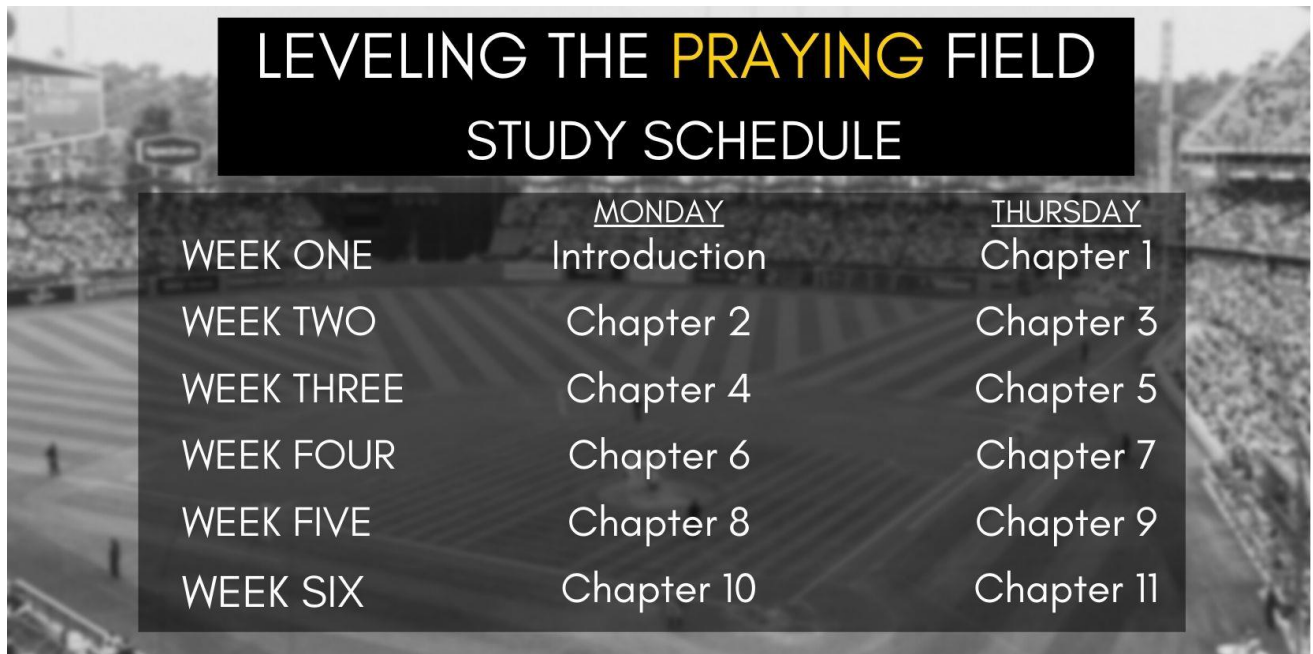
Father God, I come to you in Jesus' name. I acknowledge you as the One and Only True God. Please help me remember that not everyone knows You and give me opportunities to give you the glory for answered prayers so the world knows You are the True God. I love you. Amen

Reflection Questions:

- 1) Have you interacted with someone who serves a god different from the God you serve? How does prayer enter the picture for them?
- 2) How might you consider saying it differently to more clearly give glory to God in place of phrases such as “Prayer works” or “I felt the prayers?”

*Questions from pages 78-79

Key Thought – *Prayer is a vehicle by which we connect to God (the true God in Jesus’ name) and other religions pray to different gods, it matters who it is you pray to!*



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