

PRAYING SCRIPTURE

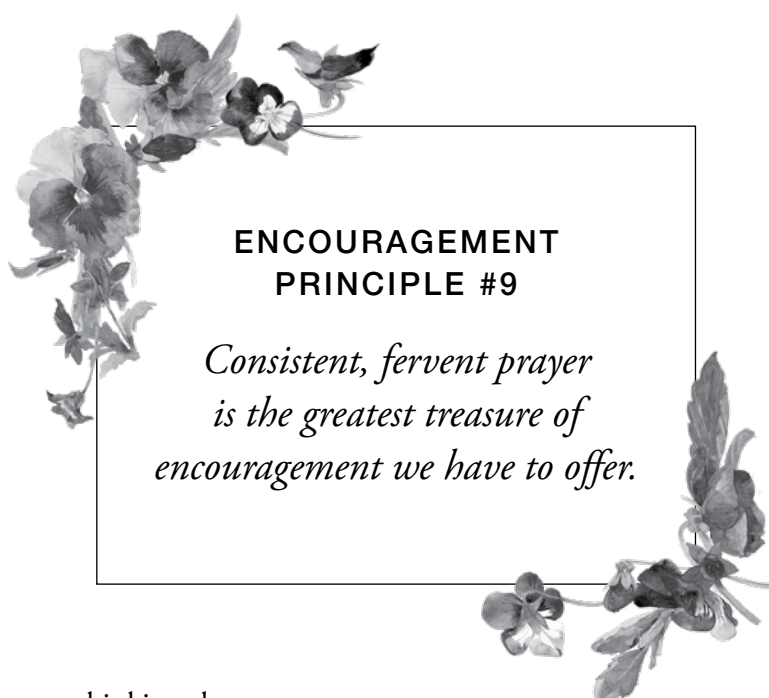
Praying through Scripture is an effective means of entering into the struggles of others, especially when we don't know what to do for them. If your leader divided your large group into smaller groups, appoint one person as guide and assign scriptures to each woman. Otherwise, the small group leader will guide you through this prayer time. Group members can pray silently or out loud as they feel comfortable. Pray as often as you like but pray sentence prayers so that everyone has an opportunity to respond. Respond to the scriptures silently or out loud. Do not be afraid of silences and take your time. Individuals may want to share the prayers they wrote for their prayer partners. Write in the margin the names of the people who come to mind and any action God leads you to take. Add this page to your journal.

- **Guide:** As we read Ephesians 1:1–23, ask God to impress on you a person who is faithfully serving God. Or ask God to impress on you the name of a woman in this group who is quietly obeying God in difficult circumstances, perhaps unknown to others. Pray this scripture for her. Ask God to show you what else He wants you to do.
- **Guide:** As we read Ephesians 6:19–20 and Romans 15:30, ask God to impress on you the name of a pastor or church leader who is struggling. Pray for him to have boldness as he leads God's people. Is God nudging you to encourage this person in a specific way?
- **Guide:** As we read Philippians 1:2–6, ask God to impress you with the name of a person in your village who has lost confidence that she can perform the tasks in her life. Pray this scripture for her. Or look at the church prayer list and pray for church leaders to finish well the work God has given them. Does your "Blues Busters" person need this specific prayer? How does God want you to respond to this person's need?
- **Guide:** As we read Philippians 1:9–11, ask God to impress on you the names of missionaries who are struggling with life-changing decisions. Or pray for a child who is learning how to stand alone in an unbelieving world. Is there something else God wants you to offer to this child or missionary?
- **Guide:** As we read Colossians 1:9–12, ask God to impress on you the name of a new believer who needs to grow in Christ. Ask God to show you a means to encourage this new believer.
- **Guide:** As we read Colossians 2:2–3, ask God to impress on you the names of covenant children in a Sunday School class or youth program who are resisting obedience to the Scriptures. Ask God to show them His presence in a way that draws them to His love. Or ask God to give you the name of someone in your group who is tired of fighting temptation and needs to be encouraged.
- **Guide:** As we pray Colossians 3:12–17, ask God if there is someone you need to forgive. If so, pray this scripture for the offending party, that he or she will experience Christ's peace. Ask God if He wants you to take any further action.

Let's close our time in prayer by thanking God for His presence with us.

ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK

- Watch Chapter 10 Encouragement Stories video at www.treasuresofencouragement.org.
- Read Chapter 10 and complete Getting Focused and Staying Focused questions, noting specific scriptures and statements that grab your attention.
- Use the following to write a summary of this lesson:
 - Write a summary statement of Chapter 10.
 - List a few things from the chapter that were helpful to you.
 - How did this chapter change or inform your thinking about biblical encouragement?
 - Write a prayer based on some of the scriptures in this chapter.
 - How would you like for others to pray for you as you seek to apply the scriptures in this chapter to your life?
- Review Handout #1 and follow through on any Spirit-directed action. Pray about sharing with the group one action you took this week in response to our prayer time.
- Complete your group assignment.
- Pray with your prayer partner. Personalize the Praying Scripture passage for you or someone in your “village” and record it in your journal.
- Memorize Hebrews 10:19–24.
- Continue journaling. Personalize the Praying Scripture for you or someone else and record in your journal
- **Bonus:** Listen to the suggested Chapter 9 Help & Hope podcasts at www.treasuresofencouragement.org:
 - *Grief and Lament — A Conversation with Dr. Frank James*
 - *The Mother-in-Law Dance — A Conversation with Annie Chapman*



**ENCOURAGEMENT
PRINCIPLE #9**

*Consistent, fervent prayer
is the greatest treasure of
encouragement we have to offer.*



PRAYING SCRIPTURE

*For God alone, O my soul,
wait in silence, for my hope
is from him. He only is
my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.
On God rests my salvation
and my glory; my mighty rock,
my refuge is God.*

PSALM 62:5-7

