



Teach Us to Pray – Solomon’s Prayer

June 29 | Weekly Devotionals

Introduction

Read 1 Kings 3:5–14.

When God invites Solomon to ask for anything, Solomon asks for “a discerning heart.” His request is humble, others-focused, and deeply pleasing to God.

- What does Solomon’s request reveal about what he values most?

Read James 1:5; Philippians 1:9–10.

In the New Testament, Paul prays that believers would grow in love that abounds in knowledge and depth of insight, so they can discern what is best. Discernment isn’t just about big decisions—it’s about becoming the kind of person who sees clearly and loves wisely.

- How would you define “discernment” in your own words?
- In what areas of life do you long for deeper spiritual insight?

Here’s a simple prayer to pray: “God, give me not just answers, but understanding. Shape my heart so I can see clearly, love wisely, and choose what is best.”

Discernment Prayer Guide



Read Psalm 25:4–5; Proverbs 3:5–6.

Discernment becomes real when we bring a concrete situation before God. During this week, you're invited to use this guide to practice discernment. But you can also keep this guide for any decision for which you are weighing the options. This is not for a decision in which you know there is a right and wrong answer. This is for those decisions where there isn't a clear-cut path forward, where there could be multiple "right" answers. As you apply this guide, you'll discover that discernment is more of a way of life than it is a 1-2-3 process for decision-making.

1. Identify a Decision.

Read 1 Kings 3:9 as your own prayer as you begin this process of looking for wisdom.

- Reflection:
 - What area of your life needs wisdom right now?
(A relationship, a responsibility, a fork in the road?)
 - Lay your choice before God and examine it thoroughly. You might want to write out the decision so you can see it clearly.

- Prayer: "Lord, here's where I feel uncertain... I give it to You. Guide me in Your ways."

2. Pay Attention to Yourself.

Read John 10:27.

Share your desires with God honestly. Use your own gift of reason and logic to weigh the options. As you weigh them, notice what feelings or internal movements are happening.



- Reflection:
 - What have you noticed as you weigh the decision so far?
 - What emotions—fear, pressure, desire—are influencing you?
 - What choice is leading toward peace or giving a sense of life?
 - What choice is leading away from peace, leading you to feel turmoil or confusion?
- Practice:
 - Take 5–10 minutes of quiet stillness. Ask God to help you notice what you might be missing.
- Prayer: “Give me open eyes and a full heart to understand all the facets of this decision.”

3. Listen to God in Scripture.

Read 1 John 4:1.

After collecting your own ideas and desires, and sharing those with God, it’s time to see what he might have to say in Scripture. Listen for his voice as you read.

- Practice:
 - This isn’t about going to a specific chapter and verse, but about giving him time and space to speak from scripture, either about this decision or more generally about his will for your life.
- Prayer: “Speak, Lord, through Your Word—help me listen intently and recognize Your leading.”

4. Weigh the Way Forward

Read Romans 12:1–2; Philippians 1:9–10.



Discernment means offering ourselves to God and seeking what aligns with His will—even when it stretches us.

- Reflection:
 - What path seems most aligned with God’s character and the fruit of the Spirit?
 - Who can you invite into the decision to listen and give godly counsel?
- Prayer: “Lord, I want to live a life that pleases You. Help me choose what reflects Your heart.”

5. Walk in Trust

Read Isaiah 11:2–3; Psalm 37:5.

Even when we discern the next step, we still walk forward in faith—not full certainty.

- Reflection:
 - What would it look like to move forward in trust rather than fear?
 - How can you stay open to continued guidance?
- Prayer: “God, I entrust my way to You. Give me a spirit of wisdom, courage, and peace as I take the next step.”

EXTRA RESOURCES

For more resources on discernment, check out these books:



- The Way of Discernment by Elizabeth Liebert
- Spiritual Disciplines Handbook by Adele Ahlberg Calhoun
- Desiring God's Will by David Benner