

t.b.d.
think. believe. do.

prayer

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T.B.D. Think. Believe. Do.: Prayer

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You are on a faith journey.

You might be thinking, “Who? Me?”

Yes. You.

Your faith journey started before you were born and it connects you to a family of believers—and questioners and deep thinkers and the occasional troublemaker. And as a part of this long line of disciples, you have work to do.

Because this faith journey is yours. You own it. Not your parents, your pastor, or even the nice lady in the front pew who always gives you gum before worship.

It’s all yours.

T.B.D. is here to help you claim it.

That means the questions you ask over the next four sessions, the answers you discover, the deeply held opinions you claim—they all matter. How you think about theology and faith is important.

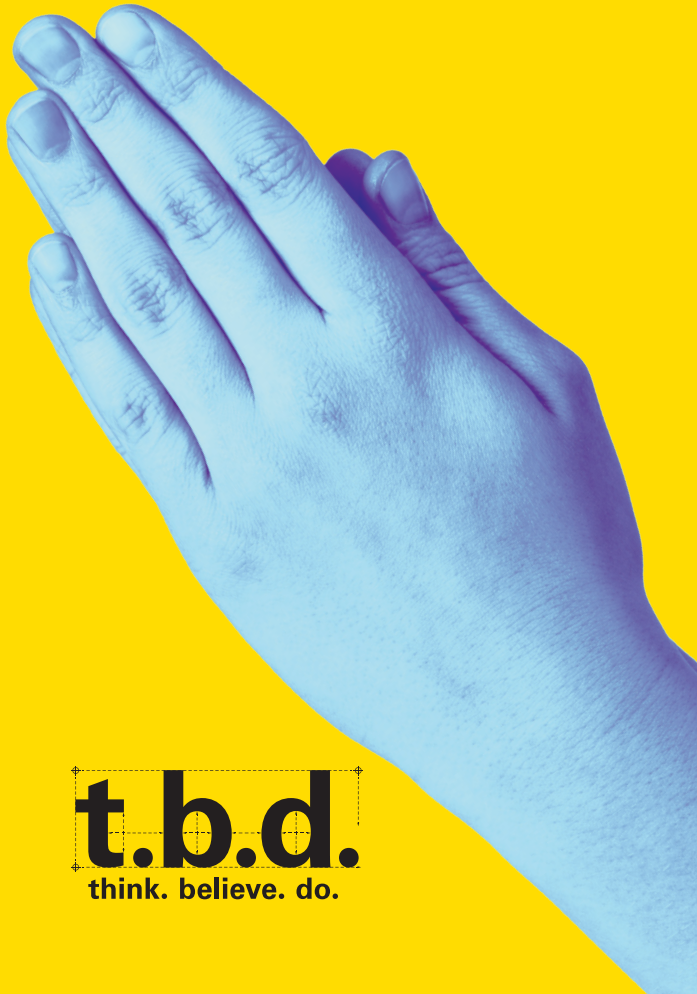
T.B.D. starts with a simple premise: You are ready not only to own your faith, but to recognize that faith is constantly *in process*. It is always to be determined. Who you are, what you believe, and how you live your life are all growing, changing, and evolving. They are constantly being determined with every new thing you experience and learn. When you have the tools to articulate, investigate, and test out your beliefs in the face of real-life challenges, you can think deeply. You can believe thoughtfully. And you can act faithfully.

The goal isn’t for you to come away from this series with a settled idea about a topic—although you might feel more settled than you did before. Instead, T.B.D. focuses on *how* you think, not just *what* you think.

So get ready.

Ask tough questions. Have strong opinions. Listen well. Think big.

prayer is
important



t.b.d.
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You've probably said a prayer.

And you probably remember the reason you prayed—you were about to eat a meal with your grandma, your friend was sick, that AP test. It just seemed like the thing to do.

So why did you pray?

Well, because **prayer is important.**

But why is it important?

Because it is.

Isn't it?



+ It's all starting. Right now.

think.

prayer is important

Is prayer important? Use this page to support your answer with facts, logic, deeply held feelings, and knee-jerk reactions.

What might make it hard for you to believe prayer is important?

What are words (positive or negative) you commonly associate with prayer?

When are you most likely to pray?

+ When you're ready, pick the ideas you want to share with the group and add them to the wall.

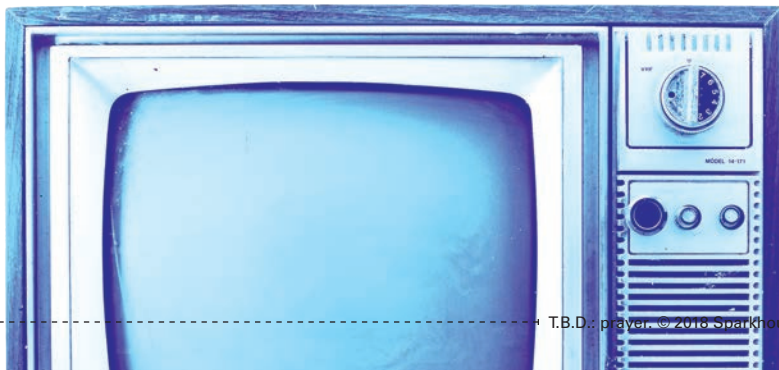


+ Video

+ *Lex orandi, lex credendi* means the law of prayer is the law of faith. Why would someone think prayer is a requirement for faith?

+ John Calvin says, "Prayer is the chief exercise of faith." Make a list of the top five most important things you do every day. Where does prayer rank?

+ What's the benefit of following a specific prayer schedule like the Daily Offices?



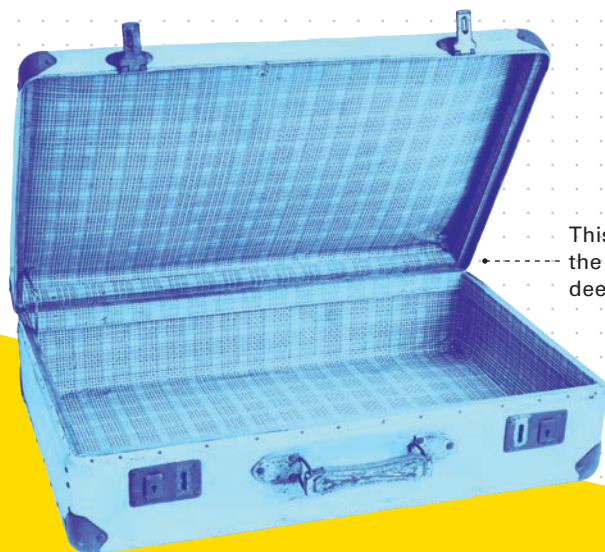
You've got more information. So let's revisit the wall.

- + Put an "X" next to three ideas you can no longer leave on the wall.
- + Put a check mark next to the three you most agree with.
- + What's not on the wall, but should be? Add it now.

+ Bible

Read Matthew 5:43-48 with a partner. Discuss:

- Why does God ask us to pray for our enemies?
- How does it change you to pray for people you don't like?
- What do you think about your "enemies" praying for you?



This is about unpacking the verses and thinking deeply about Scripture.

Now read Psalm 102:1-2 together. Then discuss:

- Why do we pray during a crisis?
- If God wants our prayers, why would God hide from us?
- How do we know God listens to all our prayers?

Now that you've discussed the Bible verses, what needs to be on the wall?

- + With your partner, come up with two or three new ideas to share with the group.
- + When you're ready, put them on the wall. Extra points for dramatic, mic-drop reveals.

believe.



prayer is important

+ Take a look at all the information on the wall. What are some common themes? Connections? Write two or three here.

+ Is there anything you'd add to the wall? Anything you'd take away? Write those here.

+ So... is prayer important? How would you rewrite that statement? As a group, figure out what you can now say about prayer, and write it here.

do.

+ Big Action

You've spent a lot of time thinking about how prayer is important—if it's important. Now it's time to put your ideas to the test. As a group, decide on one thing you can do—together or individually—to make prayer a bigger part of your daily life. Write your answer below as a reminder for the week.

How will you make prayer a part of your life this week?

+ Wait. How? What? Help!

Prayer doesn't have to be articulate, or even verbal. You just have to commit to the time and practice. Use the following blanks to focus your thoughts and then use the results as a guideline for praying this week.

Something you're thankful for:

Something God can help you with:

Something you're questioning:

+ Prayer Doodle

Think of someone or something you'd like to pray for. Write it down. Draw it. Put whatever you want in the space below and use it as a reminder of your prayers this week.

+ Before the next session, take some time to think about this week's lesson.

+ What I discovered...

+ What I'm still questioning...

+ And now I can honestly say...