

WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

How to Pray for Our Nation

Study Guide

Civil Government

John Weaver

Weaver Bible College

A lesson-by-lesson companion for reading, discussion, and written responses.

Downloadable classroom edition | 8.5 x 11 inches

Name / group

Date

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Using this guide

Read the corresponding chapter, then work through the themes, arguments, and Scripture references.

Write your responses before discussing the questions with others. Use the application pages to identify a practical next step.

The study material is retained from the existing lecture study guides. Added writing prompts provide space for your own response.

Print at Actual Size / 100% on US Letter paper. Single-sided and double-sided printing are both suitable. Lessons begin on the next available page; no blank pages are inserted.

Reading assignments refer to the September 30, 2026 edition of the companion book. Online lecture links and QR codes are collected at the end.

LESSON 1

Pastor John Weaver - How to Pray for Our Nation

Part One of Two

July 23, 2025

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-21.

Major Themes

Prayer Must Be Learned and Grounded in Scripture

Prayer is not natural to man; it must be taught and based on the Word of God, not on emotions or dreams. Daniel's prayer was founded on his study of Jeremiah and Moses.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'the best way to learn to pray is to emulate and to follow biblical examples' and 'We must ground our prayers upon the Word of God and the Word of God alone.'

Confession of Sin in Prayer

Believers should confess personal sins, the sins of others, and the sins of rulers and the nation, recognizing that all sin grieves God, even though forgiveness is already secured in Christ.

Lecture support: Weaver asks, 'Do you confess your sins in prayer?' and later, 'Do you confess the sins of our rulers? How about confessing the sins of our nation?'

Rulers Must Be God-Fearing Believers

Scripture requires rulers to be just and fear God, which is impossible for unbelievers. Christians have a duty to select Christian rulers.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Deuteronomy 17:15 and 2 Samuel 23:3, and quotes John Jay: 'Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty... to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.'

All Promises Are in Christ Alone

Every promise of God is fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the true seed of Abraham and David. Believers inherit these promises only by being in Christ, not by bargaining or works.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'All the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen' (2 Corinthians 1:20) and 'everything is in Jesus Christ and in Him alone.'

Fervent, Humble Prayer with Fasting

Deep national sin calls for fervent prayer marked by fasting, sackcloth, and ashes, demonstrating earnest devotion and humiliation before God.

Lecture support: Weaver explains Daniel 9:3: 'I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes,' and cites Joel 1-2 as a call to solemn assembly and weeping.

God's Sovereignty Over Nations

God has the power to enlarge or destroy nations, to remove rulers, and to bring judgment or revival. Prayer must acknowledge His absolute control.

Lecture support: Weaver reads Job 12:16-25, showing God 'increaseth the nations, and destroyeth them,' and says, 'What He does is up to Him.'

Key Arguments

Prayer is not natural; it must be taught

Man by nature does not pray or acknowledge God. Even the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, showing that prayer is a learned discipline.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'man by nature does not pray' and references Luke 11:1 where the disciples said, 'Lord, teach us to pray.'

Confession of sin is necessary even though forgiven

Though all sins - past, present, future - are forgiven in Christ, believers still confess because sin grieves God and breaks fellowship.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'if our sins are forgiven, why in the world are we confessing them? ... because we understand that we've grieved our heavenly Father.'

Unbelievers cannot rule justly

Scripture requires rulers to fear God and rule justly; therefore, only Christians are qualified to govern. Electing unbelievers is a sin to be confessed.

Lecture support: Weaver argues from 2 Samuel 23:3, 'He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God,' and says, 'Unsaved rulers do not fear God, neither are they or can they be just.'

Prayer for rulers is for our benefit, not theirs

1 Timothy 2:1-2 commands prayer for authorities so that believers may live quiet, peaceable lives, not primarily for the rulers' salvation.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'we pray for them that they will leave us alone and let us live our lives and obey God without persecution.'

Prayer must be based on God's Word, not dreams

Daniel studied Scripture to understand God's will. Effective prayer relies on biblical promises and warnings, not subjective experiences.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'We must ground our prayers upon the Word of God and the Word of God alone... We cannot and we must not lean upon or trust in our dreams.'

Bargaining with God is blasphemy

God owns everything and needs nothing from us. Attempting to bargain with Him denies His sovereignty and sufficiency.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'God cannot be bargained with. Because He is sovereign and He is the absolute owner of everything and everyone, including you.'

Fervent prayer requires deep humiliation

Daniel's fasting, sackcloth, and ashes showed his earnestness. National rebellion demands solemn assembly, weeping, and heartfelt repentance.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Joel 2:12-13: 'turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning.'

Knowing God's promises should drive us to pray

Daniel knew the 70-year captivity was ending, yet he prayed fervently. God's decrees include our duty to pray; they do not excuse passivity.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'just because we know the promise of God does not excuse us from our duties, neither does it stop us from praying.'

Scripture References

Daniel 9:1-3

Introduction to Daniel's prayer and the historical setting of the 70-year captivity.

Daniel 9:4

Daniel's confession of God's greatness and covenant-keeping mercy.

Luke 11:1

The disciples ask Jesus to teach them to pray, showing the need for instruction in prayer.

Psalms 32:5-6

David's confession of sin and the godly practice of praying in a time when God may be found.

1 Corinthians 10:13

Temptation is common to all, so we can generally know the sins of others.

Deuteronomy 17:15-20

God's requirements for Israel's king: chosen by God, a brother, not multiplying horses, wives, or gold, and reading the law daily.

2 Samuel 23:1-3

David's last words, inspired four times, that a ruler must be just and fear God.

1 Timothy 2:1-3

Prayer for all in authority so that believers may live quiet and peaceable lives.

James 4:1-3

Prayers are not answered when asked with wrong motives; without biblical foundation, prayers are selfish.

Daniel 9:2

Daniel understood from books (Jeremiah) the number of years for the desolations of Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 25:11-12

Prophecy that the land would serve Babylon 70 years, after which Babylon would be punished.

Jeremiah 29:10

After 70 years in Babylon, God would visit His people and cause them to return.

Daniel 9:10-13

Confession of Israel's disobedience and the curse of the law of Moses, yet they did not pray.

Hebrews 11:7

Noah, warned by God, moved with fear and built the ark; an example of responding to God's warnings.

Matthew 1:1

Jesus Christ is the son of David and Abraham, the true heir of the promises.

Romans 15:8

Christ became a servant to confirm the promises made to the fathers.

2 Corinthians 1:20

All the promises of God in Christ are 'yea' and 'Amen.'

Galatians 3:16, 29

The promises were made to Abraham's seed, which is Christ; believers in Christ are Abraham's seed and heirs.

Psalms 50:7-12

God owns everything and needs nothing from man; He cannot be bargained with.

Joel 1:13-14; 2:12-18

Call to fasting, weeping, and solemn assembly in times of national crisis, with promise of God's pity.

Discussion Questions

1. Why does Weaver say that prayer must be taught, and how does Daniel 9 serve as a model for learning to pray?

Consider: Weaver opens by stating that even the disciples asked to be taught to pray, and he uses Daniel's example as a biblical pattern.

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2. What is the biblical basis for confessing the sins of others and of the nation, and how should this shape our prayer life?

Consider: Weaver asks probing questions about confessing sins beyond our own, citing 1 Corinthians 10:13 and Daniel's example.

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3. According to Deuteronomy 17 and 2 Samuel 23, what are God's requirements for rulers, and how should this influence our voting and prayers?

Consider: Weaver argues that rulers must be believers who fear God, and he quotes John Jay on the duty to elect Christians.

4. Why does Weaver call bargaining with God 'absolute blasphemy,' and how does Psalm 50 support this view?

Consider: Weaver rebukes the idea of making deals with God, emphasizing His ownership of everything and our total dependence.

5. What does Daniel's use of fasting, sackcloth, and ashes teach us about the appropriate posture for prayer in times of national crisis?

Consider: Weaver explains the fervor of Daniel's prayer and connects it to Joel's call for solemn assembly and heartfelt repentance.

6. How does knowing God's promises (like the 70-year captivity) actually compel us to pray rather than make us passive?

Consider: Weaver points out that Daniel prayed fervently even though he knew the timing of deliverance, showing that God's decrees include our duty to pray.

7. What does Job 12 teach about God's sovereignty over nations, and how should that affect our prayers for our country?

Consider: Weaver reads Job 12:16-25 to show God's power to enlarge or destroy nations, urging believers to pray with this understanding.

8. Weaver says, 'we haven't been crying to the Lord like that.' What evidence does he give that American Christians lack fervency, and what might awaken it?

Consider: He contrasts current prayer meetings with the desperation seen in Joel and warns that persecution may be needed to drive us to prayer.

Applications

Study Scripture to ground your prayers

Believers must know the Bible's promises and warnings for nations in order to pray effectively, following Daniel's example of studying Jeremiah and Moses.

Lecture support: Weaver asks, 'Do you know the Bible well enough to claim the enunciated promises of God? ... If you do not know these promises, if you do not know these warnings, how can you pray effectively?'

Confess national and personal sins

Regularly confess not only your own sins but also the sins of your people and leaders, recognizing that all sin grieves God and hinders prayer.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'we can not only confess the sins of our nation, but we can also confess the sins of other believers participating in this.'

Pray for rulers to leave the church in peace

Pray for those in authority primarily so that believers may live quiet, godly lives without interference, as commanded in 1 Timothy 2.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'we pray for them that they will leave us alone and let us live our lives and obey God without persecution.'

Reject bargaining with God

Stop trying to make deals with God; instead, humbly rely on His promises in Christ, acknowledging His total ownership and your complete dependence.

Lecture support: Weaver calls bargaining 'absolute blasphemy' and says, 'He doesn't need you; you need Him.'

Cultivate a broken and contrite heart

Develop deep grief over sin - personal and national - through fasting and humiliation, as modeled by Daniel and commanded in Joel.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'we need also a broken and contrite heart over our sins... we're never ever going to really pray until there is deep concern or desperation.'

Pray fervently, not just say prayers

Move beyond cold, formal prayers to earnest, heartfelt intercession, especially in light of national rebellion and impending judgment.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'we have to come to the place that we don't say prayers, we pray. There's a big difference.'

Trust God's sovereignty over nations

Recognize that God alone can enlarge or destroy nations, and pray with confidence in His power to judge or restore according to His will.

Lecture support: Weaver reads Job 12 and says, 'He increaseth the nations, and destroyeth them... What He does is up to Him.'

Do not let knowledge of God's promises lead to passivity

Even when you know God's plan, persist in fervent prayer, as Daniel did, because God's decrees include our duty to pray.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'just because we know the promise of God does not excuse us from our duties, neither does it stop us from praying.'

Study notes

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Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

LESSON 2

Pastor John Weaver - How to Pray for Our Nation

Part Two of Two

July 23, 2025

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 23-39.

Major Themes

The Foundation of Prayer in God's Word

Prayers must be grounded in Scripture, which reveals God's will, so that we can pray with confidence according to His will.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'our prayers must be founded and grounded upon the Word of God' and cites 1 John 5:14-15 to show that confidence in prayer comes from asking according to God's will as revealed in Scripture.

The Necessity of a Broken and Contrite Heart

God hears and receives a broken and contrite heart, which is demonstrated through humility and genuine repentance, not merely external acts.

Lecture support: Weaver references Psalm 51:16-17 and Isaiah 57:15, explaining that sackcloth and ashes represented a broken spirit, and that God dwells with the contrite and humble.

Covenantal Faithfulness of God

God is absolutely faithful to His covenant, both in blessing obedience and in punishing disobedience, and this faithfulness is a source of confidence for believers.

Lecture support: Weaver expounds Daniel 9:4, 12-14, and cites Deuteronomy 7:9, 1 Corinthians 1:9, and Philippians 1:6 to emphasize God's unchanging faithfulness.

True Confession as Agreement with God

Confession (homologeō) means saying the same thing as God about sin, taking His attitude, and hating sin as He does, which leads to genuine repentance.

Lecture support: Weaver explains the Greek word *homologeō* and states, 'Confession of our sins is not just simply mouthing our sins... It literally means that you say the same exact thing that God says about your sins.'

Praying for God's Honor and Glory

Our prayers for the nation should be motivated by a desire for God's honor and glory, not merely by our own distress or needs, as Daniel prayed 'for the Lord's sake.'

Lecture support: Weaver points to Daniel 9:17-19 where Daniel pleads 'for the Lord's sake' and 'for thine own sake,' and urges believers to pray for deliverance for God's honor and glory.

The Sinfulness of Departing from God's Precepts

Departing from God's precepts leads to sin, iniquity, wickedness, and rebellion, and ultimately to idolatry, as individuals and nations reject God's authority.

Lecture support: Weaver comments on Daniel 9:5, stating that when we depart from God's precepts, we dethrone God and enthrone ourselves, which is idolatry.

Human Responsibility and Stubbornness

The judgment upon Israel was their own fault because they refused to listen to God's prophets and warnings, demonstrating human stubbornness and rebellion.

Lecture support: Weaver cites 2 Chronicles 36:15-16 and Jeremiah 7:22-26 to show that God sent messengers but the people mocked and refused to hear, bringing judgment upon themselves.

Trusting in the Lord Rather than Man

Our ultimate confidence must be in God, not in human leaders or institutions, for salvation and deliverance come from the Lord alone.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Psalm 118:8-9, 'It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man... in princes,' and asserts that the Constitution or man cannot save us.

Key Arguments

Prayer must be based on God's revealed will in Scripture.

Since confidence in prayer comes from asking according to God's will, and His will is revealed in the Bible, our prayers must be grounded in Scripture.

Lecture support: Weaver cites 1 John 5:14-15 and Deuteronomy 29:29, arguing that we know God's will through His Word, so our prayers should be founded on it.

True confession involves agreeing with God about the nature of sin.

Confession is not merely reciting sins but adopting God's view of sin as wicked and hateful, which leads to repentance and restitution.

Lecture support: Weaver explains the Greek word *homologeō* and illustrates with the example of stealing, stating that genuine confession means seeing sin as God does and making it right.

God's faithfulness includes both blessing and punishment.

God is faithful to His covenant by blessing obedience and bringing curses for disobedience, as seen in Deuteronomy 28 and Daniel's acknowledgment of God's righteous judgments.

Lecture support: Weaver references Deuteronomy 28 and Daniel 9:13-14, noting that God's blessings and curses overtake people according to their obedience or disobedience.

Departing from God's precepts is idolatry.

When we reject God's law and principles, we set up our own desires as the ultimate authority, effectively dethroning God and enthroning ourselves.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Whenever you depart from the precepts and the principles of the Word of God, what you're doing in essence is this: you're dethroning God and enthroning yourself.'

National judgment is the result of refusing to hear God's messengers.

God in His compassion sends prophets and preachers to warn a nation, but when they are mocked and ignored, judgment becomes inevitable.

Lecture support: Weaver cites 2 Chronicles 36:15-16 and Jeremiah 7:22-26, showing that Israel's refusal to listen to God's messengers led to wrath until there was no remedy.

We must pray for our nation based on God's mercy, not our merit.

Like Daniel, we must acknowledge we have no righteousness of our own and plead for God to act for His own name's sake, not because we deserve deliverance.

Lecture support: Weaver points to Daniel 9:16-19, where Daniel says, 'we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousness, but for thy great mercies,' and urges prayer for God's sake.

Loving God requires hating evil.

True love for God is inseparable from a hatred of sin, as Scripture commands those who love the Lord to hate evil.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Psalm 97:10, Proverbs 8:13, and Amos 5:15, concluding that 'you can't really love God without hating everything that's contrary to Him.'

Our ultimate trust must be in God, not human solutions.

The middle verse of the Bible (Psalm 118:8) teaches that it is better to trust in the Lord than in man, and national salvation comes only from God's grace and mercy.

Lecture support: Weaver reads Psalm 118:8-9 and declares, 'Man is not going to save us. If we're ever saved, it's going to be God in His grace and mercy.'

Scripture References

Daniel 9:1-4

Weaver reads the opening verses of Daniel's prayer, setting the context for the message on how to pray for our nation.

1 John 5:14-15

Weaver cites this passage to show that confidence in prayer comes from asking according to God's will, which is revealed in Scripture.

Deuteronomy 29:29

Weaver references this verse to support that the revealed will of God belongs to us, so we can know His will through His Word.

Psalms 51:16-17

Weaver quotes this to emphasize that God desires a broken and contrite heart rather than mere external sacrifices.

Isaiah 57:15

Weaver quotes this to show that God dwells with the contrite and humble, reviving their hearts.

Daniel 9:4

Weaver highlights the positive aspect of Daniel's confession, acknowledging God's covenant-keeping faithfulness.

Daniel 9:5

Weaver points out the negative aspect of confession, where Daniel lists the sins of the people.

1 John 1:9

Weaver references this verse to explain the Greek word for confess (homologeō) and its meaning of agreeing with God about sin.

Daniel 9:8

Weaver notes that Daniel confesses the sin of the people, kings, and princes, acknowledging their shame.

Daniel 9:19-20

Weaver reads Daniel's plea for God to hear and forgive, and his confession of his own sin and the sin of his people.

Exodus 24:3, 7

Weaver cites the people's agreement to obey God's law at Mount Sinai, establishing the Sinaitic covenant.

Daniel 9:12-14

Weaver reads these verses to show that God confirmed His words by bringing the promised evil upon Jerusalem because of their disobedience.

Numbers 23:19

Weaver quotes this verse to emphasize God's faithfulness: He is not a man that He should lie or repent.

Deuteronomy 7:9

Weaver quotes this verse to affirm that God is the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy.

Philippians 1:6

Weaver uses this verse to illustrate God's faithfulness in completing the work He began in believers.

Lamentations 3:22-23

Weaver quotes this passage to highlight God's great faithfulness and daily mercies.

Zechariah 1:2-6

Weaver reads this passage to show that God's words and statutes took hold of the fathers, and they acknowledged God dealt with them according to their ways.

Psalms 119:75

Weaver quotes David's confession that God in faithfulness afflicted him, showing that chastisement is part of God's faithfulness.

Jeremiah 11:13

Weaver references this verse to explain that 'confusion of face' (Bosheth) refers to shameful idolatry, as altars were set up to Baal.

Psalm 118:8-9

Weaver quotes the middle verse of the Bible to emphasize trusting in the Lord rather than in man or princes.

Study notes

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Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to ground our prayers in the Word of God, and how can we practically do this when praying for our nation?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes that prayers must be founded on Scripture, which reveals God's will.

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2. How does understanding the Greek word 'homologeo' change your view of confession? In what ways might you need to align your attitude with God's attitude toward sin?

Consider: Weaver explains that true confession means saying the same thing as God about sin.

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3. In what ways have we as individuals, families, churches, or as a nation departed from God's precepts? What are the consequences?

Consider: Weaver asks how many times we have departed from God's precepts and points to the resulting idolatry.

- 4.** Why is it important to acknowledge that national judgment is our own fault? How does this affect the way we pray?

Consider: Weaver discusses covenantal faults and the people's responsibility for the judgment they faced.

- 5.** What does it mean to pray for God's honor and glory rather than just for relief from distress? How can we cultivate this motivation?

Consider: Weaver contrasts praying for our needs versus praying for God's sake, as Daniel did.

- 6.** How can we develop a genuine hatred for sin while still loving sinners? What role does this play in effective prayer?

Consider: Weaver states that loving God requires hating evil, and quotes Psalm 97:10.

7. In what ways are we tempted to put confidence in man or human institutions rather than in the Lord? How can we shift our trust?

Consider: Weaver quotes Psalm 118:8-9 and warns against trusting in man or the Constitution for salvation.

8. What practical steps can you take to begin praying for our nation in the manner Daniel prayed?

Consider: Weaver concludes with four truths for praying for our nation and urges a starting point.

Applications

Ground your prayers in Scripture

When praying for the nation, base your requests on God's revealed will in the Bible, not on personal desires or political opinions.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'our prayers must be founded and grounded upon the Word of God' and cites 1 John 5:14-15.

Confess personal and national sins with genuine agreement with God

In prayer, confess your own sins and the sins of the nation by adopting God's view of sin as wicked and hateful, leading to repentance.

Lecture support: Weaver explains homologeo and says, 'Confession of our sins is not just simply mouthing our sins... It literally means that you say the same exact thing that God says about your sins.'

Acknowledge that we deserve nothing but judgment

Approach God with humility, recognizing that as a nation we have violated His law and do not deserve the least of His mercies.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'we must also confess and recognize that we do not deserve the least of God's mercies' and points to fallen empires.

Plead for God's mercy for His own name's sake

Pray for national deliverance not because of our distress, but for God's honor, glory, and the advancement of His kingdom.

Lecture support: Weaver emphasizes Daniel's plea 'for the Lord's sake' and urges prayer 'for your honor and your glory.'

Cultivate a hatred for sin

Develop a genuine hatred for evil as an expression of love for God, and let this shape your prayers of confession.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Psalm 97:10 and Proverbs 8:13, stating, 'you can't really love God without hating everything that's contrary to Him.'

Trust in the Lord, not in human solutions

Place your ultimate confidence in God alone for national salvation, not in political leaders, the Constitution, or any human institution.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Psalm 118:8-9 and declares, 'Man is not going to save us. If we're ever saved, it's going to be God in His grace and mercy.'

Begin praying consistently for the nation

Make a determined start in praying for the nation, following Daniel's example of confession and supplication for God's sake.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'If you don't start, you're never going to finish' and urges believers to 'start by really seeking the Lord for this nation.'

Study notes

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

Online Lecture Resources

Scan a code or select the lecture link in the PDF. The original lecture identifiers and destinations are preserved.

Lesson 1: Pastor John Weaver - How to Pray for Our Nation - Part One of Two

Lecture JW01785

[Open the formatted lecture online](#)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01785&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 2: Pastor John Weaver - How to Pray for Our Nation - Part Two of Two

Lecture JW01786

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Source information

Study material: existing Major Themes, Key Arguments, Scripture References, Discussion Questions, and Applications from the corresponding Weaver Bible College lecture records. Original lecture titles and provenance are retained in those source records.

Layout upgraded September 30, 2026. Original manuscripts, study-guide data, and previous PDFs have not been changed.