

Praying Scripture

Praying Scripture means that we apply a truth of Scripture directly to ourselves or another person.

Here's a quick overview as to how this works: You can look for a verse that applies to your situation or someone else's, you can seek out verses that have to do with what you are facing, and then look up the verse and read the section it is part of so you get a sense of its context. As you then read the specific verse again, personalize it. Or you can take general verses and see if they could be applied to you or someone else the same way.

For example: John 1:12 says "to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." So you might pray....

Lord Jesus, thank you that Suzie has received you and believes in you. The Bible says this means that she has been given the right to be your daughter. What a privilege Lord! Thanks again!

When we pray scripture, we pray God's inspired word back to him. The practice of praying God's word back to Him has two advantages: it is powerful and it is safe. We can't go far wrong praying God's word back to him. But we must find an appropriate text. Rather than picking a verse at random or looking for a verse to prove your point or confirm a decision you've already made, we need to familiarize ourselves with the Bible and understand its overarching themes: God's holiness, his redemption, his tender mercy and his unfailing love. We will work to grow in our understanding of Scripture in the coming months, and in the meantime, you can seek help from a pastor, a friend or your small group.

Another example might be:

If you are anxious about something you might find the verse in Philippians 4:6-7 that says, *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

So you might pray something like this....

Heavenly father, your word promises that I don't have to be anxious, instead I can pray to you. And so Lord I'm asking that you would hear me now, calm my fears, and remind me that you are near. I ask that your peace that passes all understanding would come into my heart and mind. Holy Spirit, guard my heart and mind from the anxious thoughts and self-doubt that I am struggling with. Be my stability and my confidence. Thank you Jesus.

Other ideas include:

Personalizing a Biblical passage. That is, to put it in the first person. You might try that with Psalm 91, 40, 5 or 23

Applying one of Jesus' promises to your life. For example, Romans 8:1 could be restated, "there is now no condemnation for me because I am in Christ Jesus. Because through Him, the Spirit who gives life has set me free from sin and death." Or Colossians 2:10 could be prayed, "Thank you God that in Christ I have been brought to fullness and that Jesus is the head over every power and authority."

For more resources see: <https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/scripture-engagement/praying-scripture/small-groups>