

COMMAND: PRAY

EXPANDED LEADER INFORMATION

<i>Looking Back</i>	<i>Looking Up</i>	<i>Looking Forward</i>
1. CARE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRAISES/REQUESTS • PRAY FOR EACH OTHER 2. LOVING ACCOUNTABILITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABIDE? • MISSION STATEMENT? • PREVIOUS GOAL(S) 	3. WORSHIP + SEEK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 CORINTHIANS 14:26 4. VISION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GREAT COMMISSION 5. NEW LESSON <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COMMAND > STORY > READ > ASK > EXPLORE 	6. SETTING GOALS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HOW WILL WE OBEY AND APPLY THE COMMAND? 7. PRACTICE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 SEC TESTIMONY 3 CIRCLES OIKOS MAP 8. COMMISSION

NEW LESSON

READ THE COMMAND: IN MATTHEW 6:9-13, JESUS SAYS...

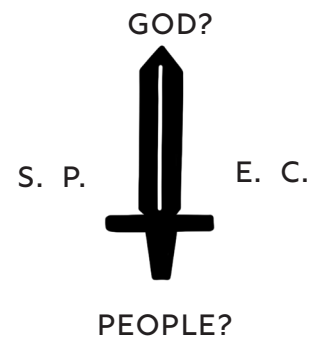
TELL THE STORY: JESUS' PRAYER (MATTHEW 6:5-15)

- RETELL THE STORY TOGETHER

READ THE STORY ALOUD

DISCOVER/ASK: USE THE SWORD BIBLE STUDY METHOD TO DISCUSS THE STORY AND REVEAL ITS MEANING FOR OUR LIVES

- PRACTICE TELLING THE STORY



WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE TELL US ABOUT GOD?

- God knows everything we need. Even before we ask. (verse 8)
- God dwells in the secret place, and He enjoys meeting us there. In fact, He enjoys rewarding us in that place! (verse 6)
- He is holy and revered
- His will is done in Heaven
- He is king
- He provides for our needs
- He forgives our sins
- He has the power to deliver us from evil

“Our Father...holy is your name...” = Worship God
 “Your Kingdom come...” = Pray for his mission to reconcile the world
 “Give us today our daily bread...” = Pray for our needs
 “Forgive us our debts...” = Pray for forgiveness
 “Deliver us from the evil one...” = Pray for strength to resist temptation

WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE TELL US ABOUT PEOPLE?

- We can get wrapped up being more concerned about what other people think about our prayers than what God thinks.
- We sometimes fill the void of the quiet place (or maybe even our insecurities or pride) with many words or eloquence.
- We need God. A lot!

ARE THERE ANY SINS IN THE PASSAGE TO AVOID?

- Perhaps unforgiveness toward others
- Making a conversation with God about ourselves

ARE THERE ANY PROMISES IN THE PASSAGE THAT WE SHOULD BEHOLD ?

- God rewards what we do in secret (verse 6)
- He will provide our needs, forgiveness, and deliverance from evil

ARE THERE ANY EXAMPLES IN THE PASSAGE TO FOLLOW?

- Bad examples: Don't be like those who pray with lofty speech or many words just to be praised by others.
- The whole prayer itself is an example of a flow for prayer.

ARE THERE ANY COMMANDS IN THE PASSAGE TO BE OBEYED?

- Forgive others when they sin against you... for, if you don't, God will not forgive you your sins against Him.
- Prefer the secret place with the Lord when you pray rather than publicly for others to hear
- Obviously, this isn't an every time kind of command. It is good for us to pray together and publicly... the heart and "attention" of our prayers matter most.

EXPLORE MORE:

A. WHAT IS PRAYER?

- Talking with God. He is our Heavenly Father

B. WHY DO WE PRAY?

- Matthew 6:9-13
- God hears us. We desire his will to be done on earth

C. HOW DO WE PRAY?

- It's simple. Just talk to him

EXPLORE MORE ADDITIONAL NOTES:

While Jesus gave the disciples this example of how to pray, it is not intended to be the prayer we pray every time we pray to God. Routine pray only produces routine results. But the different aspects of what Jesus models we should include in prayer is helpful. One helpful tool for teaching someone to pray is to use the acronym A.C.T.S. This stands for Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. Pray praises to the Lord. Confess any sin. Tell God what you are thankful to Him for in your life. And lift up requests of supplication from your life and those around you.

Don't forget to ask the Holy Spirit to help you pray too! He does that! And when it comes to confessing sin, sit and listen for the Holy Spirit to bring to mind things you may need to confess and repent. Also, ask Him to show you other people and situations that you can be praying for. Don't be afraid to spend time sitting silently and listening for anything He may want to teach you.

Prayer is critically important as we go after a revival movement of God... because there has never been a revival movement on earth that didn't begin and include people praying for God to work and move! We must make this a regular part of our lives.

SET GOALS:

This topic tends to hit a wide variety of comfort and confidence in praying. Many people who are new to the faith don't feel confident in their prayers, so they don't tend to pray as much. Unfortunately, this is true for a lot of Christians who have been believers for a long time. Based on how confident your disciple feels in prayer, the following are good goals to set:

Not very confident: Practice being intentional to pray to God every day this week for at least 15 minutes. Make sure to listen as well as speak. Use the A.C.T.S. model to help.

Moderately confident: Pray every day for longer than 15 minutes, and make sure to include intercessory prayer... where you pray for the needs of others as well.

Confident: Same as the moderately confident goal plus pray together with and/or over someone different every day.