

Series: Change

Message: The Practice of Prayer

March 8, 2015

Life Group Questions

For week of March 8, 2015

Prayer is **communicating** with God. Psalm 5:1-3

- With gut level honesty.
- About everything that matters to you.
- Continually.
- Listen for His response.

Praying like Jesus Prayed

- **Seek a personal relationship with God as you enter his presence.** Matthew 6:9
- **Come to God with expectation of His plan over your own.** Matthew 6:10
- **Ask for God's provision for your daily needs.** Matthew 6:11
- **Seek God's forgiveness.** Matthew 6:12
- **Depend on God to overcome temptation.** Matthew 6:13
- **Acknowledge Gods sovereignty in your life.** Matthew 6:9-13

Welcome, to prepare for this week's meeting, take some time to focus on the questions below and be prepared to share your answers with the group. Have a great meeting as you come together to connect, encourage one another to grow and to see God change your lives from the inside out!

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

What is the best answer to prayer you have ever received?

How did that answer to prayer affect your relationship with God?

DIGGING DEEPER

Read Psalms 5:1-3: What is something you are currently praying for that God has apparently not yet answered? How have you handled this prayer not being answered?

On a scale of 1-10 with 10 being the highest, how would you rate your time spent talking with God this past week? Explain.

Read Matthew 6:5-7: How honest are you with God when you pray? What are some reasons that keep you from being totally honest with God?

Read Philippians 4:6: Describe how you communicate with God. What ways are most effective and meaningful to you?

Read Matthew 7:7-12

- What did Jesus say will happen if we bring our requests to Him? (7:7)
- What happens when we seek in Christ's name? (7:7)
- According to Jesus, what is the result for those who "knock" on God's door?
- What is the likelihood of God giving His praying children what they need?
- How are we to treat others? (7:12)
- Why is the command to treat others as you want to be treated so significant? (7:12)
- What do you tend to pray for most?
- For what are you most reluctant to pray? Why?
- If earthly parents generally attempt to care for their children, what can you conclude about God in how He loves us?

Removing Prayer Barriers

My prayer response:

- Lord Jesus, I come to you now to be restored in you, to be renewed in you, to receive your love and your life, and all the grace and mercy I so desperately need this day. I honor you as my Sovereign, and I surrender every aspect of my life totally and completely to you.
- Jesus, show me if there is someone I have not forgiven. Help me to release this hurt to you. Help me to truly and completely forgive them. Help me to be free from the bondage of unforgiveness.
- Jesus I have sinned. Forgive me. Jesus, thank you for coming to ransom me with your own life. I love you, I worship you, I trust you. I want to walk with you to learn your way to live life. Help me to turn from what I have done and be healed body, mind and spirit.
- Jesus by the power of your name I renounce any agreement I have made with the enemy. I believe that you are greater than the enemy and I put my full trust in you.
- I give you the place in my heart and in my life that you truly deserve. I confess here and now that this is all about you, God, and not about me. You are the Hero of this story, and I belong to you. I desire for your will to be done in my life.
- I want to know you more. As I present my requests to you today, I do so believing that you love me and have my best interests at heart, so I ask with expectancy of hearing from you. I will not doubt and I will not quit. I love you.

Best Year Ever Prayer

Lord Jesus,

I pray that you would work in me that I might reflect you more.

I pray that you work for me that I may be blessed by you.

I pray that you work through me that I may be an instrument of your love and grace.

I give you permission to work in me, for me and through me according to your purpose

Amen