

How to Pray Matthew 6:5-15

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Supplemental Scripture

Hebrews 4:14-16 1 Peter 3:7 Matthew 26:38-44

Discussion Questions for Personal Life and Community Gathering

1. **Accountability.** Take a few minutes at the beginning or end of group time and discuss how your life has changed this week based on the teachings of Christ. How did you live differently? How have your perceptions changed? How did your reactions change? What did God point out in your life or in what areas did He convict you? Has repentance occurred? If so, in what areas of your life?

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2. **Read Matthew 6:5-8.** What does Jesus teach against in these verses? How does Jesus teach us to pray here?

Verse 8 can be very difficult as it seems to pit God's sovereignty against His command for our supplication. In other words, why should we pray if He already knows what I want or need? Discuss the necessity of prayer for the believer in the midst of His sovereign and unmovable will.

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3. **The Lord's Prayer.** Read Matthew 6:9-13. List each phrase and discuss its implication and importance as it relates prayer (Example: "Our Father in heaven" - Father reveals intimacy, not empty phrases as in verse 7; reveals His position of authority in Heaven....).

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4. **Application.** Spend some intentional time this week with an honest evaluation of your prayer life. Do you pray? How often do you pray? What is the nature of your prayers (Full of wants and needs only, for deliverance only without endurance, for your glory or His glory, wordy versus worshipful, fake versus sincere)? How well do you listen to God? Do you deal with bitterness due to unanswered prayers or prayers with unfavorable answers? Do you delight in God with your prayers?

Please journal these answers and take some time to share these thoughts with your spouse or community group so that together you may both grow in maturity in your communication with God.

Also, review Matthew 6:9-13 and write this prayer out in your own words. Reflect on the greatness of God as you meditate on His instruction.

Prayer: Close in your personal or corporate time with praying Matthew 6:9-13. Perhaps this would be a great opportunity to read your own personal prayer. Praise Him that He is not a distant God, but in fact is intimately relational to His children. Pray that we will be a people who pray unceasingly as we meditate on His word day and night. Finally, pray that we will understand our utter inadequacy to live on our own so that we may be children who are utterly dependent on our "Father in heaven."

Next Week: Matthew 6:16-18