

DAY 2: TALKING WITH GOD – READ MATTHEW 6: 5-13

⁵ “When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. ⁶ But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

⁷ “When you pray, don’t babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. ⁸ Don’t be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him! ⁹ Pray like this:

Our Father in heaven,
 may your name be kept holy.
¹⁰ May your Kingdom come soon.
May your will be done on earth,
 as it is in heaven.
¹¹ Give us today the food we need, ^[a]
¹² and forgive us our sins,
 as we have forgiven those who sin against us.
¹³ And don’t let us yield to temptation, ^[b]
 but rescue us from the evil one. ^[c]

Read Matthew 6: 5-8. What does Jesus warn us about?

Why does He remind us that we are talking to our heavenly Father?

In prayer, intimacy with God is the goal. There are several practical steps that have helped Christians pray for generations. Teacher Michael Bickle says there are two reasons Christians don't pray: They don't plan prayer, and they don't know what to say. If you've ever tried to pray regularly or for a long time (an hour or more), you know it is. Jesus knew this and taught us to pray.

FOUR PRACTICAL STEPS:

- 1) Plan your prayer - When will you spend time with God? Praying "at all times" is good, but it is better if there is a scheduled time. Otherwise, it's easy to get carried away with your own affairs.
- 2) Set aside a place for prayer - Jesus said: go to your room and shut it behind you. Some places are more suitable for prayer than others. Is there a place where it will be quiet and peaceful?
- 3) Routine - most people need some kind of structure, otherwise prayer time becomes like repeating a shopping list, rather than building a friendship with God.
- 4) Spontaneity - Bring fun into your prayer. If things get boring, then try something new.

SPECIAL WORD TO PARENTS OF LITTLE CHILDREN:

When you have a toddler, words like schedule, quiet time, and routine can disappear. And then it just becomes impossible to maintain a constant prayer life, accept this as a precious and challenging season of your life and ask God to show you how you can talk to Him.

MODEL FOR PRAYER:

Jesus taught a pattern of prayer called the Lord's Prayer. In fact, it should be called the Prayer of the Disciple. Each new verse sets a theme for prayer. And you can add something for each topic. A disciple's prayer will show you several key points in speaking with the Lord.

Read verses 9 through 13.

Meditation

Our Father who art in heaven.

Who do you turn to in prayer? What kind of god is He? (People carelessly say that all religions worship the same God. This is not the case. The "gods" worshiped by different religions are different in nature). What is His nature? What can you expect from Him. Is He tired today or displeased? Is He too busy to talk about important topics? We laugh at this thought, but sometimes we come to God as if He were. When you start praying, remember that He has tremendous love for you and He has the gift of salvation for you and what we talked about in the first week with you. When I know that I am talking to my heavenly Father, my prayers become real conversation!

WORSHIP

Hallowed be thy name

Holiness means "honor, respect, holy, unique, worship." Spend time talking to God about His goodness and thank Him. Singing can help you here.

PRAY FOR THE KINGDOM

Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, both on earth, as in heaven

Sometimes you need to ask about God's will on a specific issue so you can pray with confidence.

Write down where and when you will spend time with God each day.