
A Year in the Word

A Year in the Word: Part 10

Small Group Questions: Teach Me To Pray

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Read

Luke 11:1; Matthew 6:5–13

Reflect

Prayer may seem effortless for some people, but even the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray. He taught them the Lord's Prayer. Jesus knew the power of God flowed through him when he prayed, and we, too, can be changed by its power. What frustrates or hinders your prayer life?

Pastor Josh Surratt highlights several prayer pitfalls:

1. Trying to impress other people with our prayers.
 - a. When and where do you tend to pray?
 - b. When have you caught yourself hoping to impress someone with your prayers?
 - i. How effective do you think those prayers are?
 - c. Matthew 6 says to go into a room and close the door to pray. Yet, have you ever felt pressured to pray out loud...say...in a group? That if you don't add a verbal comment, you're somehow not as spiritual or connected? How do you balance both needed aspects?
 - d. Would you say you need to carve out more time to pray each day?
 - e. How much pressure to do you feel to choose the perfect words?
2. Trying to manipulate God with our prayers.
 - a. When have you tried to flatter God into doing something?
 - b. Have you ever given him ultimatums? "If I don't hear from you about this by _____, then I will _____?"

When I talk to God:

1. Declare God's greatness.
 - a. How hard is it to treat God as the hallowed (sacred) creator of the universe, and also as our father?
 - b. How often do we treat him as a good luck charm?
2. Surrender my will.
 - a. What issue is hardest to surrender to God? What major decisions do you need to pray about?
 - b. What is God calling you to be a part of that may take you out of your comfort zone?
3. Acknowledge my dependency.
 - a. For my provision.
 - i. Looking back, how has God provided for you during a difficult time?
 - b. For my forgiveness.
 - i. Is there an area of your life that you need to ask God's forgiveness? Is there someone you need to forgive?
 - c. For my protection.
 - i. Has there been a time when you made an important decision without praying about it? What were the results?
 - ii. In what ways have you felt God's protection?
 - iii. Which of the above is hardest for you and why?

Respond: Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?