

Small Group Questions: Jesus on Prayer

Series: Jesus on _____

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Read

Matthew 6:5-13, Matthew 7:7-12

Reflect

In Matthew chapter 6 and chapter 7, Jesus warns against hypocritical formal prayer and gives us a guide on how to come to him in prayer. The Lord's Prayer is a living communication with a living God and it teaches us how to pray expectantly, trust God's timing, and commands us to act. The sermon on the mount was transformative and countercultural; similar to the times we find ourselves in now. Jesus outlines prayer not only because he wants us to believe and trust in him, but to act like him and be set apart from the world we live in.

Pastor Greg Surratt highlights three words from these passages that take a deeper dive into what it looks like to be a follower of Christ.

1. Pray

- a. What is your first reaction when faced with an uncontrollable or uncomfortable circumstance?
 - i. At what point do you go to God in prayer with what you're facing?
- b. Matthew 7:7 says "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."
 - i. What are the things in your life that you're afraid to ask for?
 - ii. Where else does the Bible talk about God giving us what we need?
 - iii. When we quit seeking, we settle. What areas of your life are you settling?
 1. How do you know you're settling?
- c. Share about a time where you felt hopeless over a closed door yet God had something better in store for you.

2. Trust

- a. Give an example of time you were afraid to pray for something because you thought you already knew the answer.
- b. What is holding you back from fully trusting God's goodness?
 - i. What habits can you create to help you trust more in God?

3. Do

- a. Our beliefs inform our behaviors. What is a behavior you know needs shifting?
 - i. How can you reflect Jesus accurately with these shifts?
- b. Where else in the Bible does it talk about the need for action in addition to praying?

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