

Discovery Group - Basic Commands

(2) Pray

Accountability

Share how your obedience commitment from last week went, and who you shared with.

Bible: Matthew 6:5-15

Read *passage* aloud & someone retell in their own words

- What do we learn from this passage about God?
- What do we learn from this passage about people?

Read the *article* on the next page.

- Why does forgiveness have such a prominent place in this passage (especially v 14-15)?
- What hinders you from praying as you would like? How can this be overcome?

Commit

What is Jesus calling you to do in *obedience* this week?

Who can you *share* this with? Who can you reach out to in order to make disciples?

Abide: Read and meditate on the following passages this week:

Matthew 7:7-12

Matthew 21:21-22

Luke 11:1-13

Luke 18:1-14;

John 15:1-17

1 John 5:13-15

Pray

Jesus says, “When you pray..” This is one of those activities for Christians that is so obvious it doesn’t even require a command. It is assumed. The question is not *if* we pray, but *how*.

Jesus first deals with our motive. We pray to connect with God. We pray because we need help from God. Improper prayer is that which is done to impress or to fulfill a duty. Prayer is not something to boost our reputation with other believers or to check off our to-do list. Jesus then moves to the *how* of prayer, contrasting Christian prayer with the pagan variety. He assures us that we don’t need to labor to get God’s attention. He is ready to listen, and He hears every word. In fact, He knows you so well and cares about you so deeply, that He already knows what you need before you ask.

Next, Jesus gives us a sample prayer. It is wonderful to simply pray this ‘Lord’s Prayer’ verbatim, chewing on each phrase as we go. We can also use it as a kind of pathway, allowing each verse to catapult us into a different type of prayer.

Our Father... We begin by focusing our minds on who we are speaking to. Our Father. This in itself may be the greatest lesson. Don’t rush over it. We pray His Name to be hallowed. Honored. Glorified. Exalted. Known.

Your Kingdom come... This leads us naturally into intercession - praying God’s will and Kingdom into every sphere of our world.

Give us today... Our Father invites us to bring our every need to Him - the big ones and the small ones.

Forgive us our sins... Repentance is always essential in prayer. We must turn from all that is ungodly and acknowledge our sin. We must also pass on to others the same gift of grace that is bestowed upon us.

Lead us not into temptation... We have an enemy seeking to bring us down. There is evil in the world that is against us. It deceives and threatens and accuses.

Let’s pray! Find a place. Devote some time. Make it a habit. The Father is waiting and listening.