



THE POWER OF PRAYER

SERMON DISCUSSION NOTES FROM 7/4/21

SERMON SUMMARY

Someone said: “When we seek God in prayer, we’ll experience God in power!” As Jesus modeled to His disciples how we ought to pray, He made a short but powerful statement, “Give us today our daily bread.” This week’s message focused briefly on four powerful prayer principles contained in this six word sentence. In our Bible study, we will explore this statement more in depth; but we also want to expand on Pastor Brett’s message gaining insight into the power of prayer with a deeper look at “The Lord’s Prayer.”

Key Passage: Matthew 6:7-13

Be sure to read this Scripture passage together before you proceed to the “Grow” section of our study.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

KNOW—Spend some time finding out how everyone’s week has gone. *The questions in this section provide a guide for connectivity; feel free to approach this part of your group time organically over a meal or “connection” activity or with questions appropriate to your context.*

What is one way God is challenging you to trust Him this week?

What are some ways you have experienced God answering your prayers lately?

Who in your life is in need of prayer, physical help, or emotional encouragement right now?

GROW—Grow in the Lord as you engage His Word together.

Read verse 7-8. Why do people pray wordy prayers? Do you see that kind of prayer often in your prayers or in the prayers of others?

What is the reason Jesus says we do not need to pray wordy prayers? How does a proper view of God (theology) affect how we pray?

What is the focus of the first part of Jesus’ prayer (vs. 9-10)? What should be the posture of our hearts before God when we pray?

Why does the supplication part of Jesus’ prayer come after a focus on worship and submission?

Why did Jesus teach us to ask for “daily” bread, as opposed to weekly or monthly bread?

Pastor Brett said in the message that “Praying trustfully is affirming in our hearts that God knows what we need and also what we don’t need.” How does the order of this prayer (worship, submission, supplication) prepare us for the times when God says “NO”?

Why is it important to have a regular rhythm of confession in our of prayers?

Why does Jesus imply that there is a connection between receiving forgiveness and offering forgiveness? Is our receiving forgiveness contingent on us offering it? (Perhaps Matthew 18:23-35 sheds some light).

GO—Talk through ways you can put what you’ve learned into practice.

How can we ensure we enter prayer with a posture of worship and submission?

A 19th century hymn writer said that it is a great “privilege to carry everything to God in prayer.” Yet unfortunately, we don’t typically pray about everything. What are some things you often neglect to pray about?

Do you regularly confess sin when you pray? Do you enter prayer with a heart ready to receive forgiveness as well as offer it to others; or do you pray while holding onto bitterness?

