



The Fellowship

“What does your prayer life look like? Do your prayers look like a stream of petitions from God? Do your daily prayers reveal that you’ve relegated God into being a vending machine to satisfy your desires? What if prayer was designed to change us? To refocus our eyes on God and not our circumstances? Join us this week as we look at the purpose for prayer and how Jesus taught us to pray for and with one another.”

INTRODUCTION ACTIVITY:

How do you feel about praying in public? Do you struggle with it? Why or why not?

MEMORY VERSE:

Acts 2:42-47

“42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising

God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved."

SCRIPTURE READING:

Acts 2:42

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

Matthew 6:9-13

"9 Pray then like this:

*"Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.*

10 Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread, 12 and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

Luke 12:6-7

"6 Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. 7 Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows."

Romans 8:26-39

"26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."

1 John 1:8-10

"8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What does your prayer life look like? How has it looked in the past? When do you pray with others as the early church did?

2. Often there is debate about how prayer should or should not be written down before being read aloud- as if the Spirit can't speak if a prayer is preprepared? What do you think about this?
3. Do you regularly pray for others? How do you do so? Do you request prayer from others? How do you do so?
4. The early church clearly said daily prayers several times a day- the Lord's prayer, the Shema, etc., do you say rote prayers daily? What do you think about this practice?
5. Why do you think a Christian prays? What's the purpose?
6. How is the Lord's Prayer from Matthew 6 a model for prayer for us but also just a prayer we should pray word-for-word?

CLOSING PRAYER ACTIVITY:

Invite someone to close the group in prayer.

