



# DAILY DEVOTION

Hey, North Ridge Family! Here are this week's Daily Devos. Our hope is that you will process each of these devos according to how you can respond and love on your family and our city.

## DAY 1

### READ MATTHEW 6:5-13

In today's portion of the best sermon ever, Jesus talks about prayer. The Pharisees prayed, but Jesus says, "Don't pray like them...Don't pray to be heard by others but pray for the opportunity to be with God." Jesus' life is centered around prayer, so much so that the disciples notice and ask Him to teach them how to pray. The early church, stemming from the disciples, followed this example of prayer that Jesus modeled throughout his ministry. They were fully devoted to engaging in prayer. After Paul learned to pray like this, he instructed other churches to "pray without ceasing" and "be anxious or pray". Prayer is not for the super-Christians; it is for all Christians.

We do not pray as we should, which doesn't make sense if we believe the scriptures to be true. The scriptures tell us we can have relationship with the creator of the universe! If we truly believed that, we would pray more than we do. Prayer ought to be at the core of our lives; it should be a hallmark of who we are in its consistency and intimacy with God.

How would you describe your current prayer life? Do you see prayer as one more thing you don't want to do that you have to do?



## DAY 2

### READ MATTHEW 6:5

Jesus says, "...and when you pray," not "if you pray." Not praying is a bad way to pray. We know prayer should be a central part of our lives as Christians. In this statement, Jesus assumes we will pray and create time or prayer because He knows prayer is essential to having a relationship with the Lord. We can't wait to pray when we have downtime or if the kids are away for the night. We have to prioritize it. Citizens of the Kingdom pray.

Statistically, most Americans pray, but don't actually believe in God. They pray when they're called into the boss' office. Pray when they get a bad diagnosis. Pray when they didn't study for a test at school. Nearly anybody you'd ask would agree that they don't pray like they should. We must learn to pray.

Of the six reasons given for not praying in this week's message: busyness, priorities, spiritual emptiness, guilt, unbelief, and anger, which tend to interfere with your prayer life and how can you overcome them?

## DAY 3

### READ MATTHEW 6:5-6

Jesus says there is a lot of praying happening, but not the kind that God desires. He teaches the disciples, "Do not pray like the hypocrites. They love to pray so everyone can hear them."

Last week we learned that hypocrite means "actor". Have you ever been in a situation where there was public prayer happening and you felt uncomfortable? Not sure what to pray? It seems like some people are really good at prayer. Maybe you've heard someone pray and you thought, "Man that guy can pray!" but Jesus says, "Man that guy can act!"

Prayer is about admitting our desperate need for God. It's not about pretending to be better than you are, more important than you are, or showing off in front of others. Jesus tells us not to pray like the hypocrites. He says to get in your quiet place and cry out to God.

Where is your quiet place? Where do you need to go today and what things do you need to cry out to God about?

## DAY 4

### READ MATTHEW 6:7-8

God doesn't need to be impressed by the eloquence of our prayers. We often find ourselves saying the same things over and over when we pray, probably because we think they sound good or sound right. Why do we do this? If our prayers don't mean anything to us, do they mean much to God?

You don't need any magic words to talk with God. There are no words that give us access to the Father. Jesus does that. Just speak. Run to Him and speak your heart. He'd much rather hear our genuine thoughts than a series of phrases we've been taught to say.

When have you not prayed because you didn't think you could pray well enough?  
How does it change the way you think about prayer after reading these verses?

## DAY 5

### READ MATTHEW 6:6

Prayer is when you submit to God and simply say, "You are God, I am not." It's powerful for the rest of the world to watch how we respond to the pressures of life, to see believers resting in the sovereignty of God. That rest comes from kneeling before God and confessing we can't and declaring He can. Acknowledging our weakness reminds us of how big and holy God is. We can't bring anything to Him that He hasn't already overcome.

What is this reward? God is asking us to step aside and be with Him, even in the middle of the craziness. God is wanting to be with you, already, you just have to show up and be with Him, too. Prayer is an encounter with God. We get to be with, talk to, and walk with the creator of the universe. The reward mentioned in this verse is God himself. We come to God and we get God.

How does it change the way you pray when you recognize it as an encounter with the Creator of the Universe?  
Describe what does it mean to you to get God?

Do you have someone to hold you accountable, to discover Jesus with, to walk with you during difficult times?  
Have you considered creating a DNA group- three people of your same gender, committed to meeting weekly to discover, nurture, and act on your relationship with Jesus, together?

Contact [brad@northridgenow.org](mailto:brad@northridgenow.org) for more information on forming a DNA Group.