

Connecting with God through Prayer

Series: Connecting with God

Life Group Discussion

Welcome to another opportunity to connect with God and one another.

I. Getting to know one another...

If able, share a place you have enjoyed solitude?

II. Centering...

Take a quiet moment to center your soul on God's presence. Have everyone close their eyes... take a deep breath...and prayerfully listen as one member reads the following Scripture... slowly ...THREE times...after which they may lead in an opening prayer for the group time.

"Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him. - Psalm 37:7

III. Exploring...

This week we are concluding our series on connecting with God with a focus on prayer.

1. The disciples were struck by the type of relationship which Jesus had with God the Father in heaven. So they asked him to teach them to pray. They recognized that in asking to learn to prayer, they were asking him to teach them how to be connected to God as he was. Have someone read aloud his response in Matthew 6:5-13.

When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁷ And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹ "This, then, is how you should pray:

"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 today 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 the evil one.

What do you draw from what Jesus first says in verses 5-6?

2*. What do you draw from what Jesus first says in verses 7-8?

3*. It is clear than in verses 9-13, Jesus is not intending to give a specific script for prayer... but rather a pattern that reflects what is fitting for relating with God. It has been said that "Prayer is not trying to pull God's strings...but of aligning ourselves with Him. It is not trying to pull God into our orbit... but bringing ourselves into His orbit. He is the true center of existence." How does this example of prayer reflect centering and aligning our lives in God?

4. What do you find significant about how this example of prayer begins (vs 9b-10)?

5. Verse 11 reflects the nature of asking for one's needs. How does the nature of this request speak to our connection with God?

6. How does verse 12, which asks for forgiveness... and affirms the need to be extending forgiveness... speak to our connection with God?

7. What do you find most challenging, and potentially helpful, about what Jesus says about prayer?

* These questions may serve in a more "optional" manner if time is short or the group is large.