

We>Me | Matthew 6:5-15 2022 Winter #1

Tips: Prayer is the key to a vibrant group. Sit quietly before the meeting and pray for: no obstacles to attendance, welcoming atmosphere, folks to connect, the Word to penetrate deeply, filling of the Holy Spirit, discernment for challenging situations, maturing and growth for each member, vibrant discussion, etc.

Administration: There is no church mandate for wearing masks and we do not ask members about vaccination status, but we want everyone to feel comfortable attending groups. If a member makes it known that they would prefer the group to wear masks, the leader can make the preference known to the group but not force compliance. We value showing love and concern for individuals even at an inconvenience to ourselves.

Announcement: We have a new Facebook page to share info and encouragement about groups. You can find us at Two Rivers Church - Group ministry. Thank you, Becky Morey, for the awesome post about the lemon tree!!

My Story Questions

These questions help the group know one another and transition to deeper discussion. Choose one.

- 1) What does your morning routine look like?
- 2) Does your current car have a name? Have you ever named one of your automobiles?

Study Questions

These are meant for personal preparation and group discussion. Use all or pick a few to discuss.

Read Matt 6:5-8

- 1) Being rooted in a gospel centered community means praying together and yet there are pitfalls. Explain the first pitfall Jesus warned against (vs 5-6).
- 2) List times when it is better to pray with others and times when it is better to pray alone.
- 3) What can you do to keep from trying to impress when praying with others?
- 4) What do you learn about how God rewards prayer?
- 5) What is the second pitfall Jesus warned against (vs 7-8)?
- 6) What helpful parameters could be used in corporate prayer so that everyone participates.
- 7) If God knows everything, why is it important to verbalize prayers?
- 8) What is the difference between gossip and offering requests?.

Read Matthew 6:9-13

- 9) Jesus gives us a template for prayer with others. Notice the plural "Our Father." Match these aspects of prayer with words from the Lord's prayer: Adoration, Supplication, Intercession, Confession.
- 10) Why is it important to offer praise and adoration before making requests?
- 11) Why is confession an important part of corporate prayer? Read James 5:16
- 12) Which components are most evident in your prayer life? Most lacking?
- 13) What does it mean to "Pray the Scriptures"? Tell how you might practice this form of prayer?

Read Matthew 5:14-15

- 14) Being in a Gospel centered community requires forgiveness of each other's shortcomings. When has the Holy Spirit empowered your ability to forgive? Where are you struggling to forgive?

Responding to Jesus

Offer these questions for personal reflection before your group prayer time.

- 1) Lord, "When have I tried to impress or talked too much in prayer?"
- 3) Lord, "What components of prayer would you like me to start using more?"

For Further Application

- 1) Choose a scripture to pray with your spouse or close friend each day and share what you hear from the Lord at the end of the week. Try Numbers 6:24-26