

Transition:

In the midst of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches about the spiritual disciplines of prayer, giving and fasting. Luke 11 gives the account of the disciples asking Jesus to teach them how to pray. Notice that they could have asked Him a lot of things...teach us how to do miracles, teach us how to preach, teach us how to cast out demons...but they didn't. They heard His intimacy with the Father, and they wanted to know the secret.

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. What did Jesus mean by “they have received their reward...”? How would God reward us in secret?
2. Notice the structure of the prayer – how does Jesus begin? How does He end the prayer?
3. When we pray, should we just repeat Jesus' words?

Fundamental:

Prayer – Prayer is simply communicating with God. God commands us to pray, so we ought always to do it. Prayer brings Him glory, but it also benefits us. The Bible uses many words for prayer: thanksgiving, intercession, supplication, faith, worship, consecration, repentance, blessing, etc. If we are to know our Creator, we must communicate with him.

1. How long do we need to pray? What does it mean to pray continually? (1 Thes 5:17)
2. What are some things that will hinder our prayers? (Isa 59:2; Pro 21:13; Matt 6:5; Mark 11:25; Jam 1:6-7, 4:3; 1 Pet 3:7; 1 John 3:22)
3. What does it mean to ask for something “in Jesus' Name...”? (John 14:13-14)
4. How important is it to give some time in prayer to listen to God and not talk?

Homework/Challenge:

1. Incorporate a time of prayer in your morning routine. Find time this week to spend an hour in prayer – make sure you are listening at least half the time.
2. Please read Matthew 7 in preparation for next week.

Discipleship Tip:

Young believers will want to know the purpose of prayer – does prayer actually DO something? If Jesus was/is God, why did He need to pray? Be ready to talk through the many purposes of prayer.

Prayer:

Regularly practice different types of prayer in your group: faith, intercession, healing, etc.

Extras:

Andrew Murray Collection on Prayer by Andrew Murray
Complete Works of E.M. Bounds on Prayer by E.M. Bounds