



Dig Deeper @Home – “Genuine Prayer”

Complement to sermon on 1/20/2019 – “Hypocritical Prayer”

ICE BREAKER – ask these to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. Share a goal you have for 2019
2. What style of music best describes your current mood?

MEMORIZE – Matthew 6: 9-13

Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

READ – Read Matthew 6

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What does this passage reveal about God? About humanity?
2. If the above is true, what needs to change in your life?
3. Compare and contrast Matthew 6: 1 with Matthew 5:16. What is going on here? How do you reconcile what seems to be a contradiction?
4. According to Jesus in Matthew 6: 2-4, what is to be the motivation for caring for the needy?
5. According to Jesus in Matthew 6: 16-18, what does genuine fasting look like?
6. What does it mean to store up treasures in heaven? (verse 20) How can you do this throughout this week?
7. Jesus says we cannot serve two masters. Do you think this is true? Why or why not? What other masters are you tempted to serve? What would it look like to serve Jesus fully?

Summarize Matthew 6 in your own words

Experiential: Fasting

Spend time fasting this week. Contrary to how the word is often used, fasting does not simply consist of keeping yourself from something like food. That's only part of the step. Fasting is giving something up in order to more intentionally fill yourself on God. Commit to fasting. Identify 2 things to fast from this week (suggestion is a meal and technology) and 2 things you will do to intentionally seek God (a good idea is to make one of those ways praying in secret as Jesus says in Matthew 6:6). Be sure to journal your experience and if doing in a group, share your experiences and hold each other accountable.

Testimony Time

Share about experiences you have had with fasting.

SING (suggested songs to sing. Use these or any song you might want to sing)

Our Father - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cVgKyVW2gEE>

God of Grace and God of Glory – Mennonite Hymnal #434

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the lesson:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Help us to live in a way that is consistent and genuine to our professed faith and belief. For your glory and the good of those around us. Amen