

Dig Deeper @Home – “The Way of the Kingdom”
Complement to lesson on 9/1/24 – “This is the Way”

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

1. Who is the happiest, most joyful (“blessed”) person you know? What about them made you name them? Do you enjoy their presence? What are their defining characteristics?
2. How can you tell if someone is a “follower” of Jesus?
3. How would you define the word “disciple?” How about “apprentice?”

MEMORIZE – Matthew 6:9-10

“This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

READ –Matthew 5:1-12, 6:9-15

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. Re-scan the text and consider...
 - a. What did the Holy Spirit cause to “jump off the page” as you read?
 - b. Is anything repeated? (For today’s passage, this question might be blatantly obvious! Don’t skip over this question though... consider WHY it might be repeated, and what Jesus might be trying to teach us through this repetition.)
 - c. Is anything Contrasted? Compared? (If so... why might that be?)
 - d. What in these verses is interesting? What is confusing?
 - e. What are the verses revealing about God? What are the verses saying about people?
 - f. In light of these, what needs to change in your life? What are you already doing well?
2. Which, if any, of the “blesseds” do you most relate to? Which do you least relate to? Why?
3. Pretend you are someone else listening in on YOUR prayer life...
 - a. Do your prayers “sound like” what you find in The Lord’s Prayer?
 - i. What aspects are you strong on?
 - ii. What might be missing?

EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY – The ACTS Prayer Model (AGAIN!)

Depending which scientist or statistician you believe, it takes anywhere from 21-254 days to reliably incorporate new habits into your daily routine. Last week, Pastor John encouraged us to put the “ACTS” Prayer model into practice. Have you tried it? If not, today is the day! If so, we’re doing it again! If you are new to this practice, it might still feel odd, but soon it might just become a normal and treasured part of your communication with your heavenly Father.

ACTS is an acronym that stands for adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication. This acrostic guide to prayer is a simple and Bible-based way to pray holistically, and in harmony with the themes of the Lord’s prayer. (Matthew 6:9-13) Give it a shot, both individually and together as a group!

A – Adoration: Praise God for the wonder of who He is!

He is gracious, merciful, wise... Add your own words of praise!

C – Confession: Ask the Holy Spirit to bring to mind what you need to confess.

Selfishness, Impatience, Unkindness, etc.

T – Thanksgiving: Thank God for His bountiful gifts!

Pick 5... Pick 50... the options are limitless!

S - Supplication (Asking God/Requests)

For personal needs, family, neighbors/work/school friends, persons who don’t know Christ, Church - Pastors, teachers, etc. Ask God to bless our Church Gatherings. Pray for national and world concerns.

SING

The Lord’s Prayer-> <https://youtu.be/kUjLd6k6uXk?si=FyBw007zJOTq3e3r>

No Other -> https://youtu.be/t8MF3M_av70?si=3n64tjQQbWIY1Q9F

Even in EXILE -> <https://youtu.be/iOb2iW1otdI?si=lhc7JNoSVCkeozfK>

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 the Spirit of Matthew 6:10, pray also that God’s “kingdom come, (his) will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

Sending prayer based on the message:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be you name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Holy Spirit, help us to see the ways you are leading US to live as kingdom ambassadors, working to see Your kingdom come, in and through us, to the portions of the earth you have placed us in, for such a time as this!