

INTRODUCTION: Message - "The Lesson" (Luke 11:2-13)

As Christians, we want to know that our prayers are acceptable to God. How do we know what an acceptable prayer looks like? There is no better teacher on prayer than Jesus Christ Himself. The disciples needed to know how to pray... So do we!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Think back to a time when you encountered a very unexpected and desperate need. Did this situation drive you TOWARD God or AWAY from God? Whom did you rely on?
2. Read John 17:1-26. Jesus prays for his disciples and us (v20). Identify the different petitions Jesus makes to the Father. What things does Jesus ask of the Father?
3. Read Acts 4:24-31 including scriptures leading up to v24. What things did the apostles pray for (vs. 29-30)? How did God respond to their prayer (v31)?
4. Read John 4:21-24. Practice including petitions that God will be glorified and His name will be magnified through YOU and the ministries of your church. How confident are you that God wants to answer your prayer? How WILLING are you to be used of God?
5. Read John 11:41-43. What does this short prayer reveal about the length of a prayer compared to the size of the petition? Are long prayers required for big things? Begin asking God for BIG things for his glory!

SO WHAT?:

Jesus teaches us that prayer is not so very complicated. His parables teach us about practical praying by showing that persistence, confidence, and faith are necessary components of our personal prayers. Examine your prayers to see if they conform to the model prayer that Jesus gave His disciples. Remember to approach God as a child approaches his father, with confidence that he wants to listen to you. You can and should ask for BIG things if it's for God's glory!

THINK ABOUT IT:

"(22) And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. (23) For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. (24) Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.." (Mark 11:22-24, KJV)