



Life On Mission - Week 5

May 30-31, 2020 - Todd Clark

This week, Pastor Todd presents some practical instructions on how to talk and LISTEN to God.

NOTE: We are sending this out before the services so you and your families can spend time watching service and discussing the Study Guide together! If you're looking for some virtual ways to connect with your Small Group, check out Zoom or Google Hangouts!

CELEBRATE

At the beginning of your small group time, it's good to share about your week and share with each other how you're doing. So, spend some time, right now, connecting before jumping into the discussion questions. You can use the *Connect* section as a guide. If you're doing this Study Guide on your own, take a moment to focus your mind on God and what He might want you to hear today.

CONNECT

1. Talk about a really great conversation you had recently. What factors made that conversation so good?

2. Talk about someone you know whom you would describe as a "great listener." What distinguishes them from others who aren't as good at listening?

Before watching the sermon, or moving on in this study, take a minute to remember that God is always with you. Pray as a group for God to bless your conversation and open your eyes and hearts to what He wants you to hear.

REFLECT

Before moving forward in your study, remember the big picture of this week's teaching:

- Prayer is a time when we talk WITH and listen TO God.

SCRIPTURES USED IN THE MESSAGE: Isaiah 55:3, 59:1-2, Matthew 6:5-7, Acts 1:8-9, 14; Romans 8:26, James 4:3

RESPOND

1. Talk about a thought, phrase, or moment from this week's message that resonated with you. What made it stick out to you?
2. Talk about your earliest memories of prayer (I.e. a pastor or priest from your childhood, someone in your family, etc.) How do those memories still influence the way you think about prayer?
3. Pastor Todd shared that we both "talk" and "listen" in prayer. Talk about which of those two are hardest for you. What are the obstacles for you in either talking or listening to God?
4. Read Matthew 6:9-13. This is commonly called "The Lord's Prayer." Notice that Jesus says this is "how" you should pray, not "what" exact words you should use. As you read this, talk about what impressions or memories come to mind.
5. Some might say The Lord's Prayer contains 5 different "questions": *where do I belong* (6:9), *what is my purpose?* (6:10), *is there enough of what I need?*(6:11), *is healing possible for myself and for others?* (6:12), *is someone protecting me?* (6:13a), and *will I be rescued?* (6:13b). Talk about whether these questions make sense to you. What would it look like to pray the Lord's Prayer by asking God these questions? How would your outlook change if you included these questions in your daily life?
6. Pastor Todd mentioned four typical answers God often gives to prayer: No, Slow, Grow, and Go. Talk about which answer you've heard from God recently. How did that answer help you grow stronger or challenge the way you think about prayer?

Takeaway

Last week, we shared a plan with you to help you begin a daily "Training Time."

This week, think about how prayer (like praying the Lord's Prayer as we mention above) fits into your Training Time.

You can [follow this link](#) to start a training plan and learn how to connect with others who are on the journey of becoming like Jesus as well.