

SMALL GROUPS

Sermon: Teach Me To Pray

Key Theme: Learning to pray using the Lord's Prayer as a model for daily connection with God.

Main Point: Prayer should be our first response, not our last resort. The Lord's Prayer isn't meant to be recited but used as an outline covering seven essential topics.

Discussion Questions

1. Connect Relationally

- Pastor Mack talked about connecting with God relationally rather than formally. How do you typically approach God in prayer? Is it more formal or conversational?
- What barriers keep you from talking to God like you would talk to a close friend or father?

2. Worship His Name

- Which name of God (Healer, Provider, Peace, Shepherd, etc.) resonates most with you right now and why?

- How might worshiping God's names change your perspective on current challenges?

3. Pray His Agenda First

- Be honest: How often do you jump straight to your needs without praying for others first?
- Who are the "others" God is placing on your heart to pray for regularly? (Family, neighbors, coworkers, leaders, missionaries)

4. Depend on Him for Everything

- Why do you think we tend to only come to God when we need something?
- What would change if you truly communicated to God daily that everything you have comes from Him?

5. Get Your Heart Right

- This is the hard one. Is there someone you need to forgive? (You don't have to share the name, but be honest with yourself)
- What sin or attitude has God been highlighting in your life that you need to repent of?

6. Engage in Spiritual Warfare

- Pastor Mack said, "If you're not fighting the devil every day, then he is working harder than you." How does that statement challenge you?
- What specific spiritual attacks do you or your family face that need to be bound in Jesus' name?

7. Express Faith in God's Ability

- Share a testimony of God's faithfulness in your life or family.
- What situation are you facing right now where you need to declare "nothing is too hard for You, God"?

Key Takeaways

Have different group members read these aloud:

1. Prayer should be our first response, not our last resort.
2. The Lord's Prayer is an outline, not a script - it gives us seven topics to cover daily.
3. Connect with God relationally - He wants to be called Father and be close to you.
4. Worship His names - His names have power and authority.
5. Pray His agenda (others) before your own needs.
6. God wants to hear from you daily, even when you don't "need" anything.
7. Spiritual warfare is real - we must fight harder than the enemy fights against us.
8. God is faithful - He is the same God who doesn't change.

Practical Application

This Week Challenge:

Daily 10-15 Minute Prayer Time using the seven-part outline:

1. Connect Relationally - "Good morning, Father..."
2. Worship His Names - Pick 2-3 names of God to worship
3. Pray His Agenda - Pray for others (family, nation, missionaries, coworkers)
4. Present Your Needs - "Give us this day our daily bread"
5. Get Heart Right - Confess sin, forgive others
6. Spiritual Warfare - Bind the enemy's attacks
7. Express Faith - "Nothing is too hard for You!"

Action Steps:

- Grab a "Pray First" booklet (or use your notes from today)

- Set a specific time each day for prayer
- Share with the group: What time will you commit to praying daily?
- Find an accountability partner in the group to check in with mid-week

Fasting Participation:

- Who is participating in the 21-day fast? Share what you're fasting from.
- How can we support each other during this time?

Prayer Time

Group Prayer Activity:

Go through the seven parts of the Lord's Prayer together as a group:

1. Connect - Everyone say one word describing who God is to them
2. Worship - Go around and each person worship one name of God
3. His Agenda - Pray for specific people/places the group mentions
4. Needs - Share one need and have someone pray for it
5. Forgiveness - Silent prayer for personal confession and forgiving others
6. Warfare - Bind specific attacks as a group (addiction, fear, division, etc.)
7. Faith - Close by declaring together: "Nothing is too hard for You, God!"

Closing

Reminder:

- Commit to the daily prayer outline this week

- Text your accountability partner at least once this week
- Come ready next week to share what God did through consistent prayer

Final Encouragement: "You serve a God that will do what He says He will do. He honors His word. He is faithful. Don't give up too soon!"

Additional Resources

- "Pray First" booklet (available at church)
- Scripture memory: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
- Consider starting a prayer journal to track prayers and God's answers