

January 24, 2016
Pray like Jesus
Part I: Our Father
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Read Matthew 6:5-8.

1. What are the equivalents today of people who “love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others?”
2. Public prayers are sometimes “Showcase” prayers. What are four characteristics of showcase prayers? (**Filling the room with words, using lofty words, changing your voice, making demands**)
3. Besides praying in order to be seen, what other things do Christians sometimes like to be “seen” doing that might receive the same admonition from Jesus?
4. Jesus says these people have already received their reward? What is it?
5. Is there anything in the words “unseen” and “see” that gives you comfort or insight?
6. Where do you pray privately? Do you have a favorite place to pray?
7. Are there other ways to pray relational prayers without going into your room and closing the door? In other words, is that literal or figurative or both?

Read Matthew 6:9-13.

1. Jesus taught us to call God Father. What do good father’s do for their children?
2. Ted taught his son to pump gas last week. What is a lesson you taught your children?
3. What spiritual truth did you teach your children?
4. Jesus begins his prayer, saying “Hallowed be thy name.”
*What does “Hallowed” mean? (**regarded as holy, venerated, sacred**)
*What are some things we might say in the spirit of “hallowed” as we begin our prayers?
*Why is it important to begin our prayers this way?
*When we don’t, are we saying, quite unintentionally, “Never mind that, this is what’s important?”
5. What is Jesus teaching us to ask for when he prays: “Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”? Why might that be important before we enter into other petitions?
6. Describe what general things we should ask for, according to the model Jesus provided in what is commonly called the Lord’s Prayer? (**needs, guidance, forgiveness, protection.**)
7. What are the implications of praying privately but in the plural throughout the prayer?
8. Would you be willing to share with your group a private prayer for a need, or guidance, or forgiveness, or protection that you have brought to your Father and tell how you have seen or felt it answered?