

Small Group Leaders' Guide | Sermon Questions, March 5th, 2017

Catalyst for Movement: First Sunday of Lent: Jesus Teaches Us to Pray (Part 2) (Matthew 6:5-15)

Sermon Recap: Travis gave a message about how prayer always precedes movement. While the world is loves to “floor it” with bold and cunning leadership at break-neck pace; God wants his people to lead by “flooring it” as our knees hit the floor in prayer. Using Jesus’ teaching on prayer in Matthew 6, he explained the *structure* of prayer should begin with God and end with us while the *content* of prayer should rest entirely in dependence on God. Let’s be a people of prayer in this Lenten season.

1. Prayer is often viewed as a strange, even frightening, aspect of our faith. How do you feel about prayer? How does prayer get portrayed in our culture?
2. What two groups does Jesus provide as the model for how not to pray? What does he illustrate about them?
3. What two realities does Jesus reveal about our Father in heaven in regards to prayer?
4. What final warning does Jesus provide about our heavenly Father in regards to forgiveness? Why do you suppose this teaching on forgiveness is together with the teaching on prayer?
5. Read 1 Samuel 1:10-16. According to Hannah, what was she doing in prayer?
6. Travis mentioned that prayer is supposed to remind us of our absolute daily dependence on God – just like the Israelites in the wilderness. How would you view your current dependence on God?
7. Giving a few examples from scripture (Elijah, Nehemiah, & Hannah), Travis explained that prayer is necessary to experience God’s power. How do we do as “a people who pray?” What can we do to pray together more while abiding in Jesus’ truths on prayer?
8. If we were a people who were dependent on God in sincere and visible ways, how would that impact the community around you? Who do you know that could be encouraged by your dependence on God? A reminder that God is a God who hears our prayers?