



Sermon Discussion Guide


Habits of Grace: Prayer

Matthew 6:5-13; Psalm 27:4; Romans 8:15, 26-27

Adam Jones, April 30 & May 1, 2016

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read Matthew 6:5-13, Psalm 27:4, and Romans 8:15, 26-27. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Icebreaker: Who is your favorite actor/actress?
- 2 Do you struggle with prayer? How so?
- 3 What was your one big/main takeaway from the service? If someone had arrived as everyone was leaving, and they stopped you in the parking lot and asked, "What was the sermon about?" what would you have said?

PRAYER: THE PRACTICE

- 4 Why is prayer an infallible test for spiritual integrity? Compare and contrast the way Jesus instructed his disciples to pray versus the way the hypocrites prayed.

- 5 Do you have a problem being quiet and alone? Are you addicted to the busyness of life? Superman had a “fortress of solitude”. How can you create “prayer fortresses of solitude” throughout your day?

PRAYER: THE PURPOSE

- 6 What is the difference between praying for a change in circumstances versus praying to know God better?
- 7 What was the point of the illustration about the father who let his son beat him with a newspaper? In your own words, what does it look like to come to God messy in prayer?

PRAYER: THE POSTURE

- 8 An adopted child has access to their Father. How do religion and merit keep us from believing that we have free access to God? How was Jesus orphaned on the cross? What was the result of His becoming an orphan?
- 9 God is a good Father who loves to give good gifts to his children, so we keep knocking and we keep asking. What petitions do you bring before God, not just once, but over and over again?
- 10 Explain what Adam meant when he said, “Prayer will never become a place of refuge until you know the Father’s catch.”

Step 3: Final Reflections

- ✠ How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?