



PRAYER

Family Devotional/Adult & Teen Discussion Guide

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SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

1. PRIMARY STATEMENT: Prayer is a lot less complicated than we often make it out to be - and a lot more important. When we stay in communication with God, we're more effective as ministers to the people around us.

2. BIBLE VERSE:

Matthew 6:9 [NLT]

"Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy."

Jesus instructed us to come to God in prayer with a balanced understanding of 2 roles. He is both the Creator-Judge of the universe, who transcends time and space, and the personal Father who loves us and knows the number of hairs on our heads. A healthy prayer life needs to reflect both of these realities.

Q . Which aspect of God's character does your prayer angle toward most - God the transcendent Creator, or God the intimate Father?

Q . Think back to when you were growing up, or first learning about prayer. How did the people you looked up to pray? Were their prayers quiet or loud? Formal or casual? Short or long? How similar is your prayer today to the examples early in your life? Is that a good thing, or not?

3. DISCUSSION:

Psalms 27:4 [MSG]

"I'm asking God for one thing, only one thing: To live with him in his house my whole life long. I'll contemplate his beauty; I'll study at his feet."



Prayer is ultimately bigger than presenting needs or giving thanks, it's about knowing God. When we pray, we draw our hearts closer to God, and the better we know Him, the better we'll serve Him.

Q . Which aspect of prayer do you normally spend the most time on - praise and thanks, presenting your needs, presenting needs of others, or listening? Which is the easiest for you? Which is the most difficult or awkward for you?

Q . If the goal of prayer is to know God better and align your heart with His, what would an ideal prayer life look like for you?



4. PRAYER FOCUS

Take a few minutes as a family: affirm God as both your Creator and your Father. Ask Him for what you need and for the needs of others, then take some time to be quiet and listen.



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Family Devotional/Overflow Kids Discussion Guide

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1. POWER VERSE: Matthew 6:8 [NIV] "...your Father knows what you need before you ask him."

What's Up: "Gonna give God a call because He knows it all!"

How do you pray? Tell God how much you love Him. Isn't it nice when a friend starts off a conversation by telling you how much they love you!

What are the things that are making us worry? Are there things that make us afraid? God already knows all about these things, but He loves hearing about them from you!

2. READ:

Matthew 6:9-13 [NIVR]

"This is how you should pray.

'Our Father in heaven, may your name be honored. May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, just as we also have forgiven those who sin against us. Keep us from sinning when we are tempted. Save us from the evil one.'"

Q. Do you have a friend or relative that lives far away?



Sometimes you may only get to see each other once a year, so it's really hard to keep in touch. You might call or send each other messages often. It is fun to share stories about the things you are doing and pictures of your family. These messages help us to learn things about each other and help keep our friendships close.

That is a lot like how praying to God works!

3. DISCUSSION:



God wants us to grow closer to Him, and we do that by talking to Him. We tell him about the things that happen each day. We let Him know about what is going on with our family and friends. God wants to hear about the things that scare us or cause us to worry and the things that bring us joy.

Just like our friends, we get to know God better by talking to Him.

Q. Who is your favorite person to talk with on the phone? Why?

Q. Can we talk to God in the same way that we might talk to a good friend?

Q. What are some things we might be able to talk to God about together?

Praying is not just talking to God, it also involves listening to God.

Q. Have you ever heard God talk to you? What are some ways that we can hear His voice?



4. PRAYER FOCUS

Pray with your children and tell God how much you love Him. Then tell God all about the things that make you both sad and happy. God loves to hear from you!