

Small Group & Personal Study: 24/7 Discipleship Series - Our Daily Prayer Life

Memory Verse: John 16:24

Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive and your joy will be complete.

The Discipline of Memorizing Scripture: This week to help you memorize John 16:24, first writing it out on a small card that you can carry with you. Then say it out loud as you read it two or three times. Next, break it into two phrases and try saying the first one out loud by memory before learning the second. Try adding the next phrase after you memorized the first phrase. Then review it regularly. Carry the card with you and regularly quote it, by memory or by reading it until you have it planted in your heart and in your mind.

Now that you have started to memorize the verse, meditate on the meaning and application for your life. One way to do this is to write out the verse in a paraphrase and then list what truth you discovered from the passage. Ask yourself, "What is it telling you about God? What is it telling you about you? What should you do because of this verse?"

Daily Reading:

Day 1 – Jeremiah 29:11-13

Day 2 – Matthew 6:5-8

Day 3 – Matthew 6:9-15

Day 4 – Matthew 6:16-18

Day 5 – Luke 11:1-4

Day 6 – Luke 11:5-8

Day 7 – Luke 11:9-13

Lesson:

Can you imagine what your relationship with your spouse would be like if you got up in the morning, got ready for work, ate breakfast and didn't say anything to your wife/husband? Then you stayed busy all day long at work, never calling or speaking to her/him throughout the day. When you finally got home, you immediately turned on the TV, ate dinner alone and went to bed without saying a word. If this went on day after day what would happen to your relationship? If you are newlyweds and barely even knew each other how deep would your relationship likely grow? Most of us wouldn't even consider going days, weeks, or months without talking to our spouse and yet we think nothing of that when it comes to God. Yet our relationship with Him is the most important relationship we will ever have.

A daily prayer life is essential for deepening your relationship with God and living for Christ every day. As we talk with God we open our heart to Him and He begins to work in us and becomes a bigger part of our life and He becomes a more real and active part of our life.

Jesus taught us how to pray and in His teaching He reveals that when we pray we should be asking for God's provision and power for that day alone. Jesus makes the obvious connection in His teaching that we should not worry about tomorrow but simply seek God today.

Starting a daily prayer life will require commitment to your relationship with Jesus. You have to desire Him more than anything or anyone. You have to believe that without His power and intercession, your life will be fruitless. You have to understand that His love for you is so great that He is constantly pursuing a love relationship with you and that communication is essential in every relationship including the one with your Lord.

1. If you can, quote John 16:24 from memory and share with the class and what you have learned from meditating on these words of Jesus.

Many small groups may not be memorizing scripture but encouraging them to do so will prove to be a benefit to growing as a disciple of Christ. Jesus modeled the importance of memorizing scripture by using the word of God, written on His heart to; teach, rebuke, correct, and train people in righteousness.

2. Read: Jeremiah 29:11-13, what truth do you learn about the plan God has for our relationship with Him in this passage?

I have been reading through Jeremiah these past weeks and been amazed once again how God was warning his children about their relationship and obedience with Him. He reveals in Jeremiah chapter 29:11-13 that He has plans for our life. He wants to prosper us. He doesn't want to harm us although He leaves us free to decide to follow our own will or seek His. But He has plans to prosper and not harm us. He wants to give us a hope and a future. He wants us to call upon Him to seek Him with all our heart. God is pursuing an intimate love relationship with me. I have learned that it is my deepest desire for me to pursue Him. I also learn that when I call upon Him He

will listen to my cry and when seek Him with all my heart I will find Him. Finally in verse 14 He reveals that He will rescue me from captivity. He will be my strength and my victory.

3. What are the steps God calls us to, found in Jeremiah 29:12-13?
I must call on Him in prayer. I must trust Him and I must seek Him with all my heart.
4. How does Jesus teaching on prayer found in Matthew 6 and Luke 11 teach you that your prayer life is important and meant to be a daily pursuit?
He stressed the importance of daily asking God. He revealed clearly that the things I seek God for are just enough to get me through to the next day. My daily bread, my daily forgiveness, and my daily leading. Prayer is not a onetime request. It is a lifetime quest. I also learn from Matthew 6 that in order for my prayer life to be about an intimate relationship with God and I must have a personal and private time with God that is not for show or for public. God is looking for us to seek Him personally.
5. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:17. Paraphrase what this verse is saying about your prayer life.
God wants me to come to Him constantly and passionately. The pursuit of living in the presence of God means that Jesus becomes so important in my life that the relationship I have with Him is so real and personal that it out ways all other relationships and commitments.

The reason so many of us struggle with prayer is because we try to make it something it is not. It is not a ceremony. It is not hard. It is not just for the Pastors and Elders. Prayer is talking with God!