

Matthew 6:5–15

⁵“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

⁶But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁷“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. ⁹Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

¹⁰ Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread,

¹² and forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

¹⁴For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, ¹⁵but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Passage Summary

In Matthew 6 Jesus Himself both calls us to prayer and then models prayer for us. His desire is not just to command us to pray but rather to teach us how to pray. Jesus taught the disciples that a healthy prayer life is one of worshipful dependence upon God. How do we approach God and how do we ask of God?

Discussion Questions

(These questions are intended to generate discussion and promote application. Don't feel pressured to make it through all of them. The questions are made for the discussion leader, not the discussion leader for the questions.)

How do we approach God in prayer?

Read Matthew 6:5-8

- According to this passage, what are the bad habits of prayer which Jesus addresses?
- What are some bad habits or bad thinking about prayer that you have gotten rid of or you are working to change?

Matthew 6:9

- How does the fact that God is our Father shape our prayers? Limit our prayer?
- What is meant by “hallowed”?

- Is it possible for someone to exaggerate the concept of “hallowed” to an unhealthy degree? What would that look like in prayer or through the attitude of prayer?
- What are some good ways to obey Jesus and “hallow” the name of God in prayer?
- Does praying for God’s name to be glorified actually do anything to bring glory to God?

Matthew 6:10

- How can prayer reshape our perspective of what is happening in our lives?
- What are some examples of times that prayer has changed YOU more than your circumstances? Was it enough? Or do you feel like God shortchanged you?

What do we ask of God?

Matthew 6:11-14

- What are some examples of God’s provision in your life through prayer?
- What are some examples of God’s provision in the life of others through prayer (either in Scripture or other sources)?
- How does the fact that Jesus told His disciples to pray for DAILY bread impact our prayer?
- How does our abundance in America change our view of prayer?
- How often should we ask God for forgiveness? When was the last time that you specifically asked God for forgiveness?
- What does it mean that God will not forgive us if we do not forgive?
- Why is it necessary for a believer to pray that God would not lead a person into temptation?
- What is meant by “evil” in verse 13? Why is it so necessary for us to pray for such deliverance?