

Lord, Teach Us to Pray

Park Plaza Brookside * Fireside Room

December 13, 2015

Opening Prayer

- Heavenly Father, we come to you in Jesus' name, asking that you draw us into a closer, more personal relationship with You. Cleanse us of our sins and prepare our hearts to pray in a way that pleases You. Help us know You and love You more this week. Use all the circumstances of our lives to make us more like Jesus, and teach us how to pray more strategically and effectively in Your name, according to Your will and Your Word. Use our faith, our obedience, and our prayers this week for the benefit of others, for our own good, and for Your glory. Amen.

Class Information

- The Battle Plan for Prayer: From Basic Training to Targeted Strategies by Stephen Kendrick and Alex Kendrick
- Part 1
 - Introduction & Chapter 1: The Legacy of Prayer (Reece Boone)
 - Chapter 2: The Power of Prayer (Clint)
 - Chapter 3: The Priority of Prayer (Chris)
- Part 2 (Why? What? When? How?) – will start after January 1st

The Battle Plan for Prayer: From Basic Training to Targeted Strategies

- Part 1: Enlistment (Chapters 1 to 3)
- Part 2: Basic Training (Chapters 4 to 12)
- Part 3: Conditioning (Chapters 13 to 19)
- Part 4: Strategies (Chapters 20 to 29)
- Part 5: Targets (Chapters 30 to 35)
- Part 6: Ammunition (Appendix 1 to 7)
- Part 7: Reinforcements

Fair and Balanced



- Clint Hill
- Chris Mayfield
- Reece Morrel Jr.

Pray for your Discussion Leaders



- Similar to teaching art appreciation to a room full of art critics
- Would the “Mona Lisa” be better with a smile?

Pray for your Discussion Leaders



What did the Disciples ask Jesus to teach them?

The Disciples could ask Jesus ANYTHING

- A.) To preach and teach better
- B.) To heal other people
- C.) To plan better
- D.) To work better
- E.) To pray

What is PRAYER?

- Speaking into space?
- Desperate petition to a reluctant God?
- If so, are we insane? Insanity is defined as doing the same thing over and over expecting a different result.
- Something you quickly recite before each meal, or before you go to sleep?

Why is PRAYER so hard to do?

- Should we cancel class and study something easier like nuclear fusion?
- A survey of currently available books discuss the positive results, but not the “how-to” of prayer. In other words, prayer is a great idea, and it really helped the author a lot.
- Surveys show that 1 in 5 unbelievers pray daily. (Stupid unbelievers. Who do they think they are? Praying more often than me.)

Is there PRAYER Etiquette?

- Dress Code?
- Posture?
- Time?
- Vocabulary?
- Location?

Is PRAYER a formalized 3-step Process?

1. Put your hands together
 - Palms flat together
 - Fingers interlocked
2. Close your eyes (no peeking) – unless you are driving or operating other heavy machinery and equipment.
3. Start talking to God with a deep voice, long pauses and an impressive vocabulary

Sidebar: Before Amen by Max Lucado

- Example: Father picking up a child from school
- “Father, it is most gracious of thee to drive thy car to my place of education and provide me with domestic transportation. Please know of my deep gratitude for your benevolence. For thou art splendid in thy attentive care and diligent in thy dedication.”
- You’re my Daddy. I’m Your child.
- Not prideful, showy or theatrical.

Personal Goals of this Class

- Learn to Pray More Better
- Learn to Pray NOW
- Learn to Pray Specifically
- Understand better how the TRINITY works in Prayer – We pray to God in the name of Jesus – where does the Holy Spirit fit in?
- Learn to Pray Like Jesus

Use Both Legs During Your Spiritual Walk

- Pray EVERY day (Talk to God)
 - For Yourself
 - For Chris, Clint & Reece
 - For our Class
 - For Park Plaza
 - For Revival in the Land
- Read your Bible EVERY day (Listen to God)

Introduction

- Prayer is Power
- Experience joys of answered prayers more fully
- Know God more deeply
- Fellowship with God more personally
- Answered prayers are the fingerprints of a living, loving God who invites ALL of us to draw close to Him.

Prayer Targets

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- What are your top 3 biggest needs right now?
- What are the top 3 things you are most stressed about?
- What are the 3 issues in your life that you would take a miracle of God to resolve?
- What is something good and honorable that, if God provided it, would greatly benefit you, your family, and others?
- What is something you believe God may be leading you to do, but you need His clarity and direction on it?
- What is a need from someone you love that you'd like to start praying about?

Chapter 1: The Legacy of Prayer

O You who hear prayer, to You all men come. (Psalm 65:2)

- Prayer is a privilege – direct communication with the Creator of the Universe
- Great to be an American – truly blessed
- “American” attitude – Got a problem? Go straight to the top.
 - Asked to speak to the Manager or Supervisor?
 - Written a letter to your Congressman?
 - Example: Client with car trouble sent a certified letter to Don Thornton.
 - Example: Once, I personally called the President’s office of a computer company
- If it is so easy to do with worldly problems, why so difficult to talk to the Creator?

The greatest and most spiritually successful men and women in the Bible PRAYED

- Abraham
- Isaac – interceded for his barren wife, Rebecca
- Moses – spoke to God “as a man speaks to his friend”
- David – talked to God “morning, noon and night” (Psalm 55:17), and wrote the longest book of the Bible, Psalms – a plethora of passionate prayers set to song.
- Nehemiah – resulted in the miraculous rebuilding of Jerusalem
- Daniel – prayed 3 times a day, and was willing to give up his life rather than give up his prayer time.
- Joseph, Jeremiah, Hannah, Hosea, Elijah, and many more!

Jesus PRAYED

- Jesus rose up out of the water during his baptism, and the Holy Spirit descended “while He was praying.” (Luke 3:21-22)
- Before choosing his disciples, Jesus spent all night praying.
- When Jesus threw the money-changers out of the temple, He shouted, “My House shall be called a house of prayer.” (Is Park Plaza known as a praying group of believers? If not, why not? IHOP.)
- In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed so intensely that his sweat turned to blood. (When I pray hard, I either fall asleep – or look! A squirrel!)

Jesus PRAYED – Andrew Murray

- “Christ’s life and work, His suffering and death, were founded on prayer – total dependence upon God the Father, trust in God, receiving from God, and surrendering to God. Your redemption is brought into being by prayer and intercession. The life He lived *for* you and the life He lives *in* you is a life that delights to wait on God and receive from Him. To pray in His name is to pray as He prayed. Christ is our example because He is our Head, our Savior, and our Life. In virtue of His deity and of His Spirit, He can live in us. We can pray in His name because we abide in Him and He abides in us.”

Others PRAYED

- Peter
- Paul
- Hudson Taylor – China Inland Mission
- George Muller – Ashton Down Orphanage (50,000 documented answers to prayer.)
- Charles Haddon Spurgeon (“Prince of Preachers”) – New Park Street Church
- John Wesley
- Jonathan Edwards
- Andrew Murray – South Africa
- Brother Lawrence
- Madam Guyon
- E.M. Bounds
- John Hyde
- Rees Howells
- Samuel Rees Howells

Final Thoughts

- Sin separates us from prayer. Prayer separates us from sin.
- The POWER of GOD is in Prayer
- No wonder Satan interferes with our efforts to pray.
- No wonder the Disciples asked Jesus, “Lord, teach us to pray.” – The Disciples made this POWER-PRAYER connection.
- Join us, as we let Jesus teach US to pray.

Remember this Day

Your Life & the World will NEVER be the Same

- Join us on this GREAT ADVENTURE, as we HUNGER for PRAYER
- Let's LEARN together what it takes to PRAY with PURPOSE & POWER
- Let's DRAW CLOSER to our FATHER, His SON, and the HOLY SPIRIT
- Let's DREAM BIG as we prepare for a REVIVAL throughout the LAND
- Prepare to be AMAZED as we watch countless MIRACLES unfold
- And, it STARTS TODAY

Closing Prayer

- Father, we come before you and thank You for the great legacy of prayer that has come before us. We ask You to pour out Your Holy Spirit on us and Your church. Draw us into a daily, more intimate walk with You. May prayer become as natural as natural to us as breathing, and may You work through our prayers to help bring about Your kingdom and Your will in our hearts, our homes, and our generation. In Jesus' name, We pray, amen.