

Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of April 17, 2016

Matthew 6:5-15

These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.

Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

⁵ And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But whenever 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 When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹ Pray then in this way:

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 do not bring us to the time of trial,
but rescue us from the evil one.

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

Common English Bible (CEB)

⁵ *When you pray, don't be like hypocrites. They love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners so that people will see them. I assure you, that's the only reward they'll get.* ⁶ *But when you pray, go to your room, shut the door, and pray to your Father who is present in that secret place. Your Father who sees what you do in secret will reward you.*

⁷ *When you pray, don't pour out a flood of empty words, as the Gentiles do. They think that by saying many words they'll be heard.* ⁸ *Don't be like them, because your Father knows what you need before you ask.* ⁹ *Pray like this:*

*Our Father who is in heaven,
uphold the holiness of your name.*

¹⁰ *Bring in your kingdom
so that your will is done on earth as it's done in heaven.*

¹¹ *Give us the bread we need for today.*

¹² *Forgive us for the ways we have wronged you,
just as we also forgive those who have wronged us.*

¹³ *And don't lead us into temptation,
but rescue us from the evil one.*

¹⁴ *If you forgive others their sins, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.* ¹⁵ *But if you don't forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your sins.*

Connection Questions:

1. How would you describe your prayer life? Do you have certain spiritual disciplines you do on a regular basis? If so, share what they are and how discipline you are in repeating the patterns.

