



Series Discussion Questions

Series: Prayer, Pt. 3

We will finish this series on Prayer with a somewhat different kind of study. It may be a risk for your group but if you push through and participate, I think you might find a wonderful, new way to study the Scriptures together.

We will finish this study by "Praying God's Word" through an ancient tradition called, "Lectio Divina" (Divine Reading). It's a way to let God's word soak in your heart and soul and to meditate and pray on it. We will practice this using the Lord's Prayer in hopes of allowing it to soak into your soul in new ways. We do this also as a means in which to focus more clearly at this time of Easter.

The Leader of the group will guide the group as shown. We challenge you to be willing to try this as something new and see what it might do in your spirit.

INTRODUCE IT

Opening Prayer:

Lord Jesus, send your Spirit to help us to read the Scriptures with the same mind that you read them to the disciples on the way to Emmaus. In the light of the Word, written in the Bible, you helped them to discover the presence of God in the disturbing events of your sentence and death. Thus, the cross that seemed to be the end of all hope became for them the source of life and of resurrection.

Create in us silence so that we may listen to your voice in Creation and in the Scriptures, in events and in people, above all in the poor and suffering. May your word guide us so that we too, like the two disciples from Emmaus, may experience the force of your resurrection and witness to others that you are alive in our midst as source of fraternity, justice and peace. We ask this of you, Jesus, who revealed to us the Father and sent us your Spirit. Amen

Reading: (lectio)

Read Matthew 6:9-13 (when reading, read the passage slowly)

Now immediately read the passage again in the same manner.

Sit silently for about 3 minutes, simply repeating the passage in your mind allowing your thoughts to linger on any of the words that stood out to you. Do not be bothered by distractions. Distractions will happen.

After three minutes, read the passage again and this time let your ears and heart catch maybe just one word or one phrase that stands out to you.

Read Matthew 6:9-13, again reading slowly

Sit and pray that word or phrase over and over back to the Lord.

Make the Word you have taken into yourself be a real word of consecration - a Word of blessing and a means of offering to the Lord your deepest hopes and concerns. Let the gentle repetition of the Word lead you into a dialogue with the God Who originally inspired the text, and Who has now used the Scriptures as a way of drawing you into his presence.

Read Matthew 6:9-13 one more time slowly

Write down what word or phrase stood out to you and why you think it stood out?

What was it like to pray God's word in this way? What was weird? What was hard? What did you like? Would you do it again?

What has stood out the most to you in this sermon series? Share with the group what God has shown you through the Lord's Prayer.

USE IT

Each day this week try to pray the Lord's Prayer and pay special attention to the word or phrase that stood out to you. Each time, ask the Lord, "How would you want me to respond to this word Lord?"

Twice this week, try to do this same exercise but even use a different passage. Then sit in that passage for the rest of the week. Even begin a journal and write down the word or phrases the Lord impresses on your heart.

Close using this prayer:

Lord Jesus, we thank for the word that has enabled us to understand better the will of the Father. May your Spirit enlighten our actions and grant us the strength to practice that which your Word has revealed to us. May we not only listen to but also practice the Word. You who live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.