



Overview:

Jesus’ disciples never asked how to perform miracles, but they wanted to learn how to pray. The reference for them asking Jesus to teach them is **Luke 11:1**. They saw something in Jesus when He prayed that made them want to learn. The disciples saw in Jesus the importance of prayer. Jesus tells the disciples to not pray like the hypocrites, who prayed mainly to be seen by others. It had little or nothing to do with their relationship with God. We are to find a quiet place to pray. A place that doesn’t have any distractions. Jesus knew how easily distracted we can become, which is why He tells us to find a room to pray in. Jesus’ next instruction is to not keep babbling. You will not be heard because you use a lot of words. Jesus wants us to pray with sincerity and from our hearts. We are not praying to a stranger, but to someone who knows what we need. After giving instructions Jesus gives the example of the Lord’s Prayer.

Here are some questions to consider. You don’t have to ask them all, but see where your conversations are flowing.

QUESTIONS

1. What were your experiences of prayer growing up? Were you brought up saying the Lord’s Prayer or grace before meals etc.
2. What is the most difficult part of prayer for you?
3. What are some of the 21st century barriers to praying?
4. If God knows what we need before we ask Him, why bother praying?
5. What is one step you can take over the next month to improve your prayer life?
6. How does prayer strengthen YOUR relationship with God?
7. If God answers, how do you cope with what we consider to be “unanswered” prayers?
8. On a scale of 1-10, where 1 is non-existent and 10 is you can’t stop, where would you say you are and why would you put yourself there? Don’t force people to share but encourage gently.
9. When we pray statements such as “Your Kingdom come”, we are inviting God to be at work in the world and also at work in our lives. In what areas might we be praying that today?

Finally, acknowledge that prayer may be hard for many people for many reasons. But like anything that needs consistency, there needs to be a certain amount of discipline. Why not commit together, until you meet again, every day to pray for your family, our church and our community. Even if it is for a minute on each. You never know what God might have to say back!