

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Series: Teach Us to Pray
Title: Personal Prayer
Speaker: Steve Berg
Text: Luke 11:2-4
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WARM-UP

Who was a person with whom you have felt confident to have a deep personal conversation?
What helped (or hindered) you to open up to another person in this way?

DISCUSSION

When the disciples asked Jesus, "Lord, teach us to pray...", He did not give them the Jewish public prayers that they were familiar with as a model prayer. Jesus gave them a prayer that had the sentiments of the intimacy that He prayed when He was alone with His Father. The disciples were likely stunned by the very personal language that Jesus was teaching them to pray to the Father. Jesus was teaching them to get personal about prayer.

1. What characteristics about a father are we to attribute to God? Which ones don't fit our Heavenly Father very well? Does praying to God as our Father astound you or trouble you?
2. What about our lives and words honor, treasure, and love the name of our Father? What desecrates and besmirches God's name? How should we honor, treasure, and love the Father when we pray?
3. In what sense are we asking that the Father's Kingdom will come? How does this prayer affect our living?
4. Why do we try to be independent of asking anyone for help? Why do we try to be independent of our Father? Why should we ask our Father to "give" us daily bread when we can earn a living for ourselves and be responsible to take care of our needs?
5. If our sin is forgiven at the cross of Christ, why should we confess our sins to our Father on a regular basis? What difference does regular confession of sins and receiving our Father's forgiveness have in our lives?
6. Why does Jesus connect a heart to forgive others as a response to receiving our Father's forgiveness? Why do we refuse to forgive others? What is the impact of an unforgiving heart?
7. The Father allowed difficulties and temptation to be Jesus' reality, and ours - but why? What are we expecting will be the outcome of praying to the Father, "Lead us not into temptation?"

PRAYER

1. God, I thank You that I can call You "Father" because...
2. Father, I want to love Your name by...
3. Father, I want You to bring heaven down to earth by...
4. Father, today I need this...
5. Father, I confess this sin and ask You to forgive me for...
6. Father, I will forgive...