

Review:

Lesson 1: The Body of Christ

Lesson 5: Better Giving

Lesson 2: Being Family

Lesson 3: The Place of Scripture

Lesson 4: Together Even Better

Better Praying Matthew 6:5-13

To Jesus (and for His followers), better praying had little to do with time, place, or actual words used and had much more to do with the condition of the _____ that is _____ with God.

Discussion 1. Better praying is more about the heart than it is about the surrounding circumstances. However, for most of us, the surrounding circumstances may well affect the condition of our hearts. What external circumstances (time, place, environment, etc.) make it easier for your heart to connect with God?

If I am looking for the right formula for prayer or the right mystical incantation, then I don't understand God at all. Prayer isn't about the words; it is about the _____. It is as much about sitting with God in utter silence as it is about actual communication.

Discussion 2. Better prayer may be more about listening than about speaking. Have you ever just sat in silence with God? If so, describe that experience...where, when, what did you do? What did you learn? Why don't we do it more often?

Better prayer begins from a place of humility, seeking to better understand and acknowledge _____; that humble acknowledgment colors and shapes everything else that happens in that prayer time.

Discussion 3. Starting our prayer time with praise and acknowledgement of Who God is serves as a good reminder to us. Do you think this is necessary? Why or why not?

Better prayer always contemplates _____...both God's of us and ours of one another. We should never underestimate the seriousness with which God treats unforgiveness on our part.

Discussion 4. Which is harder for you: receiving and truly believing God's forgiveness of you, or you extending forgiveness to others? Why?

Discussion 5. How does this lesson cause you to pray? How does it prepare your heart for worship?