

GROWN UP PRAYERS



WHY PRAY?

Matthew 6:1-10

Pastor Kyle led us through a controversial conversation on why we pray. When you were listening what questions came up for you?

Discussion Guide Wk. 1.

READ OUTLOUD FOR A RECAP

WHAT NOT TO DO:

- Don't pray to be seen.
- Don't ask without an understanding of who God is first.
- Don't babble, or use gibberish.
- Don't pray in public if you never pray in private.

WHAT TO DO:

- Shut the door and pray.
- Acknowledge there are two kingdoms: yours and God's.
- Surrender our own will before you say a word.
- Be willing to be moved by God instead of trying to move Him,

CONSIDER THIS

The Lord's Prayer is a template for approaching the uncreated Creator in prayer. It provides us with a framework for how to pray, but it is not a formula for prayer.

Jesus makes it clear that, for his followers, religion and relationship are at odds with each other.

- Religion promises if we say these words in their exact form God will listen.
- Relationship promises that God is already listening regardless of the words we say.

Q + A

Q: Do you believe there is a wrong and right way to pray?

- What do you think is the right way to pray?
- The wrong way?
- Why?

DIG DEEPER

Read the other instance of The Lord's Prayer in Luke 11:1-13 out loud.

Authors in the Bible often use human examples to give us an understanding of who God is. Generally, the intent is *not* to compare God with how humans behave, but to elevate God above the way humans do things.

- In this passage, Luke is using the example of an unwilling friend to emphasize the willingness of God.

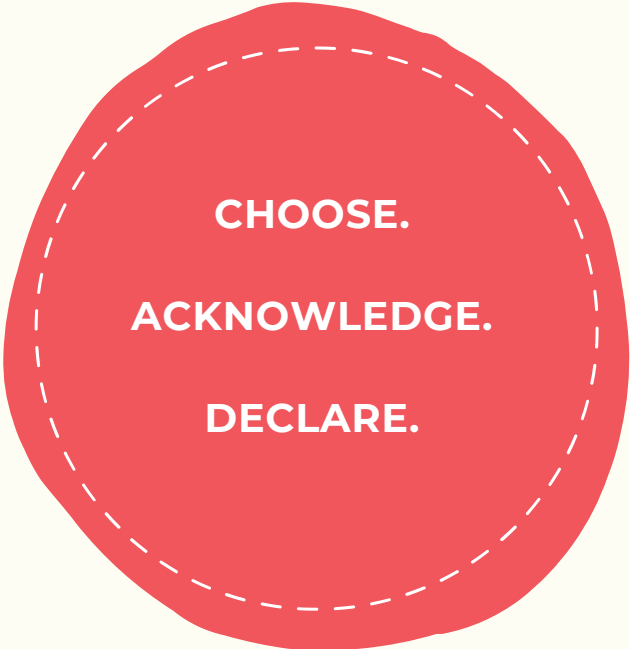
Do you think the author is telling us we should persist in prayer like the man looking for bread OR do you think that the author is trying to tell us that God isn't like a tired, annoyed neighbor when we come to him in prayer?

Read these verses to help you decide: 1 Chronicles 28:9, Proverbs 8:17, Jeremiah 29:13, Revelation 3:20

LET'S BE REAL

God is better than we think he is. We often don't pray because we think he doesn't care, it won't make a difference, or we aren't worthy of God's time.

Which one resonates with you most? *God doesn't care. It won't make a difference. I'm not worthy.*



CHOOSE.
ACKNOWLEDGE.
DECLARE.

Let's Grow Up.

Whose kingdom are you building?

Pastor Kyle challenged us with these next steps:

1. **Choose** a time and place to pray.
2. **Acknowledge** what keeps you from wanting God's kingdom to come over your own.
3. **Declare** God's greatness and surrender your will.

How to prepare for Grown-up Prayer

1. Remember *Who* you are addressing. *Read Psalm 47 as a reminder.*
2. Remember *Whose* kingdom we are building. *Read Psalm 103:19.*
3. Ask God to help you believe that when you pray, God is willing and able and He is already at work no matter the words you say. *Read Luke 17:20-21.*

"Your kingdom come, your will be done."