



VOICES V

In our 2020 VOICES series, we welcome four guests from the larger body of Christ to open God's Word and bring perspective we need. This year's speakers include Jackie Hill Perry, Mark Sayers, Jon Tyson, and John Mark Comer.

3: PRAYER / JON TYSON

Read the text: Luke 22:39-46

“And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. And when he came to the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.” And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, and he said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation.”

In this third part of our Voices series, Jon Tyson called us to pursue formation into the image of Jesus through the practice of prayer. For most of us, prayer starts in our faith journey as “request.” We bring our needs to God and He reveals His character to us, showing His power and His goodness through answering prayer in amazing ways. As we grow in faith, our

prayer becomes even more “relational.” God works on our own character, unleashing in us both the “Abba cry” and the “bridal cry.” Through teaching us the “Abba cry,” we cry out to God in prayer as our Father, desiring just to be with our dad. As we learn the “bridal cry,” we cry out to God as a bride longs to be with her groom. God forms in us a kingdom-orientation that longs for His kingdom above all else. Last, as we grow in our faith, our prayer becomes prayer of “relinquishing.” We begin to see that prayer is not about our will, but about God’s will being done and we are willing to fully relinquish our will to His. This is the prayer we see Jesus praying in the garden of Gethsemane in the passage above before His death. While asking God for what we want, we ultimately are able to say, “Not my will, but yours be done;” fully giving up control and trusting His way.

Discussion Questions:

These questions are written for DNA groups, but you can use in any setting, including missional communities. Because they were written for the intimacy of DNA friendships, you may need to adjust for larger groups.

1. When you think about the three types of prayer Jon mentions; “Request, Relational, and Relinquishment;” which kind of prayer do you find yourself praying most often? There isn’t a right or wrong answer, but it is helpful to think about where we are in our formation and faith.
2. In the beginning of our faith journey, prayer often starts as “request,” with God answering our prayers in amazing ways to show His character to us. Take time to share with each other examples of how God has answered your requests. What did God reveal about His character to you through this?
3. How did the idea of prayer being “relational” resonate with you? Have you seen God unleash the “Abba cry” in your heart so that you desire just to be with your Dad in prayer?

When you pray, how do you think God is viewing you in that moment?

4. What do you still struggle to relinquish to God? What keeps you from fully laying down your will and asking for His to be done instead? What do you think this reveals about how you view God? After sharing with one another, take time together to ask God to help you truly be willing to relinquish your full self to Him saying, “Not my will, but yours be done.”
5. What is God inviting you to grow in regarding prayer? What next steps will you take to pursue growth in prayer? Take time to share and commit to support each other in this.

If you have not yet engaged with our “Prayer Formation Guide,” we highly recommend using to grow in being with God through prayer. You can find it on the Doxa App and on our website: doxa-church.com/formation-prayer.