

Discussion Questions
"Sermon on the Mount: Prayer"
Matthew 6:5-15; Isaiah 1:10-20

Part 1 – On Prayer

1. How do you like to pray? What practices of prayer do you have in your life? (In groups? Out loud? Silently? While doing activities?) Share/write a little about your prayer life.
2. As mentioned in the sermon, our prayer life involves introspection, or self-analysis with God's help. Psalm 139:23-24 shows us this clearly. Being honest with yourself and others; how often do you pray this sort of prayer? Maybe you can read psalm 139, then take a break/pause, and pray that God would reveal where we need his help.
3. Prayer is not just about looking in, but also looking out. Look at Jesus' prayer life and all the ways he prayed with and for people. Matthew 19:13, John 17:9, Luke 9:28, Luke 5:16, Luke 6:12 (there are many more!)
4. Which area of prayer might you want to engage more in? Consider setting goals and even practicing new ways of praying to enrich your prayer life.

Part 2 – On the Kingdom of God

1. The kingdom of God is not fully realized on Earth. How have you witnessed injustice and oppression recently? On the news? In person? What emotions were felt in you when this happened and what was your response?
2. Jesus shows us that he is the way to understanding the Kingdom of God. We as his children should seek to also bring the Kingdom to earth as Jesus did. What other passages shed more light on our responsibility to bring the Kingdom to Earth?
3. When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we are asking the Kingdom to come, through us, all of us together. Corporately, how has the Church worldwide done in this area? What is one area you are passionate about in educating brothers and sisters in Christ to realize the Kingdom of God? What scriptures enforce and support your passion?
4. In the sermon – there were 5 possible categories mentioned how we might be participating in or ignoring issues of justice: racism, sexism, militarism, economic disparity, and environmental devastation. While talking about these can be a sensitive subject; we need to. It is good to consider what the Kingdom of God might look like in each of these categories and discuss it with fellow Christians. So be brave, discuss!
5. Praying the Lord's prayer with confidence is Jesus' heart for each of his followers. We can have confidence. Romans 8:1-17 reminds us of our freedom. Read this passage and discuss how we can find confidence for the future through these words.

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