



Prayer

Main idea Prayer brings life to our relationship with God.

Warm-up What would you do to develop a strong friendship with someone?

introduction

Developing a relationship is a two-way communication. God speaks to us through His word while we communicate with God through prayer. Different people express themselves differently in their desire to communicate with God. Some people pray three times a day by reciting a set of prayer list to God. Others fell prostrate, hoping that by doing so, they will feel God closer to them.

- Oftentimes, people think that prayer is like a vending machine—just push the right button and your wish will be granted.
- But truth is, prayer is more than just getting your answers from God.
- In fact, Jesus took the time to instruct His disciples on the importance of prayer.

Message

But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. "This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name..."

Matthew 6:6-9

Prayer is more than just receiving answered prayers. Rather, it's about developing a life-long relationship with God by communing with Him. Jesus referred to God four times as Father to emphasize the relationship He has with God. That emphasis is a fitting reminder as well that we could also have that kind of close, intimate relationship with God when we pray-

- As we begin to call God our Father in prayer, it's imperative that we set an intentional meeting with Him everyday. Prayer time can happen in the morning, lunch time, evening or during break time. And it can happen as you find a quiet place to pause and reflect.

- Prayer goes beyond just fulfilling an obligation or responsibility. It is more than just getting your tons of prayer requests to God to be answered.

- Instead, prayer is about enjoying your time with God because the truth is, God values relationship and what a way to cultivate that relationship than through prayer.

- Prayer reconnects us to God. It enables us to focus on God than the busyness of life.

Challenge

Beyond the excitement of experiencing an answer to your prayer, consider it a joy to pray because prayer develops and strengthens your relationship with God.

Application Question

What did you learn from this topic and how do you intend to apply it in your life?