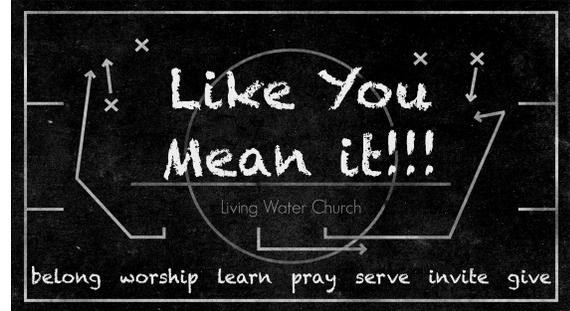




Living Water
Church

Diving Deeper: A Gather Group discussion guide
or personal devotional guide



Pray Like You Mean It!

Introduction: Prayer. It is something that every Christian knows they should do. It's something that every Christian will do. But it is also something that many believers either neglect or feel as if they do not pray correctly. The disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. This study examines the model prayer of Jesus.

Text: Luke 11:1-4

Discussion:

1. Icebreaker: How often do you pray? Is your prayer life more of a quick style prayer? Pray before you eat prayer? Get out of trouble prayer? Get my way prayer? Time to get to know God more prayer? Discuss/Write about the differences of each type of prayer.
2. Luke informs us that Jesus would often withdraw and find a place to pray. Where can you go to get away from life's distractions to spend quality time with God in prayer?
3. Luke 11:2—Jesus says when you pray . . . say. Prayer is communication. We verbally express our thoughts to God. Why is it important to not only pray in our mind, but to verbally pray to our God?
4. Jesus instructs us to pray to God as “Father.” What does this say about our time spent talking to God? How does it change your attitude to prayer?
5. “Hallowed”—holy is your name. God is both set apart from us, but committed to us. Why is it important to recognize the holiness of God? What other scripture references can you use to express praise and adoration to the Lord?
6. “Your kingdom come” Why must we pray for God's work and will to be accomplished in our life? Do you find yourself trying to tell God how to run His kingdom? How does seeking God's work to be done in your life help you to be more focused in life?
7. Read John 6:29, Hebrews 12:20-21, 1 Thes. 4:3-5. What is the will of God for your life?
8. “Give us each day our daily bread.” God taught the Hebrews to trust in God for their daily provision. He gave them manna for each day. They were not to gather for the next day, but only for the day. How can praying for you daily provision help you live a more focused and faith filled life? Read Prov. 30:7-9.
9. “Forgive us our sin” Christians are not sinless, but we strive to sin less. When we do sin, it is important to seek God's forgiveness. Our relationship with God is not broken, but our fellowship is affected. How does repenting of sin help you walk closer to Jesus?
10. “as we forgive those who sin against us” We are to forgive those who have wronged us. Just as God forgives us, we should forgive others. What if God used the same judgment of holding a grudge and not willing to forgive? How would we stand on judgment day if God forgave us like we forgave those who hurt us? Why do people have a hard time forgiving others? Why is forgiving others important?
11. “Lead us not into temptation” we live in a spiritual battle field. Read Eph.6:12. Why is it important to pray for spiritual protection?

Think About it:

Jesus gave us an outline to pray. If this is how he taught his disciples, then we need to learn to pray in this form. If you have ever wanted to know how to pray, then the best person to ask would be Jesus! Will you take his instruction and pray?

Moving Forward:

Pray the model prayer of Jesus every morning for the next 30 days. Journal how the Lord is working in your life and helping to conform your will towards his will. Set your time and place and pray!

