

THE COVERT DISCIPLE



Questions for Application for the Week of April 7, 2014 Part 2 - When You Pray - Matthew 6:5-15

1. Jesus challenged his listeners to not be like the “hypocrites” or “Gentiles” when they prayed (Mt. 6:5-8). The first because they prayed so that they could be seen by others, the latter for their endless empty phrases and repetition. In what ways are you prone to abuse prayer? How do you think Christ would respond if asked about the state of prayer in churches today?

2. How do you understand Jesus’ words “Pray then like this” (Mt.6:9)? Why not ask us to pray the Lord’s Prayer exactly each time? What encouragement can be found in Jesus’ instruction and why should it motivate us to prayer?

3. The first half of petitions in the Lord’s prayer focus us on God and his ways while the second half welcomes our petitions for assistance (Mt. 6:9-13). Of the six petitions, which do you find the most difficult to pray and why?

4. In Matthew 6:14-15, Jesus specifically addresses the issue of forgiveness found in the fifth petition of the prayer again. Why is our willingness to forgive others so crucial to effective prayer?

5. Do you feel defeated or victorious in your prayer life? Do you look forward to prayer or guilty that you don’t do it enough? What (if anything) has this passage caused you to think differently about prayer? How might you practically increase your commitment to prayer over the coming weeks?

Prayer Guide

As a church, we commit this week every year specifically to prayer. In lieu of our Breakout times in our Life Group ministry, each group will pray for our church. All of our student & children's ministries will focus on prayer and next weekend we will hold 24 hours of straight prayer for our body and community. As a church we will be praying about these things this week and this weekend in the 24 Hours of Prayer. We want to be thanking Him, seeking His direction and asking Him to work:

We are Thankful...

For Christ's death and resurrection. For His great love for us. For victory over sin.

For God's work in our lives as we seek to grow as disciples of Jesus.

That people are finding new life in Jesus through the ministry of the church.

For deepening relationships that are being formed in Life Groups, Connect Groups and our Student Ministries.

For answered prayers in people lives in the areas of health, relationships, directions and jobs among the people of Salem Chapel.

That God continues to raise up committed volunteers in many areas of ministry in the church.

That our financial needs are being met as a church.

We are Seeking...

To be people who are daily spending time with God in order to know Him and honor Him with our lives.

His direction as we look to the future on how we as individuals and we as a church can move forward to love, share with and care for those around us.

Understanding of the gifts that God has given us as a part of the body and a willingness to spend ourselves in using those gifts as God leads us.

Hearts that are teachable and open to applying God's Word in all areas of our lives.

We are Asking...

That many would come to know Jesus as Savior.

For healing and comfort for those who are suffering physically and emotionally.

For protection from evil individually and as a church.

That God would bind us together as an engaged group of believers as we seek to minister in our homes, workplaces, neighborhoods and throughout the world in the places he leads us.

For continued financial provision as a church as we look to the future.