
BIBLE TALK - JESUS ON PRAYER

Introduction

For an ice-breaker, announce, 'You've been exiled to a deserted island for a year. In addition to the essentials, you may take one piece of music, one book (which is not the Bible) and one luxury item you can carry with you i.e. not a boat to leave the island! What would you take and why?' Allow a few minutes for people to draw up their list of three items, before sharing their choices with the rest of the group.

Let's learn about Jesus convictions of the importance and practice of prayer in our daily lives.

Matthew 6:5-15

Q: Why do you think it was important for Jesus to differentiate between good and bad practices regarding prayer?

Q: What are some of the 'bad practices' that can creep into our prayer life today?

Q: What are the 'good practices' of prayer Jesus encourages in this passage?

A: Prayer must be intimate. Prayer must be meaningful. Prayer must be personal. Prayer must be organized. Prayer must be daily. Prayer must be from a devoted heart.

Q: What does each one of these 'good practices' mean for us today? (Mention one at a time)

Luke 18:1-8

Q: What does this parable illustrate about us and about God in reference to prayer?

Q: What are the 'good practices' of prayer Jesus encourages in this passage?

A: Prayer must be persistent. Prayer must be in faith.

Q: Why is it sometimes difficult for us to persevere in prayer?

Q: Why is 'faith', which can be defined as trusting in God's love and believing in His power, such an important aspect of our prayer life?

Application

Mark 11:24 - Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Q: What steps will you take to be faithful and faith-full in prayer?

Action: On a 3"x5" card, right down a prayer list you can use as a guide for your daily prayers, and keep it in your bible or your regular place of prayer. Use the JOY (Jesus, Others, Yourself) or ACTS (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) methods as your guide. Include 2-3 "impossible" prayers.