

Session 5: Devoted to Prayer

1.

Thinking of your own prayers, what are some things you find yourself typically praying for?

Read Matt. 6:5-8. Like Pastor Adam mentioned, have you ever said or thought that you can't pray out loud or in front of others because you "*don't sound good*" when you pray, and if so, how do these verses help us understand that our prayers are not about having others think it "sounds good," but about connecting with the Father?

What do you think the *reward* mentioned in verse 6 is talking about? Does it mean we will get everything we ask for, or do you think it means something deeper?

2.

Read Matt. 6:9-15. Pastor Adam shared that the Father already knows what we need, that He loves & cares for us, and that our hearts need to come before Him as a child seeking our Father. Why is this so important and in what ways does knowing & remembering this help draw us into prayer?

Pastor Adam also showed that the Lord's Prayer invites us to come with honesty, acknowledging Who God is, asking for His Kingdom & Will (not our own), for forgiveness (for self and with others), and for help against sin and in our relationship with Him. Which of these areas do you struggle with the most, and why?

3.

Read Acts 4:23-31. What are some of the specific things the disciples prayed for?

How often (or rarely, or ever) do you pray like this, and do you think sometimes we as believers often desire the things the disciples were praying for? If not, why?

What do you think the problem is of desiring the miracles experienced in verse 31, without desiring the things asked for in the prayer of vv.23-30?

4.

Read Acts 4:29 and 2:47b. What is the connection between these verses, and how does it show that our prayer isn't about changing God's Mind or Will, but changing and aligning our own to His?

Throughout this series we've been pursuing the question: *what does it mean to live as devoted followers of Christ, and how do we do it?* How would you answer that question now, and what place does prayer specifically play in answering this question?

Take some time to pray together, for one another, for boldness in our body, and for God's Kingdom to advance.