

## Prayer

Matthew 6:5–13

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## NOTES

## Prayer

Matthew 6:5–13

Suggested Questions for Individual Study or Group Discussion\*



- What were you taught about prayer when you were a child? Did you grow up saying the Lord's Prayer on a regular basis? How did that practice influence your approach to prayer, or did it not really influence your understanding or practice of prayer?
- Richard Foster says, "To pray is to change." Have you ever experienced this in your own life?
- What should we do when we don't feel like praying?
- *Reread Matthew 6:5–13.* Jesus encourages his hearers to pray in secret instead of where they may be seen by others. Do you have a preferred secluded place to pray, be it somewhere in your house, or somewhere in nature, or elsewhere?
- In verse 8, Jesus says you don't need to use a bunch of words when you pray because "your Father knows what you need before you ask him." What is the point of petitionary prayer, if God already knows what is needed?
- Eugene Peterson paraphrases Jesus' words to say: "With a God like this loving you, you can pray very simply." In what ways does prayer feel simple? How does it feel complicated?
- Is the command to "pray without ceasing" inconsistent with the admonition against "saying many words" (verse 7)?
- Spend some extended time in prayer, growing in your awareness of God's love for you and praying slowly and meditatively over Matthew 6:9–13.