

ANCHORS 2¹

Real Devotion: Prayer

Our first study introduced us to the importance of gospel-centric living, grace, faith, forgiveness, being a son/daughter of God. Throughout the next few weeks, we'll look in-depth at three key elements of the life of a follower of Christ: real devotional life, real community, and real responsibility. Today we'll examine the first of these elements, real devotional life.

Today we'll discuss the importance of connecting to God through prayer, and why it's important for us to seek God earnestly and regularly. The Hebrew word for "seek" which is used in today's passage from Psalms can mean to "frequent" or to "tread a path." We'll talk about why God desires us to "tread a path" or "frequent" His presence, and look at the powerful and personal, parable Christ gives on prayer to His disciples.

Psalm 53:1-2, NIV

The fool says in his heart,
"There is no God."

They are corrupt, and their ways are vile;
there is no one who does good.

God looks down from heaven
on all mankind

to see if there are any who understand,
any who seek God.

Luke 11:1-10, NIV

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." 2 He said to them, "When you pray, say: "'Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. 3 Give us each day our daily bread. 4 Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.'" 5 Then Jesus said to them, "Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; 6 a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.' 7 And suppose the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' 8 I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need. 9 "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

Pre-Article Questions:

1. If you were able to attend our large group worship service this week/past week, how did God speak to you through the worship or the message?
2. Tell us about a person you know really well and what it took to get that close?

Study Questions:

1. According to Psalm 53 verse 2, what is God looking for?
2. Before entering college, what was your understanding or experience of “seeking God,” or as the Hebrew describes it, “frequenting, treading a path to God”?
3. When we think of treading a path, what visuals come to mind? What happens when you tread the same path over time?
4. So how does this analogy help us understand prayer/seeking God?
5. Re-read aloud the passage on prayer in Luke 11. What initial thoughts, questions, comments came up for you? Did you see something you haven’t seen before in this passage?
6. The passage in Luke teaches us to come to God as a Father and Friend. In what ways does this shift your mindset of approaching God in prayer?
7. Read Hebrews 11:6, how does this scripture relate to our main texts tonight? In what ways does this scripture encourage or challenge you?
8. Overall, what principles on the importance of prayer in our lives and how to pray, did we discover/review in tonight’s study? What are some practical steps we as individuals and collectively as a Life Group can put into place to see connecting with God in prayer as a regular part of our lives?

Prayer Partner Assignment:

Put some worship music on or have a member play an instrument and spend time in prayer together asking God to increase hunger, desire, and understanding of the importance of prayer in each other’ lives. Spend time praying for one another as well.

Closing

Attend a Morning Prayer meeting this week with your partner. After the meeting is over, grab breakfast together and look over the ACTS Prayer Plan at the bottom of this document or on the app under 1-1 resources. Discuss how you saw this played out in the prayer meeting and how you feel it will make a difference in your personal prayer times with God. Discuss how you can practically work corporate and personal prayer into your life for the next two weeks.