

Seeking God As Life

Week of January 15, 2017



SEEKING GOD THROUGH PRAYER

These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read Jeremiah 29:12-13

Seeking God through prayer is about learning to seek the Father first. We will either live a life that puts Father first through prayer or he will effectively be last in our lives.

Religion tells us to use God to get what we want out of life, but the Father wants us to seek him above everything and let him be enough for us. We must believe that having Father is enough and it is truly better than anything else we think we want. It is a turning point decision to choose to start a Father-first life of seeking him in prayer. The goal of prayer is relationship with Father (not getting stuff). The moment we forget that Father is the reward of life, the moment we think it's about anything else, is the moment we become disappointed and dissatisfied. When "god" becomes Father, your life begins and becomes more satisfying, one prayer at a time.

Pray

Heavenly Father, as we turn to you and examine our own prayer life, speak to us through your Holy Spirit. Show us how much you long to speak to us, to make yourself known to us and hear from us in prayer. Give us insight where we need to grow and lead us into a deeper relationship with you.

Getting Started

- What are your earliest memories of prayer? Was it around the dinner table or some other occasion and what were the prayers like?
- Has there ever been a time when you saw the impossible happen and God directly answered your prayer?

Digging Deeper

1. Discuss your level of satisfaction and fulfillment in your current prayer life.
2. If the amount of time we spend doing something shows how much we value it, what are the most valuable or important parts of your life?
3. Often we feel and believe that God is most important in our lives but functionally he ranks near the bottom. Discuss why this happens.
4. Explain the differences between praying to get what we want (adding God to our lives) verses praying to the Father "as life."
5. Describe some of the tangible differences in the prayer life of someone who puts "Father first" verses someone who puts "Father last." How might you recognize this person?
6. What advice could you offer to someone who just doesn't feel like praying?

Spend the remaining time of your meeting in prayer for one another.

Living Jesus

Seeking God first as *life* for the rest of your life will be an unending challenge. There will always be people, commitments, pressures and desires that will tempt you to find life outside of God; to merely add him to the life you're already living. It's time to die to self and find life in God through Christ. As the 21-day prayer challenge starts this week, commit to put God first in your heart. Seek him first with time in prayer each day so you might find yourself *in* him first.