



Move Towards God in Prayer

Week of November 25, 2018

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 Mark 1:31-35

True love moves us toward God through prayer and toward other people through empathy. Without the love of God we are empty and we fill our emptiness with things of this world. Satan will do anything he can to move us from love. Jesus showed that he chose to pray not because he had to pray but that he needed to—wanted to—talk to his Father. You can do that too! Rise up, be strong, and ask God for what you need. Our prayer life demonstrates our dependence on God. Despite how we feel, we need to move toward God through prayer in practical ways such as turning our mind toward Jesus, trusting him, staying away from laziness, and making prayer a faith choice. When we move towards God in prayer, then we will be empowered to do what he asks of us—to give and receive love in the name of Jesus.

Pray

Dear God, thank you for showing us how to pray through Jesus' actions and words. Through your love, draw us closer to you and give us the deep desire to talk to you each day, all day. Let that desire be so strong that we just can't ignore it! Keep our love strong, keep our mind on Jesus, trusting more and more as we persistently ask you for what we need. Amen

Getting Started

- Knowing something leads you to do something; share an example about how you learned about something and you were moved to take action as a result.
- Describe a time when you were persistent about something (either in action or in prayer). How long did it take for that something to resolve itself?

Digging Deeper

1. When considering prayer and your life, what are the first thoughts that enter your mind? Why do you think that is?
2. How does prayer move us toward God? Why is this so important to God?
3. Satan will do whatever he can to move us away from love. How have you seen this in your life or in the lives of others?
4. Prayer is not about presenting a shopping list to God; what does this mean and what should prayer be instead?
5. Discuss some ways that you can listen to God during the day (rather than just listing off things you want or need when you pray).
6. Read 1 John 5:14. How does knowing that God hears us make a difference in your prayer life? What does it mean to ask according to God's will?
7. What are the biggest reasons you do not pray? How can you overcome these reasons?
8. What are some practical ways you can ignite your prayer life?

Living Jesus

God loves us and wants a relationship with us. He desires our love to draw us to him everyday. In the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) we also see how love moves toward others with empathy. This story shows us what Jesus did and still does today. Of the practical ways discussed to ignite your prayer life, which step specifically will you take this week that will in love move you towards God and towards others?

What's Your Story?

We have all experienced "prayer slumps" lasting from a few days to many months. Share your experience in struggling with prayer and how you made your way back to renew your connectedness with God.

>> **Go to SevernRunner.info and choose the Stories tile. Then follow the link provided to share your own story; we will even connect you with a writer to help you tell your Jesus story.**