



Pray BIG Prayers?

Psalm 139; Matthew 6:5-8

OPEN

Group Check-in:

- How is prayer going with you?
- Has anything changed in your prayer life these last few weeks?
- What are you struggling with when it comes to prayer?

Open your discussion time with this simply prayer from Psalm 139:23-24:

Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way of everlasting.

DISCUSS

Read Matthew 6:5-8.

- What does Jesus assume about prayer? (Note: look for "when you...")
- What are the warnings Jesus provide regarding prayer?
- What are the rewards of faith-filled prayer?

How do you understand the tension between talking to God about everything (sharing all that is on your heart) and focusing your thoughts before you pray, letting your words carry depth, not length?

Bill Hybels wrote that there are five daring, dangerous, gutsy, real prayers. Take a moment and read the five prayers. Then place an x in the appropriate box for each, providing a few of your own thoughts in the Comments box. After a few minutes, discuss your reactions.

FIVE DARING PRAYERS

Prayer	Resonates with Me	Scares Me	Comments
Search me			
Break me			
Stretch me			
Lead me			
Use me			

Read and respond to this quote by Thomas Kelley from his book *A Testament of Devotion*

“Over the margins of life comes a whisper, a faint call, a premonition of richer living which we know we are passing by. Strained by the very mad pace of our daily outer burdens, we are further strained by an inward uneasiness, because we have hints that there is a way of life vastly richer and deeper than all of this hurried existence, a life of unhurried serenity and peace and power.”

NEXT STEPS

- Read and reflect on Psalm 139 this week. You may want to make a few notes about what you feel and what you sense God saying to you as you read and pray through this Psalm several times this week.
- Spend more time (in prayer) with one of the daring prayers above in the chart. Really explore why you are feeling the way you are. How is God calling you to respond (practically) to this daring prayer?
- Checkout the Prayer Resources at www.cc-ob.org/prayerresources