



Learning to pray

Matthew 6:5-18

Sunday September 11th 2016

- An up-hill battle?
- Prayer is not a performance
- Prayer is not magic
- Prayer is personal—so learn to...

'For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of Sonship. And by him we cry "Abba", Father. The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.' Romans 8:15-16

Knowing
Sharing **Jesus**



Hockliffe Street
Baptist Church **Leighton Buzzard**

1. Learning to become like a child

'Jesus does not say, "Come to me, all you who have learned how to concentrate on prayer, whose minds no longer wander, and I will give you rest." No, Jesus opens his arms to needy children and says "Come to me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest". (Matthew 11v28) The criteria for coming to Jesus is weariness. Come overwhelmed with life. Come with your wandering mind. Come messy' (The Praying life—by Paul E. Miller, p 31-32)

2. Learning to talk with your Father

3. Learning to trust

4. Learning to be dependent

5. Learning to worship

Conversation starter:

What words would you use to describe the way you pray?



Discussion group questions

Some of these questions are personal and others are more general. You will find it helpful to have heard the talk so why not listen at <http://leightonbaptists.org.uk/media-links/current-teaching/>

Feel free to pick and choose which questions your group will find most helpful.

- Read Matthew 6v5-18 together. What things most stand out to you from these verses, and Sunday's talk?
- Why do you think Jesus starts with the 'do not' statements about prayer in these verses? In what ways are we in danger of these errors?
- Look at the 'learn to' headings in the talk outline. Which of these do we need most help with? Why?
- Spend some time discussing what it means that God is our Father.
- Pray together, thanking him that he is our Father.
- Pray through the lines of the Lord's prayer, using them to stimulate our praying together.
- Ask for God's help, that we might learn to pray as we learn to be children of the heavenly Father.