



“Prayer Is Its Own Reward” - March 22, 2026

Sermon by Pastor Rachel Keeler

Group Leader Notes

Pastor Rachel teaches that prayer is not about performance, technique, or getting results, but about developing a genuine relationship with God. Drawing from Matthew 6:5–13, she emphasizes that Jesus calls us to pray with the right motivation—not to be seen by others, but to connect with God in honesty and intimacy. Prayer is described simply as “conversation with God,” something that doesn’t need to be complicated, polished, or perfect. Rather than trying to persuade God or earn rewards, the true reward of prayer is the relationship itself—growing in closeness, peace, transformation, and trust over time. Even when prayer feels difficult, uncertain, or unanswered, we are invited to keep showing up, knowing that God already knows us, welcomes us as we are, and desires to meet us in that ongoing, authentic connection.

Main Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:5-13

Group Discussion

Begin in prayer before reading and discussing the text.

1. Pastor Rachel says, “prayer is its own reward.” What do you think that means in your own experience, and how does it challenge the way you usually think about prayer?
2. Jesus warns against praying for the approval of others. In what subtle ways might we still be tempted to “perform” in our spiritual lives, even if not publicly?
3. Pastor Rachel defines prayer as “conversation with God.” How does that definition change (or affirm) the way you approach prayer day-to-day?
4. Pastor Rachel emphasizes that prayer is more about relationship than results. How do you wrestle with unanswered prayers or the feeling that prayer “isn’t working”?
5. Looking at the Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6:9–13), which part—adoration, confession, thanksgiving, or asking for needs—comes most naturally to you? Which part is most difficult, and why?

Let's Pray