



VICTORIOUS SECRETS

Passionate Parenting Prayers

In our Christian journey, we develop our faith over time. Spiritual disciplines, then, are habits, practices, and experiences designed to help grow and strengthen certain qualities of spirit — to build one's character and expand the breadth of one's inner life. Some spiritual disciplines are personal, inward exercises that are practiced alone; others require interpersonal relationships and are practiced in community. This series will take a deeper dive into how we can become victorious in developing our relationship with God.

- What are spiritual disciplines?
 - *Spiritual disciplines are habits, practices, and experiences that are designed to develop, grow, and strengthen certain qualities of spirit*
- As a group make a list of all the spiritual disciplines you can think of.
 - Looking at your list... what are some spiritual disciplines that you already employ in your life?
 - What are some that you wish you practiced?
- In this series we will be exploring different spiritual disciplines that lead to victorious living. The first discipline we'll be discussing is prayer. **Read Matthew 7:7-11**
 - What are some concepts that stick out to you on Jesus' teaching of prayer in this passage?
- Pastor Dave taught us that Jesus teaching here can be summed up in two words... *Passionate* and *Parenting*.
- **Passionate:**
 - What does passionate prayer look like? Do you know someone who has modeled passionate prayer in your life?
 - An incorrect understanding of v.7 would be that you get what you pray for. If that is not what Jesus is saying here, what do you think he *is* saying?
 - Each action Jesus instructs us to take in this verse increases in intensity. We go from asking to seeking to knocking. How does this help you understand Jesus instructions?
- **Parenting**
 - So we know we don't always get what we're asking from God. How then do we reconcile where Jesus says, "For everyone who asks receives..."? *He said we receive... not we receive what we ask for. God gives according to his will and desire for our life, not according to our own. What we receive from Him is ALWAYS better than what we ask for.*
 - With this thought in mind, does it always feel like what we receive is better? How do you process it when what you ask for in prayer doesn't happen?
 - Pastor Dave taught us that the most significant secret to victory is to learn to trust our heavenly Father and that is developed through prayer. What makes this the most significant spiritual discipline?