

C.R.O.S.S



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The church-wide study of prayer using a guide from the movie *War Room* will continue through June. Join us as we study the subject in Sunday School!

Learning From Jesus' Prayer Life

How many of us have ever asked Jesus to teach us to pray? (Luke 11:1) If we are truly invested in growing our prayer life, we yet today need to ask for a lesson from the Master. Jesus is still teaching us by the example He set through His own prayer life. We are still learning from His demonstration of the need to communicate with the Father. This is an example we all need to follow.

Here are some other observations about the prayer life of Jesus. Take time to read the references.

1. Jesus prayed for others.

Read Matthew 19:13, John 17:9

2. Jesus prayed with others.

Read Luke 9:28

3. Jesus prayed alone.

Read Luke 5:16

4. Jesus prayed regularly.

Read Luke 5:16

5. Jesus' prayed earnestly.

Read John 17

6. Jesus prayed with persistence.

Read Matthew 26:36-44, Luke 18:1

7. Jesus prayed "as You will."

Read Matthew 26:39

Jesus invites us to follow His example, don't pass up the privilege of prayer.



1 Thessalonians 5:17
Pray without ceasing.

A Lesson from War Room

The movie, *War Room*, is the fifth film by brothers Alex and Stephen Kendrick. Many of you have seen their other work, *Flywheel*, *Facing the Giants*, *Fireproof* and *Courageous*. *War Room* focuses on the transformational power of strategic prayer as exhibited by the main character, Miss Clara. The movie helps us see the parallel between military warfare and spiritual warfare – both require a strategy. Having a strategy will help us develop an effective prayer life.

We need a plan, a strategic plan. "Behind the field of battle," Miss Clara says, "someone has developed a strategy." Miss Clara tells us, "Victories don't come by accident."

"There is no magic in the place you pray...get rid of any distractions." Our theme scripture for the study, Matthew 6:6 tells us "when you pray, to go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen." (NIV) In other words, we need to shut out distractions and get totally focused on conversation with God. (Read Matthew 6:6)

"You're fighting the wrong enemy." Being strategic requires identifying the enemy. Miss Clara develops a mentoring relationship with Elizabeth Jordan, her real estate agent. This relationship helps Elizabeth understand that Tony, her husband, is not the real enemy. (Read John 10:10)

"Lifts your needs and requests to Him." Miss Clara helps Elizabeth establish a prayer plan to address the real enemy in her marriage. Elizabeth stops complaining about Tony and stops trying to fix him; she relinquishes that task to God. (Read 2 Thessalonians 3:3)

"And don't rush it. You take your time. And then you listen."

Remember, "Victories don't come by accident."

God's Design for Fathers

Today, more than ever, we need fathers who are willing to do things God's way. When fathers step up to the plate and parent in the way that God prescribes, we will have children who honor God in their lives. Statistics tell us what happened to children in father-absent home.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 24 million children in America -- one out of every three -- live in biological father-absent homes. They:

- Are almost four times more likely to be poor
- show higher levels of aggressive behavior
- have significantly higher odds of incarceration
- have a higher risk of teen pregnancy
- have significantly more drug use

Our culture does not place a high value on fathers, yet the devastating impact of their absence is felt in such dire ways. We need Christian fathers who are willing to be instruments in the hand of God, to teach your children "when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise" (Deuteronomy 6:7 NKJV).

Society may depict fathers as unnecessary and useless, but God says they are essential. In fact, He calls them to leadership in the family. God puts them in charge and when fathers assume the lead, maintaining God's ordained order, families thrive. This does not mean that children won't go astray, for we all do that, but the proper guidance and encouragement will bring them back in alignment with the will of God. Jesus said, "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). This is the proper response that will bring the desired result.

Our children are malleable and absorb not only our words, but are shaped by the examples set before them. It is time for Christian fathers to take God seriously so your children will likewise take God seriously. It is time for fathers to assume their role as spiritual leaders in the homes, applying and demonstrating the importance of God's Word in their relationships with their wives and children. How blessed is the child who observes their father loving their mother! How blessed is the child who is taught the Word of God by their father! And, how blessed will be the father who brings his children to faith in Jesus Christ! "The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, and he who begets a wise child will delight in him" (Proverbs 28:24).



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE



Fatherhood Quiz - True or False?

1. Fathers do not need to leave their children an inheritance.
2. A father who does not provide for his house is worse than an infidel.
3. Father's should gently encourage their children to learn the Lord's commandments.
4. Fathers can drive foolishness out of their children by correction.
5. A father is solely responsible for building up the home.
6. The foolishness of a child does not affect his father.
7. Teaching a child scriptures will make him wise
8. A father corrects a son that he delights in
9. A child with riotous companions brings shame to his father
10. Fathers who fear the Lord provide their children with a place of refuge.

GOT JOKES!



A little child in church for the first time watched as the ushers passed the offering plates.

When they neared the pew where he sat, the youngster piped up so that everyone could hear: "Don't pay for me Daddy, I'm under five."

"Mom, can I please change my name right now?" asked Ben. "But why would you want to do that, dear?" said his mom. "Because Dad said he's going to spank me as sure as my name's Benjamin!"

Teacher (speaking on the phone): You say Michael has a cold and can't come to school today? To whom am I speaking?

Voice: This is my father.

Test Your Knowledge Answers

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| 1. Proverbs 13:22 | 6. Proverbs 17:21 |
| 2. 1 Timothy 5:8 | 7. 2 Timothy 3:15 |
| 3. Deuteronomy 6:6-9 | 8. Proverbs 3:11-12 |
| 4. Proverbs 22:15 | 9. Proverbs 28:7 |
| 5. Psalm 127:1 | 10. Proverbs 14:26 |