

(1) Talk about your own personal struggles with prayer. Describe your prayer life, and be brutally open and honest about it. How often do you pray? For how long at one sitting? What are the primary obstacles that keep you from being consistent and joyful in prayer? Be specific.

(2) Review the things said in the sermon about who God is. What difference does it make to your prayer life to reflect on the nature and power and goodness of God? Take a minute and read aloud Isaiah 30:18-19. How does this truth affect how you pray?

(3) Share with one another some things you've prayed for that you haven't seen come to pass in the way you had hoped. What might God be teaching you in this? How has it changed you?

(4) What role does "thanksgiving" have in your prayer life? Is it ok, or is it presumptuous, to thank God in advance for the things you are asking from him?

(5) How does prayer glorify God? Read Psalm 50:10-12, 15. What do we learn from this text?

(6) How does Colossians 4:3-4 affect or influence the way you pray for yourself as well as for missionaries on the field?

(7) Let each person take a few minutes and share a story about the most surprising answer to prayer they've ever experienced.