

Lake Merced Church of Christ

Home Groups

Prayer: Doing Prayer

Ice Breaker

What is one skill or talent that you have that comes easy or easier to you than it does for others? How did you develop that skill/talent? What would you recommend to someone who wanted to learn to do what you've learned to do?

Opening Prayer

As you begin, ask the Holy Spirit of God to shape your time together, and to reveal ways to bring you deeper into praise and adoration during your time together and into your week ahead.

Discussion

1. **Read Matthew 6:9-13 together as a group.** If the Lord's Prayer is the model for us to follow and look to to shape our own prayer lives, then how that prayer begins should shape our first step into prayer. The first step is a call to "hallow" the name of God; it's a step toward Praise and Adoration. As you reflect on the way that you tend to pray, what role would you say Praise and Adoration or "hallowing" typically has in your prayer life?
2. Sometimes people struggle with praising God. "Why does God want to be told how great He is all the time?" That's a thought many Christians have wondered over the years, and yet the idea that we'd tell our husband, wife, or children how wonderful we think they are does not strike us as strange at all. We see that as an obvious part of enjoying who they are and what they mean to us. Have you ever struggled with *why* God wants to be praised and adored? Be honest; how would you describe your enjoyment of Him?
3. As Josh mentioned Sunday, one of the obstacles to enjoying and praising God can be sin in our lives. Sin often reflects a disorderedness to the loves of our life. Everyone's disordered loves are different. As you reflect on your own walk with God, what are those things for you that sometimes creep above God in terms of primacy of your life? What are the obstacles that make it hard to put God, number one?
4. **Read Romans 1:21-25 together as a group.** When sin enters our lives, it can be easy to feel like we know God, but fail to give Him thanks or glorify Him. As Thanksgiving approaches next week, what can you stop and give Him thanks for that you ordinarily take for granted?
 - a. The temptation giving God thanks is to slip into empty words or "flattery." Flattery is when we say the right thing, but we do not feel the sincerity of those words within us. As you go to give thanks to God, ask yourself whether your words are sincere, or just the "right thing to say."
5. **Close your time together by reading Psalm 150 aloud as a group.** What stands out to you or what thoughts do you have as you focus on these words? How do these words inform the way you "hallow" in prayer?

Closing Prayer

As you draw to a close, each person should focus on a heart of genuine Thanksgiving for your life.