

## **Praying Like Jesus – Father, I thank You**

### **A Family Devotional Guide planned for June 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Important Update:** You may have already read in the bulletin that we have a change of plans from what I recently shared we were planning to do Sunday evenings. Instead of continuing with the current study on “Praying Like Jesus,” as written devos and/or future live presentations, we will end this series next Sunday. This will allow us to gradually resume meeting together Sunday evenings at Johnson St. church of Christ beginning July 12<sup>th</sup>, then later in August at Northside. Jim or Chris will be presenting lessons on topics they’ll choose. It is also planned that they’ll be live-streamed for those who are not able or ready for a public gathering. For Sunday evening, July 5<sup>th</sup>, we are encouraged by the elders to spend some family time praying for our nation.

**Discussion Starter:** Share with each other the longest or shortest “blessing” at a meal you remember, or perhaps the sweetest memory of a table blessing. What made it memorable? Share also if you have a family member or church prayer leader that you love to hear pray, and why. Discuss when is it we usually pray or hear prayer led. Why do you think we have a tradition to pray at meals, or publicly on certain occasions or at public events?

**In addition to Jesus teaching on prayer, he lived a life of prayer both public and in private.**

### **Public Prayer – Example: Blessing a Meal**

Jesus was known for praying a blessing over a meal. If you can, remember together some of these times.

Before feeding the 5000 (Matthew 14:19) and the 4000 (Matthew 15:36)

At the Last Supper with his disciples (Matthew 26:26)

With the disciples he met on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:30-31) Why do you think his blessing the food was what caused them to know that he was Jesus (raised from the dead)?

How important do you think it is that we follow Jesus’ example praying before a meal? Here is an example of Christians following Jesus example: 1 Corinthians 10:16

Does your family, or do you have a strong tradition to pray (and sincerely) before a meal? Are there meals when you choose not to pray, or forget to pray a blessing? Do you pray in a restaurant setting, aloud or silently, or feel it inappropriate?

### **Private Prayer**

Jesus also often prayed privately. Why do you think Jesus might have felt a need to be alone with God in prayer?

He went up on a mountain by himself to pray after the feeding and teaching of the 5000. Not even the closest disciples were permitted to go with him (Matthew 14:22-23).

After a long day of healing, he got up early (again, apparently alone) to pray (Mark 1:35)

Luke 5:16 simply puts it: “But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed”

Share if or when you have found a need in your own life to pray completely alone? Where do you find is the best place for you to talk with God? Would you like to try spending more time alone with God? If so, what are some challenges to this happening? Would you feel guilty taking a block of time to pray? Why?

### **Semi-private Prayer**

**Read Luke 9:19-22** How is it possible to pray alone when others are physically near you? What could be an example of this happening in our lives today?

In what situations of your own life do you want to have a closer communication with God? What are obstacles to this happening?

For parents with children at home: What are some lessons you hope to teach or model to your children about prayer? How important is routine repetition of prayer in various family events each day (such as, before we eat, before we sleep, when we awake, when we travel, when we have a “booboo,” etc.)

**Close your time together praying for a more consistent, honest and trusting prayer life, and for any other concerns that may have surfaced during this devotional time.**