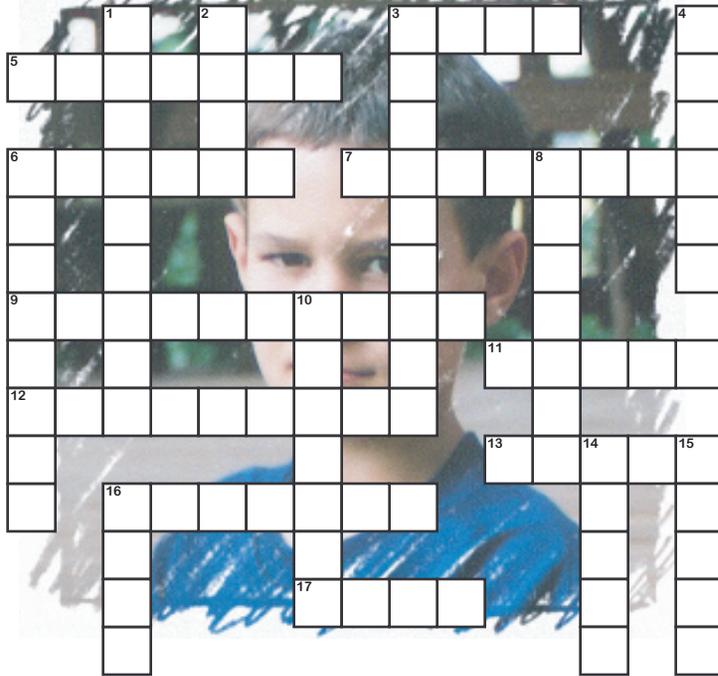


Crossword Puzzle



Across

Down

- | | |
|--|---|
| 3. God will see us pray and ____ our prayer. | 1. The _____ observed the Lord Jesus pray. |
| 5. Enter into your _____ room. | 2. The hypocrites don't really ____ about God or about prayer. |
| 6. God sees us pray in _____. | 3. An insincere person. |
| 7. _____ and simply speak our heart to Him. | 4. God will hear our _____. |
| 9. We can enter into _____ with God in our prayer. | 6. Empty words are like this. |
| 11. He taught the disciples to pray. | 8. We should pray _____ prayers to our Father from our heart. |
| 12. Hypocrites are _____ persons. | 10. The disciples realized that the Lord knew God in a _____ way. |
| 13. "Lord _____ us to pray." | 14. Jesus would spend time _____ to pray. |
| 16. Empty words in our prayer are like it. | 15. We should honestly and simply speak our _____ to God. |
| 17. The ____ Jesus... | 16. How We Should _____. |

Parent's Initials:



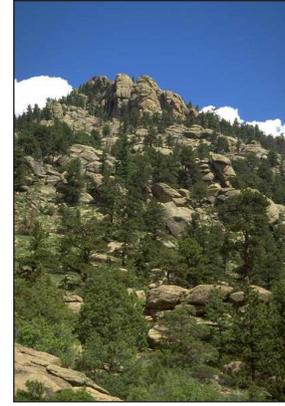
The Disciples Prayer

- Lesson One -

How We Should Pray

I. Overview.

As the Lord's disciples, one of the greatest privileges that we have is that we can pray to Him and know that our prayers are heard by Him. Praying is something that the Lord Himself taught His disciples to do.



The Lord Jesus often would go to a mountain and pray to the Father by Himself.

The disciples often saw the Lord praying. One time when they were observing His prayer, one of the disciples asked the Lord "teach us to pray". Before the Lord began to teach them how to pray, He helped them understand how we should *not* pray.

He told them not to pray in the way that the hypocrites do, who only prayed to have others look at them and admire them. He also told the disciples not to pray by simply repeating empty words, words that they really did not mean from their heart.

II. Memory Verse.

"And while He was in a certain place praying... one of His disciples said to Him, Lord, teach us to pray..."

(Luke 11:1)

III. Lesson.

Many times when the Lord Jesus was on the earth, He would spend time alone to pray. The disciples observed Him and realized that He knew God in a very special way and had a very close relationship with Him. The disciples also wanted to know how to pray in this way and to have such a relationship with God. One time, as the Lord Jesus was praying, His disciples came to Him. One of them said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray...”. However, before the Lord began to teach them how to pray, He spoke to them concerning how they should not pray.

Pray Not as the Hypocrites – Desiring Attention

The Lord Jesus told His disciples that they should not pray as the hypocrites do. Hypocrites are insincere persons who only pray to gain the attention and admiration of others. They don't really care about God or about their prayer, they just like to be seen praying. They think that if others see them pray, that they will think good things about them.

This is not the way that we should pray. When we pray, we should pray sincere prayers to our Father from our heart, not caring if anyone else sees us. Just like Jesus did, we should pray to the Father knowing that He sees us and knowing that He will reward us. The Lord Jesus even told us to enter



Our prayer to our Father should be sincere and genuine.

into our private room to pray. In that way, we would not be tempted to consider what other people think about our prayer. Only God will see us pray and hear our prayer. In this way we will have our reward from God who sees us pray in secret.

Not Repeating Empty Words

Additionally, when we pray, there is no need for us to repeat the same words over and over. This kind of prayer is empty. The repeated words are like “stuffing” or “padding”, just taking up space but not meaning anything. We should simply speak to God what is on our heart in a sincere way. God already knows what we need even before we begin to pray. But He wants us to come to Him with our hearts turned to Him and honestly and simply speak our heart to Him. In this way we can sincerely talk to God and enter into fellowship with Him. That is what God really wants from our prayer.

--- QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION ---

1. What is one of our greatest privileges as disciples?

2. What is it that the hypocrites wanted when they prayed in public?

3. What are hypocrites?

4. What does God want from our prayer?

