

Before Amen

Session One

Prayer is simply a heartfelt conversation between God and his child.

To think and talk about before the video...

- What are some of the things we do that make prayer more complex than it needs to be?
- Who taught you to pray? What did he or she teach you?

To think about during the video...

- Are you a member of the PGA (Prayer Giants Association) or the PWA (Prayer Wimps Association)?
- Why do we pray?
- The disciples' sign-up sheet for Prayer 101 with Jesus

A simple easy to remember pocket size prayer: Father you are good, I need help. They need help, Thank you. In Jesus name, amen.

- The launch pad of prayer "Oh, Daddy"
- How to pray and how not to pray
- Prayer expresses trust and also builds trust
- Start each day in prayer

To think and talk about after the video...

1. Think about your personal experience with prayer. Be honest as to whether you struggle or excel. Share your journey.
2. Tell about a person in your life who models passionate and natural prayer. What drives a person to pray? What have you learned by observing his or her communication with God?
3. Max says, "We all have our doubts about prayer." Describe a time when you struggled with prayer? What question did you ask? How honest were you with God? How has God taken you a few steps forward as a person of prayer through your doubting process?

Read: Matthew 6:9-13

4. What are some of the key topics Jesus teaches his followers to focus on in prayer? Why are these topics simple yet very important?

Father, you are good.

I need help.

They need help.

Thank you.

In Jesus name, amen.

5. Max says that "Oh Daddy" is a good way to begin in prayer. What are some of the various ways we can address God? What does each attribute, quality, or name mean as we speak to God in prayer?
6. If we truly approached God as a dear, loved, tender Daddy, what kind of interaction would mark our conversation with him?

Read: Matthew 6:5-8

7. How have you seen prayer become a production or an opportunity for spiritual showing off? How have you seen this kind of attitude and practice find its way into your own conversations with God, either in private or in public?

Read: Isaiah 46:9 and Genesis 1:1-5, 26-27

8. Why can you trust God when it comes to your life and prayers? What has God done in your life to show you that he is trustworthy? What is one action you can take that will show God and the people around you that you know he is good and trustworthy?
9. In the video presentation, Max gives a snapshot of how one person might start the day in prayer. What might a day of prayer look like for you?

To think and talk about after the discussion...

- What are some of the ways I pray that are natural and flow out of a simple understanding of God as my Father- as my Daddy? How can I develop this part of my prayer life?
- What are some bad habits, routines, or attitudes that have seeped into my life of prayer? What can I do to minimize and remove these?
- What experiences have caused me to question God's goodness and wonder if he really cares about me or hears my prayers? How can I talk with God about these specific things that keep me from praying with confidence?
- How do I tend to address God in prayer? How has God been like a loving Father to me? How could I address him with more intimate and trusting names?
- Are there certain times or situations when my prayers tend to become more of a production? How can I seek greater authenticity in these moments?