

REAL RIGHTEOUSNESS, PRAYER

MATTHEW 6:5-8

“Prayer should not be regarded as a duty which must be performed, but rather as a privilege to be enjoyed, a rare delight that is always revealing some new beauty.” - E.M. Bounds

I. The Expectation of Prayer

II. The Expression of Prayer

Small Group Application Questions

Getting to Know You

1. What memorized prayers do you remember from your childhood, if any?

Into the Bible

2. If God truly knows our needs before we do and cares about us, why is it necessary to pray? See what other elements of prayer David highlights in the following Psalms: Psalm 17:6-8, Psalm 61:1-2.

Application

3. What was so hypocritical about the Pharisees' desire to pray in public? Am I being hypocritical if I openly pray in a restaurant?

4. In Matthew 6:7 we are told to avoid "meaningless repetitions", yet in Luke 18:1-8 Jesus offers us the example of the persistent widow. How should we pray for something that God does not seem to be answering?

For Families

5. Talk to your children about the need to have honest conversations with God about what matters in their life.