



NEW CROSSING CHURCH

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Prayer Series: Upward. Inward. Outward.

Study 5: Ways to Pray Inward - Please and Sorry

Note: You can listen to or watch the sermon of the same title, Gill Robertson, Feb 13, 2022

1. What kinds of things do you pray for when you pray for yourself?
2. Matthew 6:11 says “Give US this day our daily bread.” Why did Jesus want us to pray “Give US” rather than “Give ME?” Who would you include in your “us?”
3. Some of us live in the past, either with regret and shame or remembering the good-old-days. Some of us live in the future, looking forward to a time when we will really be able to live the way we want to live or full of concern and worry over what will happen. Do you recognize any of these in your own life? Where?
4. Jesus tells us to ask “this day” for “our daily bread” so that we can live:
 - with confidence that we are forgiven,
 - content with what we have,
 - trusting him to provide, and
 - free from worry.

Which of these is hardest for you and why?

5. Read John 6:35. How is Jesus our daily bread?
6. Read Matthew 6:11-12 again. Why do you think verse 12 follows verse 11 instead of the other way around? Have you had a time when making a request to God led you to repentance?
7. Read James 4:2-3; Psalm 139:23-24; Romans 12:2. Do you have examples of how God has worked in your life to make you more like Jesus as you consider what you are praying for and why you are praying for it?
8. As a group, practice praying for “us” as a church together.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name

Praise God for the ways in which he is our Father and we are his children. Honor his name and character.

Give us this day our daily bread

Practice praying for “us” by praying for our church. For example, requests that we will grow in knowing God, in worship and in prayer; for people to come to know Christ; for us to be creative in reaching our community; etc. Pray for specific needs of ministries so they will have all the resources needed to accomplish everything the Father has called them to do.

Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors

- Quietly take a moment to consider the motivations behind your requests. Then confess any motives that are selfish, prideful, or sinful in some other way. For example, wanting church to just be easy and fun, not wanting things we like to change, wanting to look “successful,” etc.
- Thank God and encourage one another in areas where your motives absolutely line up with his kingdom and will.
- Is there anyone in the church who you need to forgive? Ask God to help you forgive them (do not mention names here).

End the time of prayer thanking God for his complete forgiveness to all who ask and that he hears and answers our prayers.