

ALLEY Rundown – May 11- 12, 2024

Today's Bible Story: You Say (The Lord's Prayer) • *Matthew 6:9-13*

Today's Key Question: How do you pray to God?

Today's Bottom Line: Practice praying to God.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come.* 1 Timothy 4:8 (NIV)

PRE-SERVICE VIDEOS: *Dude Perfect*

SLIDE: Theme

Hey, everyone! I'm so glad to be together again today. All month we're looking at the ways we practice our faith in Jesus. These are some of the ways we get to know God and follow Jesus. And today we're doing a deep dive into one of the most important ways we can get to know God . . . talk with God. In other words: prayer.

As we get started, I have a question for you. When have you seen people pray? Are there certain times or places you are more likely to see people pray? What do you think? Let's hear from you.

Open to responses. Interact with the answers.

Yeah! That's great . . . people pray before eating meals or before they go on a long trip. Others pray when they wake up in the morning or right before bedtime. And, of course, people pray at church or in Small Group, like we do here in The Alley.

Okay, how about another question? And maybe this might be harder to answer, but let's give it a try. *Why* do you think people pray? What do you think?

Allow for responses again.

Absolutely. Those are some great ideas. People pray for all sorts of reasons.

They pray to say thank You to God, they pray for someone who is sick, and they pray for protection or for help in a tough situation. Which might make you wonder: is there a right or wrong way to pray?

Are there certain words you have to use? Do some prayers 'not work'? Or are there prayers that God just simply ignores or doesn't answer because they're not said the right way?

What about time? Do you have to pray for a certain amount of time before God hears it? How much do you have to pray to get good at it?

Those are some great questions, and I'm guessing they're maybe even questions you've had yourself. But remember when we have some big questions, we have a source for some big answers: the Bible.

Remember, the people who wrote the Bible had personal experiences with God. And God inspired them to write about those experiences so people like us could get to know God better. Let's check out what they have to say about prayer!

VIDEO: *The So and So Show* (13:44)

Whether you take time in quiet to pray the prayer Jesus taught us or just use a small part of it to talk to God—God hears every word.

The more you practice talking to God, the more natural it will start to feel. Kind of like talking to a friend. Remember, God is not impressed by big words, loud voices, or over-the-top acting. What God wants is you, the real you! God wants your time, your honesty, and your heart.

So whenever, wherever, however you need to talk to God, just do it. Just tell God what's on your mind and what you're going through.

Today as you go to groups, think about this:

SLIDE: Key Question

How do you pray to God? Do you have a time? A place? Maybe you've never really prayed before—and that's okay, too. Whenever you're ready, God will be there to listen. You'll talk all about this and more with your Small Group. You might even get a chance to pray! And before you head out, let's do just that and ask God to help us find the time and the words to pray.

SLIDE: Theme Background

Pray with your group.

OFFERING:

There's a ministry that we are supporting with our offering until the summer. It's called Morning Star Mission and it's located right near here, in Joliet, IL.

SLIDES: Morning Star pictures (*scroll through as the leader talks about the mission*)

Since its beginning in 1909, Morning Star Mission has had one main goal — to help people in need. Morning Star Mission helps people who are struggling to have enough money to live. They have a shelter that gives them a place to live if they don't have a home. People in the community can go to the mission to get clothes and food if they need it too. AND they tell people about Jesus and his love for them while they are helping them, how cool is that?

Morning Star doesn't just stop there. They have many programs that they offer people to help them get in a better financial place so that they don't need the help anymore. Morning Star is a mission that is changing lives in our area!

SLIDE: Theme