

Matthew 6:1-15

But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

Matthew 6:6

PRAYER: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Please teach us to give and pray in the same way as Jesus taught His disciples.

Journal your prayer here:

PREVIEW: In Matthew 6:1-15, we'll learn the right way to do charitable deeds and how Jesus wants us to pray.

Matthew 6:1-15 Outline:

Charitable Deeds - Read Matthew 6:1-4

Prayer - Read Matthew 6:5-15

In the area of praying, giving, and fasting, Jesus talks about the *hupokrites*, or hypocrites. *Hupokrites* is a Greek word that means “mask-wearer.” *Hupokrites* were actors in the Greek theater who wore masks (very exaggerated in form) with huge smiles and frowns, so that even people in the back row could see the emotion being portrayed. We get the word *two-faced* from this same idea. (Courson, Jon. *Jon Courson's Application Commentary* (31). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2003).

Charitable Deeds - Read Matthew 6:1-4

1. A charitable deed is an act of righteousness in giving to others. However, Jesus lists a way in which the giver can lose the reward for their generosity. What is that way (v. 1)?

2. “Sounding a trumpet” (v. 2) refers to drawing attention to yourself and to the charitable deed you perform. Why would these people blow a trumpet when they gave?

3. Instead of blowing a trumpet, how does Jesus say we should do our charitable deeds (v. 3)?

4. PROPOUND: What did Jesus mean when He said, “Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing”?

5. What is the benefit for giving as Jesus commands (v. 4)?

6. PRODUCE: In Matthew 6, Jesus refers to the hypocrites. In your own words, describe what a hypocrite is and how you can avoid being a hypocrite in your charitable deeds and prayer.

7. PROCEED: When you do a charitable deed, describe how you should go about doing it. Share your answer with the group.

Prayer - Read Matthew 6:5-15

8. When praying, what did the hypocrites “love” (v. 5)?

9. Where, how, and to whom are we to pray (v. 6-7)?

10. PRACTICE: We all pray, but Jesus clarified how, where, and to whom we should pray. Are you doing this? How are you doing this?

11. What does our Father know before we ask Him for anything in prayer (v. 8)?

12. PROPOUND: What did Jesus mean when He said, “Do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do”?

13. Jesus gives His disciples a model prayer (vv. 9-13). Often referred to as the Lord’s Prayer, it is better named the Disciples’ Prayer. To whom is this model prayer addressed? (See also John 1:12-13.)

14. PROPOUND: Study the key focal points of the prayer Jesus teaches His disciples. What are they? List them.

15. What does the word *hallowed* mean (v. 9)? What are we praying to hallow? (See Leviticus 10:3 and 2 Samuel 7:26.)

16. PROTECT: Meditate upon how we can “hallow” God’s name in our own lives. Share your thoughts with the group.

17. What kingdom are we to pray for (v. 10)? (See Matthew 4:17; 16:28, Luke 1:32-33, Jeremiah 23:5, and Daniel 2:44.)

18. PROCLAIM: Jesus focused on the kingdom when He taught His disciples to pray. How should our focus in life and prayer also be on the kingdom?

19. PROPOUND: What did Jesus mean when He said to pray, “Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”?

20. Jesus shifts the focus of the model prayer from God’s reverence and reign to our needs. What might daily bread refer to (v. 11)? (See Exodus 16:16-35, Proverbs 30:8, Matthew 4:4, John 6:31-35, and 1 Timothy 6:8.)

21. Our second need mentioned in this model prayer is for forgiveness of our debts. What debts might Jesus be referring to (v. 12)? (See Matthew 18:21-27, 34, Luke 7:40-48, and Luke 11:4.) What is required for forgiveness of our debts (v. 12, 14-15)?

22. Jesus instructs His disciples to pray that they won't be led into temptation (v. 13). How are we led into temptation? (See Matthew 26:41 and James 1:13-15.)

23. From whom should we pray deliverance (v. 13)? (See John 17:15, 2 Thessalonians 3:3, and 1 John 5:18.)

24. PROPOUND: Why do we need to pray for deliverance from the evil one?

25. What is required for your Father to forgive your trespasses (vv. 14-15)? (See also Matthew 18:35, Mark 11:25, Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:13, and James 2:13.)

26. PROPOUND: What is a "trespass" and why do we need to be forgiven of them?

27. PROMOTE: Our sins were forgiven at the cross—but what must *we do* to be forgiven of our trespasses? (See Matthew 6:14-15)

28. PROPOUND: What is meant by, “Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever”?

PROCESS: Review what you’ve learned about doing charitable deeds and praying. Be prepared to share your insights with the fellowship.

PRAY: Father, please help me to hallow Your name in the way I do charitable deeds and in my secret prayer life.

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