February 22, 2015 Matthew 6:5-8

Your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Matthew 9:8

**Simple Prayer**

1. Over-thinking is the enemy of confidence.

*And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing…* **Matthew 6:5**

2. Your conversation with the Father is unique and important.

*But when you pray go into your room, close the door, and pray to your Father who is unseen.* **Matthew 6:6**

3. Your Father is listening attentively.

*When you pray do not keep babbling on like the pagans, for they think they will be heard by their many words.* **Matthew 6:7**

4. Meeting with the Father prepares us for life.

*…your Father knows what you need before you ask him.* **Matthew 6:8**

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday 1 John 5:14-15**
* **Tuesday Mark 11:24**
* **Wednesday Psalm 145:18**
* **Thursday Jeremiah 33:3**
* **Friday Psalm 18:6**
* **Saturday Psalm 66:17**

*The word of God is living and active sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

**Hebrews 4:12**

Action

**Begin each morning with this prayer:**

*O Lord,*

*I’m here to talk*

*I know you are listening*

*I will listen too.*

*Amen.*

**Read study verse for the day.**

**Mediate on these questions:**

What are some roadblocks to my prayer life?

Do I ever downplay the love God has for me? Why?

Take time to pray. What is it that you need God to help you prepare for in life?

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*Amen.*

**Read study verse for the day.**

**Mediate on these questions:**

1. How has God been present in your day?

2. How did God speak to you today?

3. Do you feel you were resisting God today?

4. How do you feel you were cooperating most fully with God?

5. In what ways do you believe God may be calling you to a new awareness?

6. What needs healing in your life?

March 8, 2015 Psalm 139:23-24

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**Opening Our Lives To God**

1. Fear of punishment prevents an open relationship with the Father.

*I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.* **Genesis 3:10**

2. Transparency with God develops trust.

*Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.* **Psalm 139:23**

3. Asking God to reveal our faults gives us opportunity to experience his grace.

*See if there is any offensive way in me…* **Psalm 139:24**

4. Grace and mercy are contagious.

*And lead me in the way everlasting.* **Psalm 139:24**

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday Isaiah 26:9**
* **Tuesday Psalm 139**
* **Wednesday Psalm 63:5-8**
* **Thursday Psalm 52:1-2**
* **Friday Psalm 25:16-18**
* **Saturday Isaiah 43:1-4**

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**Hebrews 4:12**

**Pray For Me**

1. Everyone is in need of God’s grace and love.

*Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray.* **James 5:13**

2. We are called to talk to God on behalf of others.

*Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.* **James 5:16**

3. Our prayers have power because of Jesus.

*The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*

**James 5:16**

4. Pray big prayers that only God can answer-and never stop.

*Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on land for three and a half years….* **James 5:18**

Action

**Begin each morning with this prayer:**

*O Lord,*

*I’m here to talk*

*I know you are listening*

*I will listen too.*

*Amen.*

**Read study verse for the day.**

**Mediate on these questions:**

1. Who do you know that is in need of God’s grace? Pray for them.

2. Who do you feel like you should pray for right now? Pray for them.

3. Have you ever thought of yourself as righteous? How does it change things when your righteousness comes from Jesus?

4. What prayer do you have that only God can answer? Pray it.

March 22, 2015 James 5:13-18

Your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Matthew 9:8

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday 1 Chronicles 16:11**
* **Tuesday Psalm 145:18**
* **Wednesday Proverbs 15:29**
* **Thursday Romans 8:26**
* **Friday Philippians 4:6**
* **Saturday 1 Thessalonians 5:17**

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**Hebrews 4:12**