

Sermon Based Small Group Guide for October 23, 2022 sermon:
"Praying like Jesus prayed."

Warm up:

1. Do you have someone that you would say was a "mentor" to you in the area of prayer? How did you get glimpses of their prayer life? What did you learn from them?
2. When you think about Olivet, what is our church's greatest need? More effective programs? Renewed zeal for evangelism? Greater engagement with the needs of our community or the world? More authenticity in relationships? Without a doubt, all of these are important and we can and should grow in all of them, but what we need above all is to know God better and more deeply. How can a better prayer life help?

Digging deeper: (20-30 minutes) Read: Matthew 6:5-8

1. ASK: What is the potential danger of being really good at "public" praying? One of the risks in public prayers is that we can easily fall into the trap of praying TO others...making sure that our prayer sounds good to them. As soon as we do that, we are no longer praying to God. Jesus did pray in public, but there is much more information in the 4 Gospels about the importance of private prayer in his life. Read Mark 1:35 and Matthew 14:23 to reinforce that this was a priority for Jesus. Think about the hectic pace of his public ministry. Why was this so necessary? Have you ever said, "I'm just too busy to have a great prayer life?"

2. ASK: Why is WHERE we pray so important? What happens when we pray in bed after a crazy day? What happens when we pray in the same room as a blaring television or an energetic family?

Read Luke 4:42 and Luke 5:15-16

A good student knows that if they have a special place reserved for study, they become conditioned to study every time they sit at that desk. They can concentrate better and focus on the work at hand. Have you found a great place for daily, uninterrupted prayer? Consider for a moment, if you have not found your geographical solitary place, where would be a good place to pray? If we want to pray like Jesus we need to get alone, finding a private place, free from distractions to spend uninterrupted time with God.

Apply it: (10 minutes) Do you consider yourself a "morning person" or a "night person"? How does this show in the way you organize your day? Many people recommend that a person make an early morning "appointment with God" for Bible study and prayer. As we have seen from Jesus' life, he was an "early morning" AND a "late night" person...communion with the Father was his priority! Share what might be the best PLACE and TIME for you to spend more time in prayer with God.

Close by sharing requests and praying with and for each other.