

AN IDIOT'S GUIDE TO PRAYER

12 SLOW LEARNERS and A KID FROM HACIENDA HEIGHTS

PRAYER MADE SIMPLE

Luke 11:1-13

I. How To Pray

Luke 11:1-2

- ✓ Prayer is an **action** – not an **attitude**
Luke 5:16/ Daniel 6:3-10/ 1 Thessalonians 5:17/ Genesis 24:42-45

- ✓ Prayer is a **family** privilege
Luke 11:2/ 1 Peter 3:12/ Proverbs 28:9

II. What To Pray For

Luke 11:2-4/ Matthew 6:9-15

- ✓ God's **agenda**
- ✓ Our **needs**
 - **Physical**
 - **Spiritual**
 - **Protection**

III. When To Give Up

Luke 11:5-10/ Luke 18:1-7/ Daniel 10:12-14/ Matthew 26:36-46

- ✓ Stop praying about something when God **says "No"**

- ✓ Stop praying about something when you **no longer want it**

TAKING IT HOME

Looking back at this week's teaching and study, is there anything you want to start doing differently in your prayer life?

SERMON SERIES: 30 A.D. *The Jesus Story*
Message #26: An Idiot's Guide To Prayer
Luke 11:1-13

Dr. Larry Osborne
North Coast Church
April 9-10, 2011

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II. What To Pray For

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✓ God's _____

✓ Our _____

- _____
- _____
- _____

III. When To Give Up

Luke 11:5-10/ Luke 18:1-7/ Daniel 10:12-14/ Matthew 26:36-46

✓ Stop praying about something when God _____

✓ Stop praying about something when you _____

Available as a podcast at northcoastchurch.com & video-cast at SearchableSermons.com

Tips on Group Prayer

Prayer is an important part of being in Growth Group. Over the years, we've found that group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines:

WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME - Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request either before prayer begins or during the prayer time. Once a topic is introduced, the group focuses on that request alone. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

PRAY MORE THAN ONCE - Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray.

WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT AND SIMPLE - Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused, and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group. No one is required to pray out loud.



Weekend of Service sign-ups start this weekend!

Visit the booth in the plaza or go online to weekendofservice.com to view all open projects and sign up today!

We still have a need for painters, landscapers and certified mechanics.

If you can help, go to weekendofservice.com, email the Weekend of Service team at sstockton@northcoastchurch.com or contact the church office at (760) 724-6700.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of April 10, 2011

QUICK REVIEW: Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there a particular point, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you, or raised a question?

MY STORY

What's one thing you miss about being a kid?

Has there ever been a time in your life when you felt like you have prayed enough? If so, explain?

Can you think of any fears, confusions and/or misconceptions you've had or have about prayer?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Prayer isn't supposed to be complicated or intimidating. How do the following verses reinforce that prayer is simple and vital to our spiritual growth?

Matthew 6:7

Romans 8:26-27

James 5:13-16

I Thessalonians 5:16-17

What do these verses tell us about how God relates to us?

Which of these verses is most helpful with your motivation to pray?

2. The quality of communication in any relationship is directly related to the quality and depth of the relationship. The same is true in our relationship with God.

Nehemiah was a man whose relationship with God had quality and depth, which can be seen in his prayer life. Read Nehemiah 1:5-11 and jot down anything that gives you insight into Nehemiah's relationship and communication with God, and how it might impact or help you to grow in your own prayer life.

3. This weekend we heard about the importance of persistence in prayer as we looked at the Parable of the Persistent Widow. The verses below contain prayers some people have chosen to pray regularly. Jot down a quick summary of each prayer.

1 Kings 3:5-15

1 Chronicles 4:10

Colossians 4:2-6

How might God grow and change you if you prayed each of these prayers regularly?