

In the Secret Places: Praying in Secret

Matthew 6:5–8

Opening Discussion:

1. Does it bother you to pray out loud? Why or why not?
2. Even though we are supposed to talk to God when we pray out loud, what kind of thoughts go through our mind about those who are listening in as we pray out loud?
3. Do you have a specific place and time set aside for prayer?
4. Have you heard repetitious, predictable prayers that don't really mean much? Are your prayers sometimes repetitious and predictable?

We can pray _____, _____, and _____ to our Father, and He will give us everything we need.

Explore the Passage:

1. When you pray, you must not be like the _____.

Reminder: This is an issue of _____, not _____.

Examples of Praying Out Loud:

- Solomon' dedication prayer (1 Kings 8)
- Jesus's prayers from the cross (Mark 15:34, Luke 23:34 and 23:46)
- Paul's written prayers (ex. Ephesians 1:15-20)
- Praying in public worship (1 Corinthians 14:16)

2. Pray to your Father in _____.

3. Your Father will _____ you.

When we pray, we are speaking to God and not those around us because we need what only God can give us.

4. Do not heap up _____ phrases.

They cried aloud and cut themselves after their custom with swords and lances, until the blood gushed out upon them. And as midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice. No one answered; no one paid attention. 1 Kings 18:28-29

We can pray confidently, orderly, and secretly to our Father, and He will give us everything we need.

Fill in the Blank Answers:

Opening Discussion

We can pray confidently, orderly, and secretly to our Father, and He will give us everything we need.

Explore the Passage

1. hypocrites, motives, actions
2. secret
3. reward
3. empty