1. Is it difficult for you to pray? Why or why not?
2. Did someone teach you to pray or did you just begin praying?
3. Are you comfortable with praying or do you feel there might be more to prayer?
4. Do you believe there is a right way or a wrong way to pray? Are there things you should not do when you pray? Explain.
5. Have you seen people pray like those described in Matthew 6:5-8? How did it make you feel? What does Jesus say their reward will be (v.5)?
6. God knows what we need before we even ask (v.8). If this is true, why should we pray? Wouldn’t this qualify as meaningless repetition or babbling (v.7)?
7. Does verse 6 suggest that we should never pray in public? Why or why not?
8. When do you usually pray?
10. *You may go days without thinking of God, but there’s never a moment when He’s not thinking of you.*
   a. How often do you estimate that you think of God? What keeps you from thinking about Him? How do you overcome this obstacle?
   b. Do you believe God never stops thinking about you? Explain.
11. Do you feel closer to God when you pray? Why do you think that is true or not true?
12. How do you typically address God as you begin your prayer? Do you say “Our Father”?
13. The Greek word for Father used in the Lord’s prayer is “pater.” Jesus used this word over 200 times and was his term of choice when referring to God. He instructs us to pray “Father.” Three times in Scripture, we find a more intimate term used for God, it is the Aramaic word “Abba.”
   a. Look up the three times the word “Abba” is used in Scripture: Mark 14:36; Galatians 4:6, and Romans 8:15.
   b. Who uses the term Abba in Mark 14:36?
   c. According to Paul, who speaks on our behalf using the term Abba?
   d. Do you always pray using the same name for God or do you use different names?
14. What is your earliest memory of the Lord’s Prayer? Did you grow up saying it as part of a church service? What part does the Lord’s Prayer play in your life today?

15. When you pray, what type of relationship do you believe you have with God?

16. *Consider the phrase “Our Father.”
   a. What does this phrase communicate to you? How does it make you feel? What pictures does it bring to mind?
   b. In what ways is God like a father?

17. Notice the use of the terms “your Father” (v.8) and “Our Father” (v.9). How is God both personal and corporate? How might this insight impact your thinking? Your actions?

18. The opening tells us that God is “in heaven.” How does that make you feel? Are you glad to love a God who is in heaven? Would you want it any other way? Explain.

19. *Christ has provided more than a model for prayer; He has provided a model for living. These words do more than tell us what to say to God; they tell us how to exist with God.
   a. In what way is the Lord’s Prayer a model for living?
   b. How does the Lord’s Prayer tell us how to exist with God?
   c. What part of the Lord’s Prayer speaks most powerfully to you? Why?

   a. What do you learn about prayer in each of the verses above?
   b. How does the pattern of prayer laid out in the Lord’s Prayer relate to the passages listed above?

For Further Study

This Week: read chapters 1-4 in the Companion Book, *The Great House of God.* Next Week: read chapter 5

*These questions are taken from Max Lucado’s book, *The Great House of God.*

Next Steps

G I will strive to be a person of prayer.

G When I pray, I will seek to align my will to the will of God, rather than the other way around (my prayer should not reinforce my preoccupation with myself).

G I now realize that when I pray “Our Father,” it is both personal and corporate, it brings with it responsibility, it clarifies life’s problems, and offers hope.