

Bible Notes for small groups WB 14th July 2024

Ice breaker.....

- If you could spend a whole day with a teacher of sport, hobbies or skills, who would you choose and why.

Read Matthew 6:5-15

This is the last week before we begin our summer services. So from next Sunday until the first Sunday in September our special summer services will be covering aspects of The Lord's Prayer. There are only 65 words in The Lord's Prayer but they are arguably the most quoted words ever across the whole globe.

It has been seen in people suffering from different kinds of dementia that although they may have forgotten many things and even find it difficult to speak at all, once someone begins to say The Lord's Prayer, they will be able to recite it.

It has been used to bring comfort, as a memory booster, as a help in times of trouble. As we read the Lord's Prayer, we realise that it is, in fact, Jesus summarising for us the way we should pray. In many situations we see it taken as a ritual to be used regularly but it is not this at all, It is all about relationship with God.

Some people think you can either be able to pray or not as though it is a gift. But Jesus says you can be taught to pray. It is something we can learn to do and all the elements of effective prayer are present in The Lord's Prayer. Prayer is communication with God; a two-way dialogue. So here are some questions to be thinking about.

- Why do we pray?
- Do our prayers reflect our will or God's will?
- Have you ever joined in with a prayer or prayed a prayer out loud that you did not believe in?

As we study and consider The Lord's Prayer we can develop our understanding of how God does things.

- Which is better..... To pray genuinely and from the heart for selfish reasons or to pray because it is what is expected but a prayer that does not come from the heart?

God is looking for honesty

And something finally to think about.....

- How do you think prayer will be in heaven?