

Connection

What skill or sport have you learned by imitating someone?

Content -

When the disciples pleaded, "Teach us to pray!" Jesus gave us the Lord's Prayer.

**But all through his ministry on earth, even in his agony on the cross,
Jesus modeled the life of prayer for us to examine and imitate.**

What keeps you from praying?

Read Ephesians 5: 1-2. Imitate God, we are told. Lots of times at work, in sports, in the kitchen or elsewhere, you can find yourself imitating the way someone else does a task. You may think, "If I copy that person, that's going to help me."

Constant Prayer

1. Praying is never the wrong thing to do! Jesus was praying all the time, from the moment of his baptism through all the events of his ministry to the moment of his death. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:18. We are specifically told to pray continually.

What moment in your life yesterday might have been different if you had prayed through it?

Thanksgiving

2. Read Mark 6:41 and Mark 8:6. God always provides, and Jesus always modeled a heart of thanksgiving in prayer. Read John 11:41-42. At the tomb of Lazarus, Jesus thanked the Father in advance that people see a miracle and believe.

What difference will it make if you thank God for *what he is going to do* – as if he has already done it?

Prioritization

3. Read Mark 14:35-36. In the most extreme circumstance of his human life, Jesus put the will of the Father first. That was his priority. In addition, Jesus often sought solitude for prayer. Read Mark 1:35 and Mark 6:46.

Think about your home or neighborhood. Where could you go for the solitude you need sometimes just to pray?

Reverence

4. Read Matthew 6:5-8. In introducing the Lord's Prayer, Jesus explains the importance of private prayer that isn't full of repeated empty words. There is a place for public and group prayer, but how do you think your deliberate private prayer can build deeper respect and reverence for God?

Loving Others

5. The prayers of Jesus are imbued with love for people. Read John 17. Who does Jesus pray for in the hours before his crucifixion?

Read Luke 23:34. Who does Jesus pray for here in the midst of his crucifixion? Take a moment to pray for someone who has hurt you.

How would you describe what changed in your thinking about that person when you prayed for them?

Commitment

8. Let's think about these principles that Jesus teaches us from the Lord's Prayer:

Relationship	"Our Father..."
Real Estate	"In heaven..."
Praise	"Hallowed be your name..."
Declaration	"Your kingdom come..."
Surrender	"Your will be done..."
Provision	"Give us this day our daily bread..."
Grace	"Forgive us our trespasses..."
Freedom	"Forgive those who trespass against us..."
Protection	"Lead us not into temptation..."
Deliverance	"Deliver us from evil."

If someone says, "I don't know how to pray," what would you tell them?