

STAY CONNECTED!

Looking for a Life Group or just want to keep up to date with the latest on Every Nation Brisbane's events or podcasts?

Download the free app and stay connected.
Available on the *Apple App Store* and *Google Play*.



EVERY NATION
L O G A N

© 2019 by EVERY NATION BRISBANE®

All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Permission to photocopy this material is granted for local church use. This is not for sale.

www.enbrisbane.org



PRAYER

Lord Jesus, before we pray with our agenda, teach us how to have our agenda shaped to look a lot more like yours. May your will be done in the secret place of our hearts and lives as it is in Heaven! In Jesus' name, Amen.

WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

When it comes to things you are good at, how important is recognition from other people of how good you are? Why?

NOTES

WORD

⁵ “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁷ “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

[MATTHEW 6:5-8](#)

Jesus is here in the middle of his most oft-quoted sermon known widely as the “Sermon on the Mount”, where he is addressing a huge crowd, giving them instructions on how they are called to live in the Kingdom of God.

In this part of the sermon, Jesus is addressing three things that God honours when done in secret: Giving, Prayer, and Fasting. He talks about how in these three things, people may have a tendency to publicise their giving, their eloquence in prayer, or their suffering in fasting.

On all occasions, Jesus repeats the phrase, “Your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” The point of prayer is communing with God in secret, not heaping empty phrases in order to be heard by a God who already knows what you need.

GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale from 1 to 10 (1 = non-existent, 10 = as safe as a vault), how would you rate your ability to keep a secret? Why do you rate it this way?
2. Why do you think some people struggle with keeping secrets?
3. Based on the Bible passage we just read, what do you think this “in-secret prayer lifestyle” might look like in your life? Are you there yet?

4. Verse 7 talks about being careful NOT to “heap up empty phrases” when you pray. How do you think you might avoid this?
5. “Your Father knows what you need before you ask him” (vs. 8). How does this affect the way you pray, particularly when it comes to praying for what you need?

PRAYER LIST