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PRAYER

Our wonderful Father, we thank you that we get to enter into a relationship with you through your son, Jesus Christ. You are the perfect Father, so reliable and ever present in our lives. Because you are our everlasting Father, we can put our trust in you and be safe from all things that may cause us to fear. Amen.

WARM UP (OPTIONAL)

Apart from your parents, who were your favourite adults growing up, and what qualities did they have that made you appreciate them?

NOTES

WORD

¹ See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

[1 JOHN 3:1-3](#)

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. ⁹ Pray then like this:

**"Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name."**

[MATTHEW 6:6-9](#)

When Jesus taught his disciples to pray, he prepared them to first acknowledge that God is OUR FATHER. Jesus rebuked those who prayed like those who do not walk in relationship with God, for they heap up empty phrases and stand in places merely for recognition.

Our prayer life should flow out of our relationship with our heavenly Father, not for the sake of being transactional -- incorrectly seeing God as a vending machine, rather than as our all powerful, ever reigning Dad in heaven.

GUIDE QUESTIONS

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

1. On a scale from 1 to 10, how would you rate your ability to see God as a trustworthy Father? Why do you rate yourself this way?
2. Why do you think Jesus started the prayer that he taught his disciples with, "Our Father"? What does this imply for the way we should pray?

3. The pagans pray with empty words on street corners seeking recognition. How can we stop living for the recognition of other people?
4. "...your Father knows..." What does it mean to know that God knows us inside and out? Does this affect the way you live or should live?
5. We have been called children of God because he loves us unconditionally and initiates the possibility of engaging in a relationship with him. What does this mean for you right now? Are you willing to trust him?

PRAYER LIST