

August 25, 2024 - What Disciples Do: Prayer

Matthew 6: 5-13

See also: 2 Kings 20:1-6; 1 Kings 3: 5-14

1. Do you remember when you first learned how to pray? Did someone teach you?
2. Do we make prayer more difficult than it really is?
3. How important is prayer to you as a follower of Jesus Christ?
4. Jesus talks about praying in private (Luke 6:6). What do you find is the greatest challenge when it comes to praying in private? Making the time? Distractions? Fatigue? Finding the value in prayer?
5. Do you enjoy praying in public when called upon? Or, do you silently hope that no one asks you to pray out loud?
6. Someone once said, "Jesus didn't just pray; his life was a prayer." What does this statement mean to you? How can our attitude be more Christlike?
7. The disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. Jesus told them to essentially follow what we know as the Lord's Prayer. How can we model our daily prayers after the Lord's Prayer?
8. Have you discovered other methods of prayer that have been valuable to you in your walk with Christ?
9. Have you ever experienced an answer to prayer? Did it happen immediately or over a period of time?

August 18, 2024 - What Disciples Do: Teach to Obey

Matthew 28:16-20

See also: Matthew 4:18-22

1. Other than Jesus, who has been the greatest teacher in your life? Why is this teacher particularly memorable to you?
2. Do you have a learning “style”? What helps you learn the most?
3. Jesus was a teacher of students, or *disciples*. He called his disciples to follow him. This was more than a few hours per day of lectures. This was an entire way of life. How do Christians today truly help people learn to be students of Jesus?
4. In the “Great Commission” passage of Matthew 28:16-20, Jesus tells his followers to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Triune name, and “teaching them to obey all I have commanded you.” His students have become teachers. What are helpful ways to teach the commandments of Jesus?
5. Have you ever had to teach something, and because of that experience, you learned more about the topic than you previously did? Describe that experience.
6. How would you describe the relationship between our *desire* to learn and our *ability* to learn?
7. Have you ever resisted learning something at first, but later you came to see how much you needed to learn it?

8. Think back ten years. What are the most important things you have learned in the last decade?
9. What is God teaching you in your life right now?

August 11, 2024 - What Disciples Do: Go and Baptize

Matthew 28: 16-20

See also: Matthew 3:6, Acts 8: 26-40, Acts 22:16

1. What is the significance of Jesus' authority mentioned in Matthew 28:18? How does this authority impact the disciples' mission?
2. What does it mean to "make disciples of all nations"? How can this command be applied in today's context?
3. Why is baptism an important part of the Great Commission? What does it symbolize for new believers?
4. Is Baptism required in order to be saved by Grace through Faith? Or, is Baptism received in response to Salvation?
5. What are some common challenges faced when trying to make disciples? How can these challenges be overcome?
6. What opportunities does God give you in your daily life to reflect and share his love?
7. How can our church better equip and inspire one another to make new disciples of Jesus Christ?
8. How would you rate Springfield First when it comes to making disciples of Jesus Christ? How well are we accomplishing the Great Commission here?
9. How does Jesus' promise that he will be with "you until the end of the age," both comfort and support you as a disciple?

August 4, 2024 - What Disciples Do: Take and Eat

Matthew 26:26-29

See also: Exodus 12:1-11; John 6:30-40, 52-58

In this series we are reflecting on core practices that Jesus gave his disciples to *do*. This week we are looking at the meal of remembrance, often referred to as Holy Communion, the Lord's Supper, or the Eucharist.

1. Can you recall a memorable meal in your life? What made that meal so memorable?
2. Can you also remember a time when you were an invited guest to a meal hosted by someone else? And can you recall a time when you hosted a meal and welcomed others to it?
3. Jesus gave instructions to his disciples to "take and eat" in remembrance of him during a Passover meal prior to his death. Read Exodus 12:1-11. What similarities do you find in the story of the original passover and the institution of the Lord's Supper?
4. The Methodist movement that began in the 1700's sought to revive the practice of Holy Communion in the lives of Christians. Communion was understood to be not only a remembering back to Jesus' death, but also a way to experience the *real presence* of Jesus now. How do you understand the presence of Jesus in communion? Has your experience changed?

5. Can you describe ways in which God has sustained you in your life? How has God provided for what you need?
6. Have you ever doubted God's willingness to provide for you?
7. In John's gospel, we do not find a story of Jesus instituting Holy Communion, but we do find many scriptures that shape our understanding of communion. Read John 6:30-40, 52-58. How do these passages shape how you understand communion with Jesus?
8. In what ways are followers of Jesus called to *feed* others? How does Holy Communion inform how we address concerns like physical hunger and poverty?

In this season of your life, what do you *hunger* for the most?