



Date: July 9th, 2023

Title: Prayer As Presence

Scripture: Matthew 6:5-15

Introduction to Analog

The word, Analog, means “something that is similar or comparable to something else”. Analog is designed to be a tangible way to take another, deeper, look into each week’s Sunday morning message. Individuals, friends, small groups, and families can use Analog for further discussion and exploration of the Sunday teaching. May this tool help you explore the expansive heart of God and practice love in the ways of Jesus.

Teaching Season

When Jesus’ teaches his disciples to pray, he speaks 57 words. While brief, Jesus’ prayer covers every corner of our life; past (forgive), present (give us bread) and future (deliverance). We will explore the breadth and depth of these well-known words, how we can continue to pray them in a fresh way, and why they have had such staying power for over 2,000 years.

Teaching

We explored prayer from the perspective of it being presence: presence with God, with ourselves, and with others. When Jesus taught his followers how to prayer through what is now known as the Lord’s Prayer, he repetitively used the pronouns “our” and “us” throughout the prayer, reflecting the collective nature of his 1st century culture. Yet despite our very individualistic context today, an invitation remains for us in this collective prayer and Jasper invited us to seek and lean into community to engage in the prayer of presence.

Listen to the teaching [online](#) or on the DCC App

Opening Question for the Group: Start your group discussion with the question below.

1) What is your favorite time of day and why?

Questions for Discussion or Reflection

Here are some questions for discussion or reflection. Don’t feel like you have to cover them all, and you may have questions of your own to ask. The Spiritual Practice for this

week could be very meaningful for you or your group, so plan on 10 minutes or so for this exercise. If you are using this in a group context, read through these questions and the Spiritual Practice before your group meets to familiarize yourself with this material. You may want to send this out to the group before you meet.

1. Jasper began his teaching with inviting everyone to simply look around at one another, the body of Christ, and simply take this in. What did this stir up in you? Why might this be uncomfortable for us?
2. How were you taught to pray? Does this impact your view of prayer today? Why or why not?
3. Jasper talks about the value of prayer for us as an individual, how God delights in our coming to her, and that prayer is for our community. Which of these components resonates most and why? Which one is most challenging and why?
4. “Prayer is being present” — to God, to yourself, and to others. Have you ever experienced a similar moment where someone’s choosing to be with you in itself was a prayer?
5. How does this overall shift in prayer — of being present — change your understanding of prayer? What does it stir up within you?

Spiritual Practice:

This week for our formation practice, we invite you to listen to our guided time of prayer and reflection. You can listen to this guided prayer by clicking on the link below. You can also access the spiritual formation podcast through the DCC App.

*** For this series, I have included two options of prayers: The Lord’s Prayer, which will be included every week, and a rotating selection from the podcast. There is deep value in repetition and it could prove meaningful to sit with this single meditation each week as we move through the Lord’s Prayer given by Jesus as seen in the scriptures. But if that is not serving you or your group well, feel free to use the varying one each week.

[Spiritual Formation Podcast: Guided Meditation - The Lord's Prayer](#)

[Spiritual Formation Podcast: Isaiah 49](#)