

Central Growth Groups #3: "New Territory"

Sunday Evening: 04/24/2022

Matthew 6:5-15

"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. 9 Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. 10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread, 12 and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. 14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Bottom Line – WHEN YOU'RE IN NEW TERRITORY, PRIORITIZE PRAYER.

1. Is your natural tendency in the face of unexpected situations fight, flight, or freeze? Why is that?

2. When you hear the word, "pray", what comes to mind right away? _____

3. Who first taught you about the idea of prayer? Is what you were taught then different than what you believe now? Why or why not? _____

4. Do you have a regular prayer routine in your life? If so, what is it? If not, are you interested in creating one?

5. Reread Romans 12:2 as a group. Practically, how do you renew your mind? Why is this important? How might this be helpful in your life?

6. If you were counseling someone that just saw prayer as a way to get what they wanted, what would you say to them? How might you help them shift their perspective?

7. Do ever find yourself not wanting to be completely honest when praying? Why or why not?