

August 11 & 12, 2018

Pray First: How to Connect With God

I. Announcements & Prayer

- 1) Join us for one of our **Summer Outreach Events**. To serve at one of our events, go to The Neighborhood, Serve, Needs, and look for the August opportunities.
- 2) **Simply for Women** - Monday Nights at 7 pm
- 3) **Deeper Life - On break**
- 4) **Taste of Small Group - a small group mixer weekend - September 8 & 9**

II. Ice Breaker Questions

1. Between the ages of 7 - 11, how many phones did your family have where you lived? How much time were you allowed on the phone?
2. If you could have any ring tone on your phone, what would it be?

III. Discussion Questions

1. What is the longest you have had to go with out light? How does darkness confine or limit us?

2. Read Psalm 142:1-7 TPT

(SMALL GROUP LEADER: Have half of your group read the odd verses 1 - 5 and the other half read the even verses 2 - 6. Have everyone read together verse 7.)

¹God, I'm crying out to you! I lift up my voice boldly to beg for your mercy. ²I spill out my heart to you and tell you all my troubles. ³For when I was desperate, overwhelmed, and about to give up, you were the only one there to help. You gave me a way of escape from the hidden traps of my enemies. ⁴I look to my left and right to see if there is anyone who will help, but there's no one who takes notice of me. I have no hope of escape, and no one cares whether I live or die. ⁵So I cried out to you, Lord, my only hiding place. You're all I have, my only hope in this life, my last chance for help. ⁶Please listen to my heart's cry, for I am low and in desperate need of you! Rescue me from all those who persecute me, for I am no match for them. ⁷Bring me out of this dungeon so I can declare your praise! And all your godly lovers will celebrate all the wonderful things you've done for me!

What is the tone of David's lament, and how free is David to express his true feelings to God? What does David mean by, "You are my refuge and you are my portion"?

3. Pastors Doyle and Jennifer taught us four keys to connecting to God. Can anyone remember what they are? Which of these four is easiest for you? Which is the most difficult?

Answer: be still, be sincere, be simple, believe God will answer

4. Read Matthew 6:5-6 - MSG

And when you come before God, don't turn that into a theatrical production either. All these people making a regular show out of their prayers, hoping for stardom! Do you think God sits in a box seat? ¶ "Here's what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace.

How does hearing this scripture in Jesus's voice make it actionable for you to sit with Jesus?

5. Read Psalm 138:3 NIV

On the day I called, You answered me; You made me bold with strength in my soul.

When was your most recent prayer answered? How did that encourage you, strengthen you?

When do you meet with the Lord? Where? How can we help one another do this daily?

6. What are you going to have to give up to do this?



Pastor Doyle A. Jackson

5755 Feder Rd. ; Columbus, Ohio 43228 © 2017