

Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

Date 9/6/26 Bryce Taylor

Watch the sermon at manheimbic.org/sermon.



BIBLE PASSAGES

James 5:13-18

¹³Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. ¹⁴Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. ¹⁷Eljah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

Matthew 6:5-9

⁵"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. ⁶But 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. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. ⁹Pray then like this:

"Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

Others: Phil 4:12-14

Connect: Get to know each other. Connect, warm up to each other, and take time to fellowship.

Care:

Carry each other's burdens. Share life's challenges and practice Soul Care. Pray together.

Challenge:

- 1) After reading through the way Jesus taught us to pray, what objections came to mind if any? Do you struggle with the idea that prayer should be a first response?
- 2) Have you ever stopped praying because you were hurt, angry, or felt God didn't hear you? What makes it hard to be completely honest with Him about how you feel?
- 3) Share an experience in your own life or someone else's—where prayer actually changed a situation or gave someone strength to get through a hard time? Read Phil 1:18 and 4:12-13
- 4) Jesus told us not to pray using repetitive, empty words just to sound holy. What is the difference between talking to God like a real Father versus just repeating a routine? Do you have any practices/disciplines that you feel are helpful?
- 5) How does it change your day when you start your morning remembering that God wants to do it with you, that He is not looking for perfection but for a relationship?
- 6) What's a practice that you adopt over the next 3 weeks as a group to grow your relationship with God?

Clarify:

Does anyone need clarity on something? Are there any big God questions you are wrestling with?

Celebrate:

Celebrate life's successes and God's provision. Worship God's presence. Time to brag about God.

KEY TAKEAWAYS