

Live a Life of Listening Prayer

Week of March 25, 2018



These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read Mark 8:35, Matthew 26:36-46

Worship is listening and responding to the glory of Jesus; it's declaring that Jesus is worth more to you than the world. Prayer is an important part of worship; it is the heartbeat of a Given Life! When we give our life to God, our faith-filled prayers are our lifeline to God. Belief is key to praying; we must believe God loves us and that he hears our prayers. And then we must listen. It is in the listening that we will know what God wants us to do next. Jesus spent his last night on Earth in prayer. Overwhelmed, knowing what the night held for him, Jesus prayed three times. Each time he petitioned God to change the plan yet ultimately telling God, "...your will be done." We can learn from that prayer. Prayer is more than just talking to or sharing our thoughts with God. As believers we reveal our hearts when we have a desire to connect with him in prayer. Prayer is a living journey through life *with* God; it's a back-and-forth relationship with the one true living God. Pray to discover and do the will of God in the world because nothing is worth more than his Kingdom.

Pray

God, give me the constant desire to talk to you and to be willing to sharing my true thoughts and feelings. Help me to then listen to your answers believing you are good and know what is best in all situations. Guide me to choose a life of pursuing you and turning from the worth less desires of this world. Amen

Getting Started

- Share a story of who you have listened to in your life that left you completely frustrated.
- Listening is a challenge. In our culture we want to give answers. Tell about a time you or someone you know failed to listen resulting in a major misunderstanding.

Digging Deeper

1. How is prayer an essential part of worship?
2. What distracts you most when praying? What can you do to refocus your mind?
3. As believers we are supposed to desire prayer. What are some reasons the desire to pray may be dampened or not exist at all?
4. Read Matthew 26:36-46. What does this passage tell you about Jesus' prayer life? What can you learn and apply from it?
5. There are other passages of Scripture that describe Jesus' prayer life. Look them up and discuss what his prayer life demonstrated. How can you make your prayer life more like his?
6. Knowing that God holds all knowledge and wisdom, why do we fail to bring all of our decisions to him and instead choose to have more of a "9-1-1" emergency-style prayer life? Do you think God cares about our everyday decisions as much as or less than our emergencies?
7. What are some practical ways you can develop a better, more meaningful prayer life? What will you put into practice this week to make it happen?

Living Jesus

Maybe you already pray regularly or maybe sporadically or maybe you don't pray at all. God is waiting to hear from you on a continual basis. He also wants to speak to you and know you are listening. When you listen to God, Satan is defeated. More than that, praying helps you gain insight on God's imagination for your greatest life, a life that goes well beyond whatever you think is possible. You have been challenged this week to spend one uninterrupted hour in prayer. Use the prayer time to talk to as well as listen to God. Starting this week, make the turn to a listening prayer life

What's Your Story?

Tell us about your experience with prayer and listening to God. What dilemma in your life today do you want to hear from God specifically?

Share your personal story with us [here](#) or go to MySevernRun.com and choose *Share Your Story under the Forms tab*.