



Resource meeting #2

What did you hear God say to you during your prayer time this week?

Meeting time: 1 hour and 15 minutes

Participants: Anyone participating in a Missional Discipleship Group (MDG)

Purpose: To hear stories of transformation and to further resource participants.

Agenda

A. Listen: What is God doing in our Missional Discipleship Groups? —35 minutes

- Scripture reading
- Prayer
- Accountability

B. Resourcing: What did you hear God say to you during your prayer time this week? —35 minutes

Background

"The function of prayer is not to influence God, but rather to change the nature of the one who prays."

—Søren Kierkegaard, Danish philosopher and theologian

Jesus' disciples were so impressed with the way Jesus prayed to his Father that they felt compelled to ask him, "Lord, teach us to pray ..." (Luke 11:1). They said this not because they hadn't prayed before, but because they knew that when Jesus prayed, powerful things happened. After walking close to Jesus for a good while, the disciples learned that Jesus' effectiveness in ministry was directly connected to the intimacy and depth of his relationship with his Father in heaven through prayer. Jesus took intentional time for prayer:

Matthew 14:23: "He went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone."

Matthew 26:36: "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

Mark 1:35: "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed."

Mark 6:46: "After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray."

Luke 5:17: "But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed."

Luke 6:12: “One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.”

Matthew 6:9: “This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven ...’”

Three reasons why this question is important

- 1. To listen to God’s voice:** Mother Theresa said, “Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at his disposition, and listening to his voice in the depth of our hearts.” Disciples of Jesus have their spiritual ears trained to listen to Jesus’ voice, always eager to follow his command aligning themselves with God’s will (John 10:27).
- 2. To achieve spiritual maturity:** Prayer puts us in direct contact with the Spirit of God. A disciple of Jesus needs to continually grow and mature in the knowledge of God. Prayer helps us accomplish this goal.
- 3. To overcome temptation:** Mark 14:38 teaches us that “to watch and pray” is essential to withstand temptation. A disciple of Jesus knows well that temptation will come to their life; the real questions are how and when?

C. Prayer: Pray that we might hone our spiritual ears to clearly hear God’s voice. —5 minutes