



Firm Foundations

Following the way of Jesus

Prayer

Date: Sunday 25th July

Speaker: Jo Ramdas-Harsia

Key Verses: Matthew 6:5-15; Matthew 7:7-12

Talk Summary:

Jesus teaches us how to approach prayer: we should foster a private relationship with God, unlike the hypocrites, and we shouldn't think of prayer like a 'magic formula', like the pagans seemed to do.

He then gives us a clear doorway through which we should approach prayer:

- **Relationship and identity** - we should be confident in approaching our loving father as His beloved children.
- **Worship** - worshiping God takes our focus away from ourselves and onto God and His character, putting ourselves and our lives into perspective.
- **Surrender** - in asking God's Kingdom to come and His will to be done, we are acknowledging that His ways are better than ours.

Then Jesus gives us three clear areas for daily prayer:

- **Provision** - God will provide for us 'super substantially'
- **Relationships** - God wants us to forgive each other and not hold on to hatred and grudges, then He can ensure nothing comes between our relationship with Him.
- **The battle** - the battle in our minds and against the spiritual forces of evil is real and we need to pray into this daily, submitting to God's power and glory as we resist the enemy.

Jesus also gives us confidence to 'ask and receive'. God is good and even if He doesn't answer our prayers exactly as we'd expect all the time, His plan for us is greater than we can ever imagine and we will receive more than we can ask for.

Worship

Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.

(Small group worship resources can be found at bvc.so/sgworship)

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:

- What has God been speaking to you about this week? *(Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it)*

Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant to your group)

- Do our daily prayers follow a similar pattern to the one Jesus sets out for us in The Lord's Prayer? How are they similar/different?
- What does our prayer life look like? Do we put aside a regular time and place to meet with God on a daily basis? How important is the time and the place in which we pray?
- How confident are we as we pray? Can you share situations where you've received exactly what you prayed for/something better?
- How do we deal with 'unanswered' prayer?
- How could we improve our prayer life?

Witness

We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus. Pick one of the below each week:

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invite to?