

PRAYER CHANGES THINGS

February 19-March 3, 2020

Day One: Devotional

1. Read 1 Samuel 2:1-11. This is Hannah's prayer of praise after God granted her a child, Samuel. Looking at her prayer, answer the following 3 questions.
2. **What does God's Word say?** List the facts, be literal. Make a list of the most obvious facts using the actual words from the passage itself. Do not paraphrase. Do not get caught up in the details. Ask yourself: who is speaking? Who is the subject? Where is it taking place? When did it happen?
3. **What does God's Word mean?** Learn the lessons: Look for a spiritual lesson or principle within each fact. Ask yourself: What are the people in the passage doing that I should be doing? Is there a command I should obey? A promise I should claim? A warning I should heed? An example I should follow?
4. **What does God's Word mean to me?** Listen to His voice. Put the lessons you found in the above question into the form of a question that you would ask your child, spouse, parent, neighbor, co-worker, friend, or church member. As you write out the questions, listen for God to communicate to you through His Word. Don't rush. Take the time to prayerfully meditate and discover what God is saying to you.

Day Two: Observations & Color Code

Matthew 6:5-15

⁵“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁷And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹“This, then, is how you should pray:

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,

¹⁰your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹Give us today our daily bread.

¹²And forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from the evil one.’

¹⁴For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Observations:

Day Three: Method: Verse by Verse

1. Write out a personal paraphrase: Try to write out each verse in the passage in your own words.

Verse 5: And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

Verse 6: But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Verse 7: And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.

Verse 8: Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Verse 9: This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,

Verse 10: your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Verse 11: Give us today our daily bread.

Verse 12: And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Verse 13: And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Verse 14: For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

Verse 15: But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

2. Questions, Answers, Observations: Go back to day two and look over your observations and questions. Add any that come to mind today.

Day Four: Method Continued

3. Find some cross references: Using a Study Bible, find some cross references that relate to your passage. Look up some, and write out any new insights you find.

4. Now that you have spent some time in this passage thinking through the words, phrases, and concepts, write out any insights that you have found from this passage. Using your resources, try to find any answers to the questions you had about the passage. Are there any words you can do a quick word study on to better understand them? Are there any concepts you want to look up in a Bible dictionary? Write any answers you find here:

5. Write down an application from each verse. Write out some thoughts on how you might be able to apply each verse to your life.

Verse 5:

Verse 6:

Verse 7:

Verse 8:

Verse 9:

Verse 10:

Verse 11:

Verse 12:

Verse 13:

Verse 14:

Verse 15:

