



When You Pray, Pray Like This

Reference Scriptures: James 5:16b (NLT) and Luke 11:1-4 (NKJV)

Ice Breaker: Does your family participate in Advent? What resources do you use?

When You Pray...

1. Talk to God the way a child talks to a loving father.

"Our Father..."

Describe the type of Father you hope God is to you.

2. Ask your Father to help you correctly represent His name through your life.

"Hallowed be Your name."

How can you represent God's Holiness in your life?

Since this is IMPOSSIBLE, how do we lean INTO Him and ONTO His Holiness?

3. Pray for God's Kingdom and His will to be established on earth and in your life.

"Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

This is an act of surrender. What makes surrendering difficult for you personally?

What do you believe His will is for your life? In what ways might His will contradict the will you have for yourself?

4. Ask and trust God to provide for you. (see Philippians 4:19)

"Give us day by day our daily bread."

What do you need physically? Emotionally? Psychologically? Socially? Financially? Relationally?

Spiritually? Take a moment to ask God for your needs. Consider how a prayer journal may help you see the goodness of God providing for you in each of these areas.

5. Acknowledge your failures and ask for forgiveness. (see Matthew 6:14-15)

"And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us."

Ask God to give you the desire and the capacity to forgive as you have been forgiven.

Who do you need to forgive?

6. Ask God to help you stay in step with Him.

"And do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from the evil one."

Temptation is a given and we all have our struggles. Admit where you have given in and ask God to lead you away from those things.

Have you ever felt "in step" with the Lord? If so, what was that like and how can you pursue staying there? If not, what do you think that would feel like and what can you ask God for specifically to get there?