

Week 1: What is Prayer?

Discuss:

Someone comes to church and asks you if you could tell them what prayer is in a sentence. They're new to religious things, so they won't understand any of our normal jargon. What would you say?

1. What Prayer isn't

1.1 Duty

1.2 Magic

1.3 My Amazon wish list

1.4 Just for pros

2. What prayer is

The curate's working definition of prayer:

“a conversation with the God who loves me, asking him to do what he's said he'll do.”

Prayer is:

2.1 A Conversation

Luke 11:1: One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'When you pray, say:

Hebrews 1:1-3

- How has God spoken in the past?
- How has God spoken now?
- What does Jesus the Son tell and show us about God the Father?

“Prayer is a conversation God started with us in Jesus.” – Tim Keller

2.2 A Response

Luke 11:1-2: One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.'

He said to them, 'When you pray, say:

“Father...

2.3 A Gift



Romans 8:26-28

- How does the Spirit help us in our weaknesses?
- How does he help us pray? – What does he help us pray for?

“Prayer turns theology into experience” – Tim Keller