

Leading Prayers

I. Introduction:

A. Mt 6:5-13 - Principles for prayer

1. Motivation is not to be seen of men
2. Avoid the use of vain repetition
3. Not the pattern of the prayer Christ modeled

B. Looking at the model prayer:

1. Our Father - The prayer is addressed not just to God, but Our Father
2. Hallowed by thy name - Praise and adoration to God
3. Thy Kingdom Come - Prayer for the Reign/rule of God in our hearts
4. Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven - Prayer of submission and acceptance of God's rule
5. Give us our daily bread - Request for the necessities of the day
6. Forgive our trespasses - Prayer of humility, asking for forgiveness
7. Lead us not into temptation - Prayer of humility for guidance
8. Amen - Tradition ending, but a statement of faith in God

C. The Bible is full of other prayers that can serve as guides and models

1. Reading and reflecting on these can enrich your prayer life
2. Reading and reflecting on these can enrich public prayer
3. Examples of some of these prayers:
Luke 18:13; Habakkuk 3:2-19; Ezra 9:5-15; Daniel 9:4-19; 2 Kings 19:15-19; 1 Kings 18:36-39 ; 1 Kings 8:22-30; 2 Samuel 7:18-29; John 17; Acts 7:59-60; Ephesians 3:14-21; Colossians 1:9-12; Ephesians 1:15-23; Philippians 1:3-11; Jude 1:24-25; Nehemiah 1:1-2:9; Luke 22:39-46; many of the Psalms.

D. In the name of Christ

1. 1 Tim 2:5 - Jesus is our mediator
2. Jn 14:6 - No one goes to the Father except through Jesus
3. Jn 14:14; 16:23, 24, 26 - Jesus instructs disciples to ask in his name

II. Considerations

A. This is public prayer

1. You are leading, or saying a prayer on behalf of the congregation
2. This is not the same as a private, personal prayer
 - a. Use personal pronouns, such as "we" or "us" rather than "I"
 - b. The content of the prayer should be appropriate for the congregation

- B. Types of prayers
 - 1. Praise and adoration
 - 2. Thanksgivings
 - 3. Requests, supplications
 - 4. Prayers of commitment
 - 5. Confession
 - 6. Lament

III. Preparing

- A. If you are not used to leading prayer, it is helpful to write it or have an outline with you
- B. Practice saying the prayer if you are new to leading public prayer
- C. Remember you are talking to God on behalf of the congregation, not to the church. This is not the time to preach a sermon

IV. Leading

- A. Ensure you can be understood
 - 1. If there is a microphone, speak into it
 - 2. Use sufficient volume
 - 3. Enunciate your words clearly
 - 4. Do not talk too slow or too fast
 - 5. It is preferable to face the audience so you can be heard
- B. Posture
 - 1. If you simply bow your head, invite the congregation to do so with you as well
 - 2. If you choose to kneel, be sure to:
 - a. Also invite the congregation to kneel
 - b. Be sure your voice can be heard

Drills #5

Write out a prayer you can lead for the congregation, and share it with the class