Praying Like a Child Would Pray

FCC Life Group Discussion Notes
Part 1. In the "Bold Prayer" Series of Matthew Rogers
Matthew Rogers Preaching
11-01-26

Opening Prayer

- Pray for a fresh awareness of God as a loving Father who invites bold, childlike prayer.
- Ask for courage to keep on asking, seeking, and knocking this week in light of FCC's value that Bold Prayer is our practice.

Ice Breaker

Share a lighthearted childhood memory of repeatedly asking a parent or caregiver for something (a snack, a game, a ride, or an answer). What made it easy or hard to keep asking?

Key Scripture

Matthew 7:7-11 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*
"Ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Who among you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him."

Sermon Summary

The sermon introduces FCC's second value statement: Bold Prayer is our practice—the kind of prayer that petitions God for really big things in faith. Jesus taught His disciples to pray like a child would pray, with the knowledge that "My Father loves me," "I am never a bother to my Father," and "My Father only gives me good things." This posture invites persistent asking, seeking, and knocking as children of a Father who wants relationship and gives good gifts.

Discussion Point 1: My Father Loves Me

Scripture: Matthew 6:6 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*
"But when you pray, go into your private room, shut your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

Point Summary:

The sermon describes three levels of a child's understanding of a parent's love: safety in infancy, recognizing goodness as a toddler, and grasping relational love around ages 3-5. Jesus repeatedly calls God "your Father" in the Sermon on the Mount, even though the word "Father" can carry complicated emotions for some. He invites disciples into the same loving relationship He experiences with the true Father.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does the sermon describe the progression of a child's understanding of parental love, and what does that picture suggest about approaching God in prayer?
2. The sermon notes that "Father" can feel loaded because of past experiences. What in the message encourages a group member to still use that word for God?

Discussion Point 2: I Am Never a Bother to My Father

Scripture: Matthew 7:7-8 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*
"Ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

Point Summary:

Jesus uses present-tense verbs that mean keep on asking, seeking, and knocking. The sermon illustrates this with children who tap a parent for a drink, search for Mom or Dad, or knock on an office door when hungry—without fear of being an interruption. God's heart melts when His children approach Him the same way, and this invitation applies to everyone in His Kingdom who needs power for the mission.

Discussion Questions:

1. What everyday examples of children asking, seeking, or knocking does the sermon use? How do those pictures help a group member think about bold prayer?
2. According to the sermon, why can a group member approach the Father at any time without being a bother?

Discussion Point 3: My Father Only Gives Me Good Things

Scripture: Matthew 7:9-11 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*
"Who among you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him."

Point Summary:

Jesus contrasts imperfect earthly parents—who still give good gifts—with the heavenly Father who out-gives them. The sermon uses illustrations of grandparents saying "yes" before the request is finished and of never tiring of hearing "Dad?" It emphasizes that God has a good-gift bias for both the mission and for enjoyment, never gives anything detrimental, and that every answer is a loving response.

Discussion Questions:

1. What illustrations of parents or grandparents giving good gifts does the sermon share? How does that line of reasoning apply to God according to the message?
2. How does the sermon address asking God about things we want but do not necessarily need for the mission?

Wrap-Up

The sermon ties the three childlike truths together with Jesus' invitation in:

Matthew 7:7-11: *because the Father loves His children, is never bothered by them, and only gives good things, disciples can pray boldly by persistently asking, seeking, and knocking.*

This is the posture that flows from FCC's value that Bold Prayer is our practice.

Challenge

This week, practice one concrete act of bold prayer: choose something related to the mission or a personal desire and specifically ask, seek, or knock about it (perhaps writing it down or praying it daily). Come ready next time to share briefly how it went. This aligns with FCC's value that Bold Prayer is our practice.

Closing Prayer

- Thank God that He wants children, not just servants, and that He invites bold approach.
- Pray for specific needs and desires the group mentioned, asking with confidence that the Father gives good gifts.
- Ask for continued boldness in prayer throughout the week.

Handout

Interactive Student Handout: Praying Like a Child Would Pray

Name: _____

Three Childlike Truths from the Sermon

1. My Father _____ me.
2. I am never a _____ to my Father.
3. My Father only gives me _____ things.

Key Action (Matthew 7:7)
Keep on _____, keep on _____, keep on _____.

Personal Reflection
One thing I will boldly bring to the Father this week:

How I will practice it (check one or more):
☐ Write it down and pray it daily
☐ Share it with a group member for accountability
☐ Picture myself as a child coming to a loving parent

Notes from Discussion

Sources Used

- Full sermon transcript provided by the user titled "Praying Like a Child Would Pray" from First Christian Church (FCC), Warsaw, IN (including the value statement "Bold Prayer Is Our Practice," sermon outline, illustrations, and applications).
- Scripture quotations as given in the sermon transcript (Matthew 7:7-11; Matthew 6:5-8; Luke 11:1-2; John 15:7-8; and the reference to 1 Timothy 6), which follow the wording of the Christian Standard Bible (CSB).