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Description automatically generated **HE. WE. THEY. Prayer Study**

***How Should We Pray?***

Matthew 6:5-8

Next Sunday we are launching a brand new, churchwide emphasis called the "HE. WE. THEY. Prayer Study." Throughout this series we will be focusing on the Lord’s Prayer or the Model Prayer. Today, you need to go and pick up this book “HE. WE. THEY.” because we will be using it as a daily devotion guide and study book throughout this prayer emphasis. You will begin reading this book on Monday (date).

WHAT IS PRAYER? Prayer is communicating w\_\_\_\_\_\_ God and God communicating with u\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!

I think it is important to point out this morning that for Jesus, prayer was a personal p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. In Mark 1:35, we read this about the habit of Jesus to pray, when Mark tells us, “Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, He got up, went out, and made His way to a deserted place. And He was p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ there.” So, we see that prayer was not only a personal priority of Jesus, but that prayer should be a personal p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of those who follow Jesus. We see this in verse 5, when Jesus says, “Whenever you pray…”

*Today, let’s look at 2 key things related to prayer:*

I. PRAYER IS COMMUNICATING W\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ GOD

What should prayer or communicating with God look like in our lives? Prayer involves several things:

A) PRAY WITH P\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 5 & 7)

When you pray, you should be honest, real, g\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and you should use words that you normally use. In Exodus 5:22-23, we hear Moses being real with God when we read this: 22 So Moses went back to the LORD and asked, “Lord, w\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have You caused trouble for this people? And w\_\_\_\_\_\_ did You ever send me? 23 Ever since I went in to Pharaoh to speak in Your name he has caused trouble for this people, and You haven’t delivered Your people at all.”

B) PRAY WITH P\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 6)

You should talk to God about everything that really matters or is i\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to you. Paul said it this way in Philippians 4:6, “Don’t worry about anything, but in e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.”

C) PRAY P\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 8)

We should pray continually and c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Paul teaches us this truth in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 when he said, “16 Rejoice always! 17 Pray constantly. 18 Give thanks in everything, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

II. PRAY IS COMMUNICATION F\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ GOD

Here is a fact: God not only wants to hear from you, but He wants y\_\_\_\_\_ to hear from H\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!

►How does God speak to us?

* God may speak to you in a gentle v\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit prompting your heart about something while you are praying and listening.

God may speak to you as you open up and read HIS W\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to you in the Bible or as you read a daily devotion

* God may speak to you through a SS lesson or a s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* God may speak to you through music or through a s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* God may speak to you through another b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* God may speak to you through clear circumstances in your life

The issue is this: Are we listening to the voice of God as He speaks to us? Listen to the words of David in Psalm 5:1-2, when he says, *“Listen to my words, LORD; consider my sighing. Pay attention to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for I pray to You.”*