



Check In

Connect with God honestly about where you are at



Reflect

"Review until" something pops to talk to God about



Share

Talk with God & others about what is now on your heart to do

Matthew

Session 9 - Your Hidden Life with God

Check-In

God is glad to connect with you. He wants to hear about how you are doing. Take a moment to notice your primary emotion of the day to help yourself be fully present. Consider whether you are primarily sad, angry, scared, happy, tender, etc. Share with God that emotion. Write out: What are you thankful about? Ask him, "How does he feel about you?"

Reflect

Spend some time with the biblical texts and the resources below. Do so until something pops out to you; feel free to stop when the Lord prompts you this way. Talk with God about what encourages, challenges, or confuses you.

Read Matthew 6:1-18

Jesus' vision for the heavenly life is a secure, loving relationship with God the Father that leads to a human wholeness that spontaneously loves our enemies. Cultivating our union with God to quietly align ourselves with his Kingdom is the focus of the next three illustrations of personal devotion: almsgiving, prayer, and fasting. Again, Jesus wants his followers to go beyond the moral behaviors that are expected or praised, and wants them to pay attention to their hidden life with God. Almsgiving is a broader practice than religious giving, instead it is caring for others who are vulnerable and cannot return the favor. Prayer is cultivated in the private practice of the Lord's Prayer, modeling honoring and open conversation. Fasting is the practice of a quiet and confident dependence upon God. Each of these practices is done within the assurance of God's active presence as a loving and good Father who rewards what others do not see. This hidden life with God is from where the heavenly life flows in a way that naturally fulfills the law of love.

Pay attention to these recurring themes in Matthew:

Immanuel, God With Us - What is it like to be with Jesus?

Teaching, as revelation - What does Jesus' teaching reveal about reality? God? People? The world? The enemy?

The Church - What do you learn about the true Israel and the community of people shaped by life with Jesus?

Read this excerpt from [*The Gospel of Matthew: Torah for the Church*](#) by Farley

NOTE: Is there something you, or your family, need in light of this part of the Sermon? To be heard, prayer, time to practice, or shepherding (truth-telling, encouragement, or support)?

Share

Be quiet for 3 minutes. What do you sense God is saying to you? How will you pursue being faithful with that this week? The community is blessed when we share out of our life experiences, gifts, time with God, and reflect on scripture. We believe everyone contributes to teaching. What insight, question, or experience do you want to share with us?

Steps for Church Families of Prayerful Love:

- What are you thankful for? What challenges are happening in your life, family, and community?
- What did you like/not like about the Scripture?
- What did you learn about God and people from the Scripture?
- What do you think God is inviting you to live with him this week?
- Who do you know who needs to hear this?
- Ask God: How can I bless (body, labor, emotions, social, spiritual) those people who need this?