



WEEK 4

TOPIC: **HOW TO PRAY**

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Why do we practice Lent? We do Lent as a way to prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It isn't commanded in scripture, but here at Eleven22, we do it because we believe it's beneficial at times to tell our flesh no, so we can tell Jesus yes.

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

When I was growing up, I was taught that prayer was simple. The explanation of it went something like this: "Prayer is talking to God." This is 100% true.

The problem is that as I've gotten older, my prayers have become increasingly more complicated. I've found it to be more like a professional wrestling match and less like a simple conversation. This leads me to the striking conclusion that, when it comes to my own experience, I cannot blame prayer's growing complexity on God changing. He doesn't. He won't. He can't.

The only explanation for it, then, is the shifting of my own heart. As I've grown up, I've developed an uncanny ability to try and enforce my own will upon God. To convince Him that my ideas and plans are better than His. I do this when I pray. I don't think I'm the only one. It happens to all of us.

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Jesus held a high regard for the simple faith of a child. But for Him it wasn't just theoretical, He practiced it as well. On the night He was betrayed, He found himself in a Garden on the outskirts of Jerusalem feeling the depth of His impending crucifixion. There He prayed this way:

“Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”

Jesus models prayer as a posturing of one's self to accept the will of a God who is working all things for His ultimate glory and our ultimate good.

QUESTION

In what ways can you shape your prayer life toward a posture of accepting God's plans for you in the coming week?

FAMILY APPLICATION

(An opportunity for you and your children to practice Lent together.)

Life is busy, especially with family. Find a time this week to pull your family together to pray. In the most appropriate way for your family, discuss what it means for you to allow God to bring His plans to fruition in your home. Remember that God is always working for His ultimate glory, and your ultimate good.

