



**RIVERSIDE**  
CHURCH



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# BACK *TO THE* FUTURE

**WORSHIP FOLDER & MESSAGE NOTES**  
SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION/PERSONAL GUIDES

**"CONNECTING WITH GOD (PRAYER)"**  
*PASTOR NATE SICKLER, SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2020*





## **“Connecting with God (Prayer)”**

[Nate Sickler, Sauk Rapids Campus  
and Small Groups Pastor]

### MESSAGE NOTES

Many of us have had more time than ever, and perhaps more \_\_\_\_\_  
than ever, to pray in these last months...

What has \_\_\_\_\_ looked like for you?

Since God never wastes anything, He hasn't intended for us to go on this  
difficult and challenging journey so that the end result will be that we just go  
back to what we were, or just develop a new normal.

God wants to lead us to an extraordinary life that we could only begin to  
experience by having walked through these painful circumstances and hard  
times.

No matter where we are in our prayer life, we can \_\_\_\_\_ from here.

Prayer is not about...

...\_\_\_\_\_ it ([Matthew 6:5](#))

...a \_\_\_\_\_ ([Matthew 6:7](#))

Prayer is about...

...a \_\_\_\_\_ that clarifies

- \_\_\_\_\_ God is ([Matthew 6:9](#)) - even those who haven't had a  
good experience...want it!
- Who \_\_\_\_\_ are ([Romans 8:14-17](#))
- \_\_\_\_\_ we're at ([Matthew 6:10-13](#))
- While the world is not right, He is making it right and we can take  
life one day at a time with Him.

Prayer grounds us in \_\_\_\_\_ and points us to \_\_\_\_\_.

Instead of back to the future:

- In prayer you can be the genuine, honest, unfiltered \_\_\_\_\_ with the genuine, honest, unfiltered \_\_\_\_\_, and still be completely loved. ([Hebrews 4:16](#))
- \_\_\_\_ get to pray!
- Take \_\_\_\_\_ minutes a day.



# DISCUSSION GUIDE

**Icebreaker:** What is the most embarrassing fashion trend you used to rock?

1. Pastor Nate suggested that "Many of us have had more time than ever, and perhaps more urgency than ever, to pray in the last months..." Respond to his follow up question: "What has prayer looked like for you?"
2. Read [Matthew 6:5-13](#). When have you felt like you were "faking" it with your prayers?
3. How has prayer ever become formulaic for you?
4. How has prayer showed you Who God is?
5. Read [Romans 8:14-17a](#). How does authentic prayer help you see who you are?
6. Re-read [Matthew 6:10-13](#). How does genuine prayer ground us in reality and point us to eternity?
7. After reading [Hebrews 4:16](#), take time to consider and pray some bold prayers as a group, asking God to show you that "In prayer you can be the genuine, honest, unfiltered you with the genuine, honest, unfiltered King, and still be completely loved."

## PERSONAL GUIDE

DAY 1: [Revelation 20](#)

DAY 2: [Revelation 21](#)

DAY 3: [Revelation 22](#)

DAY 4: [Ecclesiastes 1](#)

DAY 5: [Ecclesiastes 2](#)





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God wants to lead us to an extraordinary life that we could only begin to experience by having walked through these painful circumstances and hard times.

No matter where we are in our prayer life, we can build from here.

Prayer is not about...

...faking it ([Matthew 6:5](#))

...a formula ([Matthew 6:7](#))

Prayer is about...

...a connection that clarifies

- Who God is ([Matthew 6:9](#)) — even those who haven't had a good experience...want it!
- Who we are ([Romans 8:14-17](#))
- Where we're at ([Matthew 6:10-13](#))
- While the world is not right, He is making it right and we can take life one day at a time with Him.

Prayer grounds us in reality and points us to eternity.

Instead of back to the future:

- In prayer you can be the genuine, honest, unfiltered you with the genuine, honest, unfiltered King, and still be completely loved.  
(Hebrews 4:16)
- I get to pray!
- Take two minutes a day.