

Suggested Answers for Leaders

There are a lot of questions in this week's Talking Points Walking Points. Feel free to select the ones you wish to use.

Observation - What does it say?

1. "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples."

"Jesus was praying in a certain place and after He had finished" his disciples made this request

2. Secret = minimize distractions and don't try to impress others
Sincere = be yourself, use natural language, be vulnerable
Specific = pray for God's honor to be upheld and his kingdom to be established, for your daily needs to be met and your sins to be forgiven, and for protection against temptation

Interpretation - What does it mean?

3. Other skills in which Jesus excelled include answering one's opponents wisely (Proverbs 26:4-5), learning to handle unjust suffering well (1 Peter 2:21-24), time and task management (John 17:4), etc. (Why only ask about prayer? See what answers group members come up with.)
4. Because he regularly withdrew to pray, even though he was uniquely competent and capable. His disciples also recognized that he knew something about prayer that they needed to learn.

Application - What do I do with this?

5. It can be helpful to ask whether prayer is something you regard as optional or as a vital means of depending on God. The sermon challenges us to give prayer a prominent place in our lives.
6. Establish a specific time and location where distractions are minimized and make that practice a regular part of your daily routine. The goal is not merely to intend to pray more but actually to practice prayer.
7. The sermon encourages us to be vulnerable before God and tell Him what is actually on our minds and hearts, knowing that He already knows it.
8. Identify a concrete area of weakness or sin and deliberately commit it to God in prayer rather than dealing with it only through your own strength.
9. Identify the particular area of struggle, memorize an appropriate passage such as 1 Corinthians 10:13, and use both prayer and the truth of Scripture when temptation arises.
10. Choose one prayer that addresses a current need—for example, Solomon's prayer for wisdom, David's prayer for forgiveness, Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane, or Paul's prayer for the Colossians—and examine how it teaches you to pray.