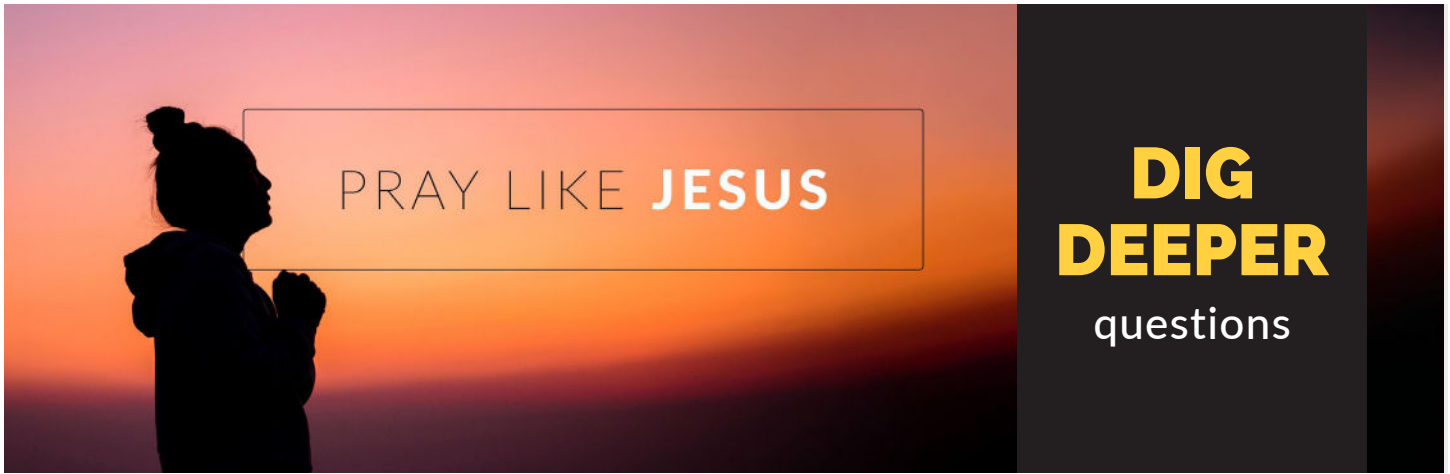


Aug 4: When in Need

1. Luke 22 tells the story of Jesus' betrayal and crucifixion, and the circumstances leading up to it. Jesus ate the Passover meal with His disciples and instituted the Lord's Supper. He mentioned His body and the new covenant in His blood. What was He hinting at?
2. He also said, "...the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table." Do you think the disciples had any idea what He meant? What reason would Jesus have for not speaking more clearly?
3. During the Passover meal, Jesus also predicted that Simon Peter would deny Him three times before the rooster crowed. Peter had good intentions and thought he was ready for prison and/or death. Do you think he believed Jesus' prediction? What would have been your own personal reaction, if it had been you?
4. Afterward, Jesus went to the Mount of Olives and the disciples (except Judas) followed Him. Why did Jesus go there before His betrayal and arrest? How do you think Jesus felt that night? Why did He go off by Himself to pray? What can we learn from this?
5. Jesus told the disciples to pray that they may not come into the time of trial (temptation). Do you think they did? Is prayer our first response to times of trial or the last thing we think of? What can we do to prioritize prayer in our lives?

Family Questions:

1. *What kinds of things do you ask God for? What do you pray about?*
2. *Is praying easy or hard for you?*
3. *Why is it difficult for some people?*
4. *What gets in the way of praying every day?*
5. *When is the best time to pray?*

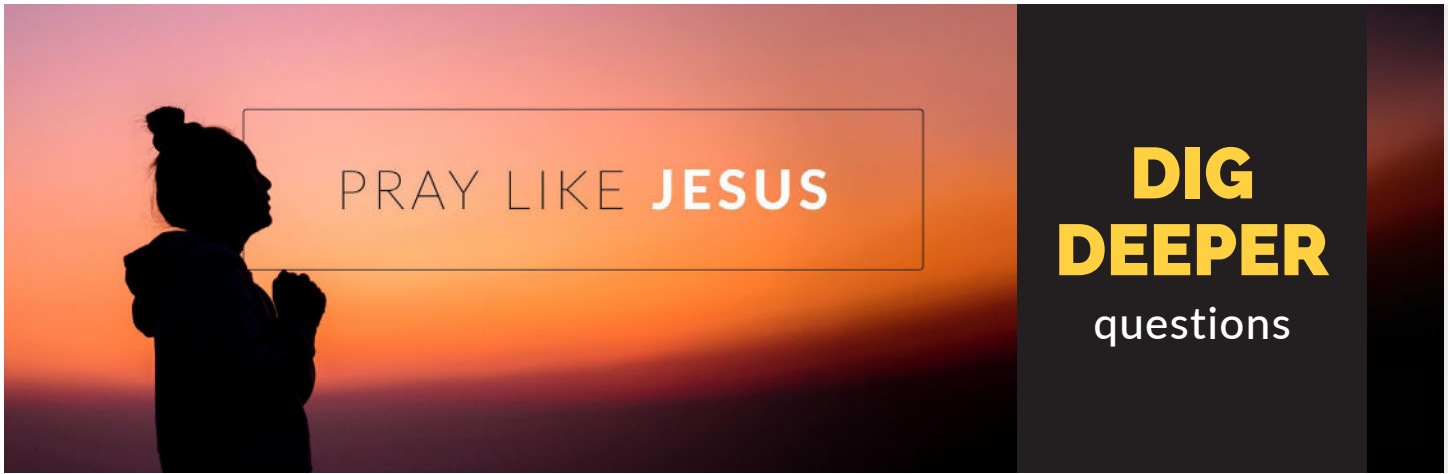


Aug 18: When You Don't Know How (The Lord's Prayer)

1. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus gives his disciples an outline, or guide, for prayer. He models different aspects of prayer in these passages. Take a look at the Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:2-4; Matt 6:9-13). What do you think the different aspects of prayer are?
2. Which aspect stands out to you the most? Why?
3. Jesus also talks about perseverance in prayer (Luke 11:5-10). He uses a parable about you going to a friend to ask for their help at an inopportune time. Even though he won't help because you are his friend, he will help because you are persistent. Then Jesus shows us God's response to those who ask for His help. How does God's response differ from the typical human response of the neighbor?
4. What does this parable reveal to us about the nature of God?
5. The Lord's Prayer is a great format for your own prayer time. Read the Lord's Prayer again. Try writing your own version of the Lord's Prayer in your own words. Use your version this week in your prayer times.

Family Questions:

1. *What is prayer?*
2. *Why should you pray?*
3. *Name someone who prays a lot.*
4. *Can you say or read the Lord's Prayer with someone?*

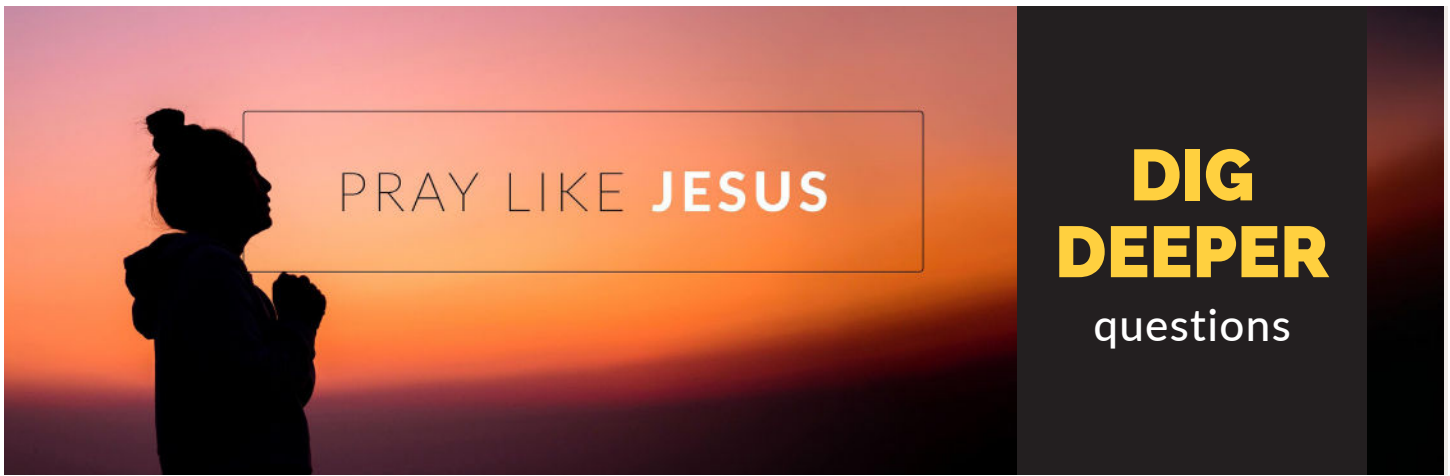


Aug 25: Before Big Decisions

1. Before Jesus chose his twelve disciples, Luke tells us how Jesus went out alone to the mountain and prayed to the Father all night long. You might think He would have wanted to get a good night's sleep before such a decision. What does this show about Jesus and His relationship with God the Father?
2. Choosing disciples is obviously an extremely important decision Jesus had to make. What sort of prayers do you think He was praying that lasted all night?
3. When you have to make an important decision in your life, how do you handle it? Worry or pray? Maybe a little of both? When you don't know what to do, what should you pray for?
4. What can we learn about prayer and our faith from the way Jesus prayed in this situation? How can we be more like Jesus each day?
5. God does not want us to be worriers, or to take life's burdens upon ourselves. What does God provide us when we take our worries and concerns to Him? (Phil 4:6-7)

Family Questions:

1. *What is wisdom? Is wisdom something you are born with?*
2. *What decisions have you had to make in your life?*
3. *What decisions are you allowed or not allowed to make?*
4. *The first day of school is coming up. What decisions do you have to make? What might help you make the first day of school go smoothly?*
5. *Can God help you when you need to decide?*



Sept 1: When Being Tempted

1. In this story, Jesus was led by God filled with the Holy Spirit who led him into the wilderness where he would be tempted by Satan. When the devil saw this opportunity, what was his possible motivation and purpose for trying to tempt Jesus?
2. Why do you think Satan waited till Jesus was in the wilderness for 40 days to tempt him?
3. Satan continually tempts us to mistrust God, just as he tried with Jesus. What did Jesus do every time the devil came up with another temptation? How can we imitate what Jesus did when we are tempted?
4. How does Satan work in our lives nowadays to draw us away from God?
5. Why do you think God allows these trials in our lives?
6. How does our relationship with God strengthen us to resist temptation? What has God provided us as believers to help us to do so? How can we prepare in advance for the ploys of the devil?

Family Questions:

1. *What kind of temptations have you faced?*
2. *How can you fight temptation? What should you do?*
3. *Why do you think we are tempted to do things that are dangerous or wrong?*
4. *If someone is being mean to you, are you tempted to be mean back? What could you do instead?*