

Youth Sermon Outline for Week of Prayer 2010

Don't Stop Talking

Developed in part from "Prayer Basics: What Should We Pray About?," a downloadable teaching resource on prayer, available free of charge from the National Prayer Center Web site, www.prayer.ag.org.

Introduction

(Before class, hide a cell phone somewhere in the room. Then instruct someone to dial that number on your signal as you explain the following.) There are a lot of ways to get someone's attention. *(At this moment you might blow an air horn or some other obnoxious-sounding device.)* It doesn't always have to be loud, either. Sometimes a concerned or horrified look, accompanied by a frantic hand gesture will do it. *(Demonstrate this action.)* But the fact is that certain sounds, actions, and situations will most definitely catch our interest. *(At this point the cell phone should ring. After finding it and turning it off, note how many people checked their own phones, even if their ring tone is different.)* When we think about it, we're almost always in communication with someone—or at least ready to be in communication at a moment's notice.

God wants us to have this same "ready to talk" attitude when it comes to our relationship with Him. Big stuff, small stuff, private stuff, embarrassing stuff...whatever it is, God wants to hear about it. And He also wants us to trust Him for answers, for direction, and for peace no matter what prompts our communication with Him. Here are three things to remember when you wonder if it's time to talk with God.

1. God can handle it.
 - a. Nothing is too big for God. (Hebrews 11:1; Ephesians 3:20,21)
 - b. Nothing surprises God. (Psalm 139:1-14)

2. God wants to hear about the small stuff.
 - a. When it matters to us, it matters to Him. (Philippians 4:6)
 - b. Just believe—with His plans in view. (Matthew 21:22; 1 John 5:14)

3. Tell it all to God.
 - a. Let His prayer be your guide. (Matthew 6:9-13)
 - b. Accept His invitation no matter the situation.
 - * When you're sick... (James 5:14-16)
 - * When you're broke... (Philippians 4:14-19)
 - * When you feel alone... (Psalm 34:18)
 - * When you need direction... (Jeremiah 29:11-13)

Conclusion:

There are a lot of things that can keep us from praying: intimidation, doubt, concern that God doesn't want to hear about it, and even just a lack of commitment. But God wants us to have a total change of perspective. When we start viewing prayer as a conversation with a close friend or relative, rather than a list of wants or a formal ritual reserved for church, it will become a regular part of our day...just as God intends.

*Prepared by the Assemblies of God National Prayer Center
www.prayer.ag.org*

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