

NEW BEGINNINGS

Sermon on the Mount | Family Devotion | Week 7

The Passage

Matthew 6:1-6

Questions

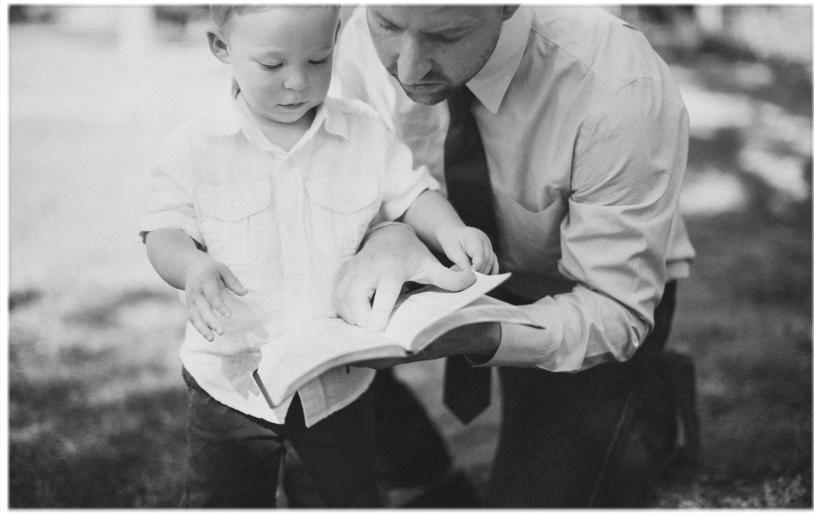
When is the newest thing you can think of around you?

How does Jesus ask us to pray in verse 6?

How can we as a family begin to worship God in a new way?

Prayer

God... we are yours.
Thank you for loving us.
As a family, we want to worship you with every aspect of our lives. If we struggle to focus on you, help us never take you for granted. If we sometimes struggle to worship at all, help awaken that heart in us. We want to be a family that loves you no matter the situation.



The Story

The Sermon on the Mount is largely about a new view. Like a developer looking at an old building, Jesus is taking the way his audience understood the world, spirituality, and the church and leading them to a picture of what the new can look like through the eyes of God. By this point in the sermon, Jesus has spent a majority of his time on raising the bar for subjects like sin, love, and God's calling on our lives. But at the beginning of Matthew 6, Jesus moves on to a different subject... our worship. In the first century, much like today, righteousness had become dangerously external. God himself had often become an afterthought as many simply "performed" their religion for those around them. Jesus intentionally challenges this issue in areas like giving, prayer, and fasting, calling the people to first and foremost direct their worship to God. But the starting point for you and I goes deeper; are we even worshipping? Do we pray, give, care, love, serve, or fight distraction at all? The assumption in this passage is that we are actually doing these things and that worship is a fundamental part of our lives. But are they really? Jesus is using this passage to challenge hypocrisy. The motivation and the heart behind worship matters. Religion has to be about God, not those around us. Yet some of us aren't even there. Worship really is not a part of our lives. Jesus would simply say to start. Begin a life of real, God-centered worship and step into the new kingdom he has waiting for each of us.