

Wednesday

Read: **Matthew 6:1-4** *Acting*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why not let others know we are praying people?*
2. *What does piety mean for you?*

Prayer Focus Prayer isn't always easy for us, Jesus. Sometimes we make prayer-time or doing good into showtimes, hoping to be caught in the act. Hoping for the world's approval. Help us step off-stage and get real with you.

Thursday

Read: **Matthew 6:5-6** *Performing*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Is there a particular prayer that is special to you?*
2. *Reflect on your prayer life. How would you like it to grow?*

Prayer Focus Thank you for the blessing and the privilege of prayer, a time and place where we can be face to face with you, free of distractions. Thank you for always allowing us be ourselves with you, God, and for the gift of time with you.

Friday

Read: **Matthew 6:7-8** *Simplifying*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *How do you define "empty" prayer phrases?*
2. *Pray for someone or some situation that's on your heart. Pray for ways to be salt and light.*

Prayer Focus We know we need to practice piety as you did, Teacher—in prayer, in giving, in fasting. Show us how to be in true conversation with you through both talking and listening. Let us carry our practice into life with others, for your sake, in your name, always.

Practicing Piety

Pastor's message: Matthew 5:13-16; Matthew 6:1-8

Message Notes:



Small Group Format

Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *What is your favorite seasoning, spice, or flavor? Why do you enjoy it?*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on Scripture

Have someone read: **Matthew 5:13-16; Matthew 6:1-8**

- Discuss observations about the text
 - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
 - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

Pray for each other

Refreshments (optional)

PRACTICING PIETY

April 21, 2024

Monday

Read: **Matthew 5:13** *Flavoring*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What's so special about salt?*
2. *What might add "salt" to your faith?*

Prayer Focus Jesus, you said that we are salt—already.

We understand that our faith can bring vibrance to life and bring out the full flavor of our service and our relationships. We pray to be salt so that our lives point to you.

Tuesday

Read: **Matthew 5:14-16** *Illuminating*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Who has been a light in your life?*
2. *How do you see your light shining out to others?*

Prayer Focus We are also light, Holy One, lamps to show the way to you. We ask forgiveness for ways we've dimmed that light. We give thanks for the clarity and guidance that light brings to us, and commit to living by your light.