

UNITING OUR HEART WITH GOD'S

Matthew 6.5-13 // February 5, 2023

THE MARRIAGE OF THE WORD AND PRAYER

Meditating and praying the Scriptures is important because when left to ourselves, we just will pray what is in our minds, our desires, and our concerns and wants. We just tell God our wish list and treat Him like a genie in a bottle or a vending machine. But when we learn to pray His Word, and specifically the very prayers that His Word give us, our prayers become more tethered to reality and the bigger picture of God's will and work in our lives.

**The wedding of the Bible and prayer
anchors your life down in the real God.**

-Tim Keller

Praising Him helps us enter the real world.

-CS Lewis

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus doesn't leave us in the dark on how to pray well. And not only does He tell us *how* to pray, but even how *not* to pray. Learning to pray the Lord's Prayer does *not* mean just memorizing it and reciting it as if it is a magic spell or lucky charm. Rather, it gives us guidance on how to shape our very personal prayers so that we can marry our hearts with His heart.

Matthew 6.7, 8

**Outside work without inside work is like watering every part of a tree
except the roots, and expecting it to grow.**

-Edward Fisher

Matthew 6.9-13

PRAYING THE PSALMS

The Psalms were even specifically given to God's people to be their prayer book and their hymnal. These prayers were designed to be sung by God's people as a means for them to express their own hearts and concerns in a unified way.

**The Psalms penetrate the Lord's Prayer and the Lord's Prayer
penetrates the Psalms. So it is possible to understand one on the basis
of the other and bring them into joyful harmony.**

-Martin Luther

Jeremiah 15.16

**The first great and primary business to which I ought to attend every
day was, to have my soul happy in the Lord.**

-George Muller



NOTES:

Practical Ideas for the Praying and Meditating on the Psalms:

- To go through the Psalms monthly, scan five Psalms and pick one that grabs your mind.
 - e.g., 1-6, 6-10, etc., or by multiplying the date by 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5
- A good devotional through the Psalms is a great help (see your LifeMAP)
- Read it out loud.
- Ask yourself some questions:
 - What is there to learn about God in this passage?
 - Where is this similar in my life?
 - Is there an example to follow or command to obey?
 - Is there an error to avoid or sin to confess?
 - Is there a promise to appropriate in or a truth about God to believe in?
- Next, read the Psalm again, more slowly.
- You can also emphasize each word, one at a time.
- Paraphrase it as you go into your own words.
- Next, add in and apply the elements of the Psalm to your prayer needs.

This Week's Scripture to Memorize:

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ARE YOU NEW HERE?

WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION!

We'd love for you to **fill out a Connection Card** so we can welcome you and answer any questions you may have. You can drop it in the offering basket during the service or take it to one of our teammates at the **Connection Booth** outside. Feel free to grab some coffee and snacks in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS?

Our childrens' ministry, which we call **Kids on Mission**, has classes for **newborns - 5th grade**. We have a great team of volunteers who have all been screened with background checks for extra security. Each week your child will get to **worship** with their class, followed by an **age-appropriate lesson** that points them towards Jesus and helps root them in the Word of God.

Visit our website to read more about the vision of Kids on Mission and a walkthrough of our curriculum. If you have any questions, email **Amber Willis at amber@lifemission.tv**

JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL

Our **6th - 8th graders** begin each Sunday by **worshipping with the adults** and then head to their classroom with their teacher and classmates for the rest of service. Visit our website to read more about our junior high ministry and a walkthrough of our curriculum.

Our **9th-12th graders stay in the service** with the adults because we believe that it is crucial for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate high school.

For more information about our Junior High & High School ministries, email **Tyler Willis at tyler@lifemission.tv**.

Contact Us

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CONNECT WITH LMC



Point your smart
phone camera at
the QR Code to
access a virtual
Connection Card

MAILING ADDRESS:

Life Mission Church
420 Twin Oaks Valley Rd., #908
San Marcos, CA 92079

COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Before group starts, who can share the **Memory Verse**?

Read **Colossians 2.6, 7.** What stands out in this passage and from the sermon on Sunday or the past few Sundays?

Preaching the Gospel to Yourself

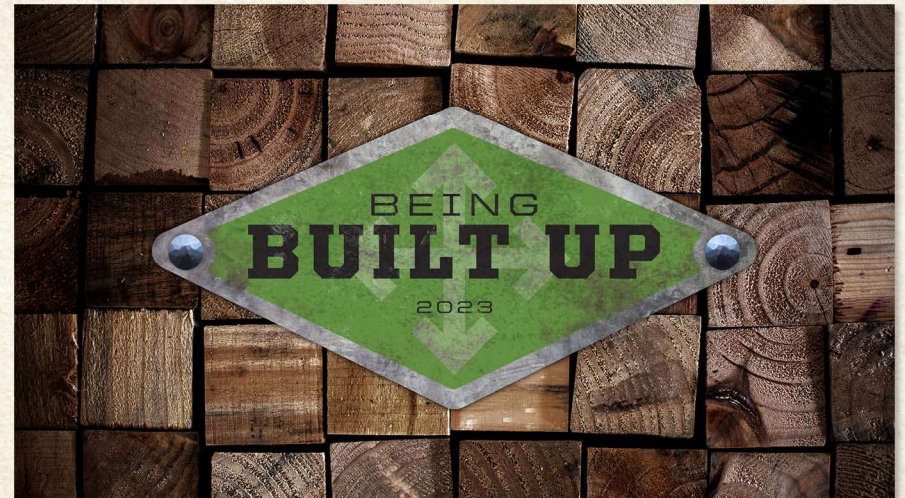
In what area of your walk with the Lord do you feel you need the most help with? Are there any "building materials" from the **G.P.S. LifeMAP** that you will be using to build your trellis for vibrant vine growth?

Your Life Mission

For us to be pouring ourselves for the sake of others, we must be first filled. And though we know that we are already filled in Christ, we also know that we don't often operate *from* that filling. This is why we must aim to be built up in Christ. It is not just for our sakes, but for the sake of those around us. What relationships are currently in your life that you could use prayer for to pursue that purpose that God has given you in hopes that as you are filled, you will overflow into their life?

End the evening in a time of prayer, praying through the theme of the night using the **P.R.A.Y.** model with your group. Pray for these people you have mentioned and for your heart and plan as you pursue them in love.

- **Preaching the Gospel to Yourself** (Matthew 6.9, 10)
 - Always begin your time of prayer focusing on God's goodness, who He is, and what He has done for us. Pray truths from this week's text.
- **Repent and Confess** (Matthew 6.12)
 - Real repentance begins where blame-shifting stops. Your circumstances don't need to change, your heart needs to change. Confess any particular sin that prevents you from walking out what God calls us to in the text, or any other particular sin you are wanting to fight. Ask Him to help you have strength to repent and run towards Him.
- **Ask for Provision** (Matthew 6.11-13)
 - Ask God for new perspective and for the things that you need. Once our hearts are fixed on Him, we can ask Him to help us with our needs. When your heart is begin filled with the Gospel first, your asking will be far more in line with God's desires and will. Ask Him to work in the relationships in your life that you are hoping to share God's love with.
- **Yield with Thanksgiving** (Matthew 6.10)
 - End your prayer by giving God thanks for His faithfulness and ask Him to help you trust and yield to His work and ways.



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SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025

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