



Five Reasons to Talk to God More | Doug Wekenman | 10.24.21  
Weekly Study

**S T A R T**

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

**Where have you seen God's presence this week?**

**S H A R E**

Welcome back to Group! This week, Doug began our new series "Five Reasons" by simply showing us how prayer is so simple yet so powerful. When we talk to God, things change, we change. But before we dive in, keep sharing your stories! Invite someone who has not yet had a chance to tell their story to share by using the following questions as prompts.

- 1. Tell me about your upbringing. What are a few of the significant life events that shaped and molded you?**
- 2. Have you ever had a moment where you realized God is real and loves you? If so, tell us about it.**
- 3. How have you changed in the last five years?**

**G R O W**

Doug referred to the life of King David. Whether this was your very first time or your tenth time hearing it, share with your group one thing that stuck out to you about David's story this week.

**Can you relate to the story of David? If so, share with your group.**

We are a bunch of imperfect people pursuing a perfect God just as the people that we read about throughout the Bible. God is still using us just as he used them to continue in his redemptive plan. Friends, we can take a deep breath. God knows we are fragile, and we bring nothing more than our brokenness to the story and he is okay with it as this brings us to our knees. David says in Psalms 16:2, “You are my Lord; I have no good thing apart from you.” He knew his sin and that he had a desperate need for God. Perhaps, this is why he kept coming back to him and talked with him through it all. King David knew that without God, he had nothing good to offer anyone.

**When you have returned to your own sin, is your tendency to hide from God or to reach out to God? Why?**

Doug left us with one last thing to know about David and this is what he left us with, “David was more content, more passionate, and more in tune with God than any of us. And the reason is because he talked to God more often than we do.”

**Does this “one last thing” motivate you to discover the practice of David’s prayer life or discourage you with your own?**

M O V E

**Read Matthew 18:3**

**How does this passage shift your perspective as you talk with God? Explain.**

Doug gave to us *Five Reasons You Should Talk to God* and we are going to go through each of the five reasons together.

**Prayer Powers Your Faith**

*“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)*

Doug likened his smart phone to prayer and faith. The smart phone brings all things good/bad, instantly, right into the palms of our hands. BUT without it being powered up, the device is of no use. Our source of power is in the conversations we have with God. The more we spend time with him, talking in our coming and going, the more intimate of a relationship we will have with him. Our prayer connects us with the Creator of the Universe which then empowers us to move forward in faith and this is why we should talk to God more.

### **Prayer Quiets Our Heart**

*God, I'm not trying to rule the roost, I don't want to be king of the mountain. I haven't meddled where I have no business or fantasized grandiose plans. I've kept my feet on the ground, I've cultivated a quiet heart. (Psalm 131:1-2a msg)*

A quiet heart is confident and full of peace. This is antithetical to our culture of, the faster the better. The more, the most successful. Doug used the term "omniscience fatigue." This links back to the very beginning of creation where the lie believed was that we too could be like God. In actuality, God speaks a different word. He is God. He "holds all things together" (Col. 1:17) and we don't. If we can wrap our minds and hearts around this, we come to God confidently knowing he can and we can't, we then rest full of peace. Breathing in God's glory and power while he is doing only what he can do. When we talk to God more it will quiet our heart.

### **Prayer Creates Contentment**

*...I am like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child I am content. (Psalm 131:2)*

Just as a child content in the arms of their mother in need of nothing but just to be near, so is there contentment with our Father in Heaven. Just being with him is enough. Think of a place where in that moment all things were right. Standing in the majesty of the mountains, on the shore of the vast ocean or holding your child for the very first time, whatever this may be for you, that contentment you felt in that moment is a speck of contentment we can experience with God. His presence envelops us the more aware we are of his presence in our life. This is why we talk to God, because he provides perfect contentment.

### **Prayer Does What You Can't**

*So, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David. (1 Sam. 16:13 msg)*

We pray because it works! It is our lifeline to God. When we allow God to do his work in and through us, things look much different than when we try to work things on our own. Doug said this week “when humans work, we work. But when humans pray, God works!” If we know that God is most powerful and this ultimately is his story then we need to talk to God more, because prayer does what we can’t.

### **You Can Be A Kid Again**

*But now, this is what the LORD says— he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. (Isaiah 43:1)*

In God’s Kingdom, maturity is the heart of a child. When we come to God as a child, we come to him just as we are. No performance necessary, no fancy words and as Doug said, “we don’t have to *learn* how to be a kid, we just need to *remember* how to be a kid.” When we come to God, his face is full of love and affection and he is welcoming us into his arms, just to be his child. That’s it! He is a good father and his love is not based on our love for him, but his love for us. No matter how far we have gone away from him or have even done in his name, his love does not waiver. It is a scandalous, undeserved love that only God provides as our father, to his children. This is why we can just be a kid again, to crawl into our Father’s lap and talk with him. He is that good.

### **This Week’s Challenge**

- Choose one of the five ways to talk with God and focus on that this week. Begin to navigate what this looks like for you in your relationship with God and sit in it. Talk to God in it and share with someone your journey through it.

### **P R A Y**

We need prayer now more than ever. Spend some time-sharing prayer requests. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking off into two separate groups (or calls if you are an online group) to share more freely.

### **T O G O**

*They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony...*  
*-Revelation 12:11*