

Pray like Jesus... Longer!

Focus: following Jesus' example of pursuing our Father through extended times of prayer

RESOURCES:

There are two helpful resources that will be listed on our leader blog on the front page of our website. One is *how to spend an hour in prayer* by Dick Eastman. The other is *NW's half day of prayer guide*. You will be able to find them both here:

<http://northwake.com/north-wake-leader-blog/prayer-resources/>

If you need them before they are posted, email me at LarryT@NorthWake.com and I will send them your way!

Discussion:

- Make a list of all the reasons it is hard to take longer times away to pray.
- Now, as you work through the passages that show Jesus praying for extended periods of time, make a list of all the benefits you see. Here are the passages: Mark 6.31-32, 45-46; Luke 6.11-13; Mark 1.34-39; Mark 14.13, 22-23; Luke 5.15-16; Luke 9.28-31 (and John 17.1-5ff could be added!). What draws you to emulate Jesus' practice of longer times of prayer?
- as you work through these passages, here are some other questions to explore:
 - what sacrifices did Jesus make to secure these times alone with His Father?
 - How did place figure into Jesus' praying? How does place matter to you? You can share good places you have found to practice solitude and prayer.
- Discuss what your group needs to be able to begin to build this into their prayer lives. How can you best encourage each other to grown in this?
- Ask people what might be a good first/next step for them to take in practicing longer periods of prayer.

