

But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. Matthew 6:6 (NIV)

Time To Pray

That is exactly what I will need. **What's that?** I need to close the door to the world so I can open my heart in prayer to you. **That will be very good. I would like to ask you a question.** Go ahead, I'm listening. **Why is it necessary for you to close the door to the world so you can open your heart in prayer to me?** The world is a busy and noisy place. I need to separate myself from the world so I can hear from you. I need to leave the frantic pace of life so I can slow down to listen to you. I know myself. You know me. **Yes, I do.** Setting aside a special time and place to meet with you in prayer is essential. **Why is that?** If I don't make a firm commitment to meet with you in prayer, it won't likely happen. I am easily distracted. Minutes and hours and days race on by me. Days become weeks and weeks become months and months become years more quickly than I could imagine. I don't want opportunities to meet with you in prayer to race on by me. There is no place I would rather be than in your presence. There is nothing I would rather do than meet with you in prayer. I have no higher desire than to live in an intimate relationship with you. So, I will close the door to the world and open my heart to you in prayer. **That is very good.**

Will you always need to close the door to the world so you can open your heart in prayer to me? Will that be the only time and only place in which you will pray to me? Certainly not, it is my hope and dream and desire to live my life in a constant dialogue of prayer with you. Will there be a time when I no longer need to close the door to the world so I can open my heart in prayer to you? Will I move beyond this need? Absolutely not, I will always need to withdraw from the noise and busyness of life to meet with you in prayer. This is my starting point. In our time together you will teach and train me. In our time together I will hear from you and you will hear from me. This is where living my life in a dialogue of prayer will begin and continue and never end. So, I will always close the door to meet with you in prayer. I will carry our times together in prayer out into every moment of life. **That's good. That's true. That's right. Yes, you will. I will hear and answer this hope and dream and desire of yours.**

Heavenly Father, I will shut the door to the world so I can open up my heart in prayer to you. Help me to leave the noise and busyness of life so that I can hear clearly from you. I want to live in an intimate relationship with you as you hear and answer my prayers. Amen

Becoming Like Christ *Close The Door*

But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

NIV Matthew 6:6

Becoming Like Christ *Shut The Door*

But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

ESV Matthew 6:6

Becoming Like Christ *Shut The Door*

But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

NLT Matthew 6:6

Becoming Like Christ *Shut The Door*

But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

NKJV Matthew 6:6

Becoming Like Christ *Shut The Door*

But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

NRSV Matthew 6:6

Becoming Like Christ *Find A Quiet, Secluded Place*

"Here's what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace.

MSG Matthew 6:6

Becoming Like Christ *Closing The Door*

But when you pray, go into your [most] private room, and, closing the door, pray to your Father, Who is in secret; and your Father, Who sees in secret, will reward you in the open.

AMP Matthew 6:6

Becoming Like Christ *Shut The Door*

But when you pray, go away by yourself, all alone, and shut the door behind you and pray to your Father secretly, and your Father, who knows your secrets, will reward you.

TLB Matthew 6:6

Becoming Like Christ *Close The Door*

"But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

NASB Matthew 6:6

Becoming Like Christ *Close The Door*

When you pray, you should go into your room and close the door and pray to your Father who cannot be seen. Your Father can see what is done in secret, and he will reward you.

NCV Matthew 6:6

Close The Door

Year ____ Week ____ Day ____ Date ____

Becoming Like Christ – Matthew 6:6

In Context: *Read Matthew 6*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God’s Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. Matthew 6:6 (NIV)

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

But when | you pray, | go into | your room, | close the door | and pray | to | your Father, | who is | unseen. | Then | your Father, | who sees | what is | done | in secret, | will | reward you. Matthew 6:6 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture:

(What prayer from your heart will you write?)

Heavenly Father, I will shut the door to the world so I can open up my heart in prayer to you. Help me to leave the noise and busyness of life so that I can hear clearly from you. I want to live in an intimate relationship with you as you hear and answer my prayers. Amen

What It Means:

(What questions speak to your heart?) *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

Why is it necessary to shut your door and withdraw from the world so you can enter into prayer to God?

What time and place have you set aside to withdraw from the world to meet with God in prayer?

Why is there no better way to spend your time than to meet with God in prayer?

How has God been changing everything about you as you have met with Him in prayer?

How would you like to open up your heart in prayer to God right now?

How has your relationship with God grown more intimate as you have continued to meet with Him in prayer?

How has God been rewarding you as you have continued to meet with Him in prayer?

Living It Out:

(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)

Shut your door to the world and open your heart in prayer to your Heavenly Father.

Seeing It Happen:

(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)

Have faith that your Heavenly Father will reward you as you make a habit of regularly meeting with Him in prayer.

Get Ready To Share:

(What can you share with others from your heart?)

Share with another person or your small group how you are opening up your heart in prayer to your Heavenly Father.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you close the door to the world and open your heart in prayer to God.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Heavenly Father, I will close the door to the world and open my heart in prayer to you.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Heavenly Father, how can I open my heart to you in prayer today?
