Prayer: Taking Jesus at His Word Acts 4:23-31; Matthew 6:9-13

A clarifying **DEFINITION** of New Testament prayer -

"Intimacy with God that leads to the fulfillment of His purposes." Alvin Reid

A crucial <u>DELINEATION</u> of New Testament prayer (Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-3)

R everence - up

R esponse - down

R equests - in

R eadiness - out

A compelling <u>DEMONSTRATION</u> of New Testament prayer (Acts 4:23-31)

"Scripture-fed, Spirit-led, worship-based prayer."

They began in united, biblical worship – 4:24-26 (Reverence)

They surrendered to His word and will – 4:27-28 (Response)

They <u>trusted</u> Him for their immediate <u>needs</u> – 4: 29-30 (Requests)

They went out in the power of the Spirit to share the gospel – 4:31 (Readiness)

Questions for Discussion:

How does the above definition of prayer by Alvin Reid challenge your personal ideas about prayer?

How does this model prayer by Jesus compare to your practice of prayer? How is it similar? Different?

Which of the 4 "Rs" do you think most Christians neglect and why?

Which of the 4 "Rs" do you neglect?

How can you begin to use all 4 "Rs" in your prayer life this week?

How can the example of the 4 "Rs" in Acts 4:23-31 assist your group in prayer?