



Prayer: BHAG | October 5, 2016

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

We get good at things by doing them more often, and as we improve, we are more willing to take bigger chances. Pray often so you can learn to pray audaciously.

Key Verse

James 1:5-6 (MSG)

If you don't know what you're doing, pray to the Father. He loves to help. You'll get his help, and won't be condescended to when you ask for it. Ask boldly, believingly, without a second thought.

Discussion

When we watch kids learning to do things we don't get upset when they don't do it perfectly. We may correct them, but most times we let them self-correct because we want them to get better at it. Once they begin to get their basic skills, we begin to encourage them to take chances, to dream big, to go after what their hearts desire.

1. What are some examples of things that you were once not good at but are now much better after doing them for a while?
2. In what things were you encouraged to "Dream Big" as a kid? In what things do you encourage your kids to take chances?

James says, "If you don't know what you're doing, pray to the Father." If you don't know what you're doing, if you aren't good at something, talk to God...even if that thing is prayer. Like parents, God doesn't ultimately care if you are "good" at a certain skill. Parents care that you try, that you give it your best.

3. Have you ever had something you wanted to ask for but were afraid it wasn't the right thing to ask God about? Explain.
4. Have you ever considered admitting to God that you don't have it all figured out? Have you ever asked Him for help with something you feel you should already have figured out?

Jim Collins coined the idea of "BHAG" in his book *Good to Great*. It stands for Big Hairy Audacious Goals. In the verse above, James suggests we have Big Hairy Audacious Prayers...BHAP. The only way to gain confidence in your conversations with God is to do them more often...Practice makes perfect.

5. What might be a goal for you to set to increase the amount of intentional conversations you have with God?
6. What might be a BHAP for you to begin discussing with God?

What's Next?

There is a story about two farmers who prayed for rain, but only one farmer actually believed it would happen and prepared his fields. The challenge for this week is that we begin to pray more often, pray more audaciously, and begin to trust and believe that God still answers prayers! This week, bring one thing to God that you have been holding back on and expect Him to answer in some way. What have you got to lose?