

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of July 25-31, 2021

“WHY PRAY?”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

What one thing pulls you to pray? What one thing pushes you away from prayer?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Luke 11:1-13

1. Jesus taught us to begin our prayer with “Father,” which is the casual and warm Aramaic word *Abba* to describe God. But this may not be the kind of father you picture when you think of God. What mental image of “Father” comes to mind when you approach God to talk to him?
2. Read the following verses: Psalm 27:10, Isaiah 41:10, James 1:7, 1 John 4:10. How is God described in each? How does our view of God affect the way we pray?
3. Read Matthew 6:7-9. What do these verses teach you about prayer? Does this mean that our prayers should always be in secret? Is public prayer wrong? Is “wordy” prayer wrong?
4. Why was the neighbor’s request for bread (Luke 11:5-10) considered “shameless” and outrageous? How can our prayer life be shameless in approach? Why is praying for something persistently not the same as demanding something from God?
5. Do you think it is often too easy to give up on praying for something or just “go through the motions?” How can we be more passionate in our prayer life? Share some real practical ways or experiences.

6. Why is it sometimes good for us not to have our prayers answered as we desire?
7. (Optional) What is the point of Jesus’ comparison with earthly fathers giving good gifts? What then is our basis for trusting God when we pray? The passage concludes differently than we expect by saying that the Father will give the Holy Spirit (instead of “good gifts”). What is the practical implication does this have on our prayers?

8. [NEXT STEPS]

The power of prayer depends on the One who hears the prayer, not the one who is giving it.

- I will be attending the Prayer & Fasting this week on _____.
- During fasting, I will spend time to pray.
- I will pray for both the little and the big things.
- I will pray more persistently and trust in God’s answer.
- I will pray sincerely and not just “go through the motions.”

Don’t forget to:

- Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God’s Word.
- Commit 30 minutes a day for God’s intervention in this fight against the COVID virus.

CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray that we can pray without fear of being judged, but with eagerness because we have complete access to our heavenly Father the way children do with their father.
- Take the time to pray for our nation, for peace and for the gospel to prosper during this time of the pandemic.
- Pray for those who are hurting, going through fear, worry and anxiety in the group.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE.

July 26. Nehemiah 1:1-11.

July 27. Acts 4:1-31.

July 28. Isaiah 6:1-8.

July 29. Psalm 139.

July 30. 1 Samuel 3:1-18.

July 31. Luke 11:1-13.

August 1. 2 Corinthians 3:1-12.