



Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of September 1, 2019

This Week's Focus: In the Lord's prayer, Jesus taught that our prayers should be centered on God, the advancement of his kingdom, the accomplishment of his will, offered in a spirit of reverence for our Heavenly Father.

This Week's Text: Matthew 6:5-10

"The way in which we regard the name of God reveals the state of our hearts with respect to our attitude toward God Himself. A lack of regard for His name reveals more clearly than anything else a lack of regard for Him. So when Jesus says we should pray that God's name be regarded as holy, He is saying that we should regard Him as holy, and that such a posture of reverence, awe, and respect for God should define everything in our lives." **R.C. Sproul**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- Share what the Holy Spirit has impressed on your heart and mind from this week's text.
- In what famous sermon by Jesus does he include a lesson on how to pray (Matthew 5-7)? What is the main theme of Jesus' sermon?
- Explain how the Kingdom of God is both *already* and *not yet* reality? How does a proper understanding of the Kingdom of God affect how we think and live? Are you a citizen of God's Kingdom, humbly surrendered under the rule and reign of King Jesus?
- Who are the hypocrites that Jesus refers to in verse 5? Is Jesus condemning public prayer? What is the purpose of prayer and what should be our motivation when we pray to our Heavenly Father (whether publicly or in private)?
- What abuse of prayer is Jesus addressing in verses 7-8? Has prayer become mindless, rote ritual rather than deep, heartfelt praise and petition to your Heavenly Father?
- Why can we confidently address God as our Father? How do we revere the name of God in our day-to-day lives? In what way(s) does your life or doctrine (theology) need to be realigned to the revelation of God's glory?
- Discuss how the petition for God's kingdom to come is a recognition of the *past* (Genesis 1), *present* (Matthew 5:1-11), and *future* (Revelation 21) reality of the Kingdom of God? Have you joined God's mission to build his kingdom by demonstrating and declaring the gospel to those in your community and spheres of influence?
- What is the difference between God's *sovereign* will and his *preceptive* will, and how does Jesus teach us to pray for both? Do you pray primarily for your desires or that God reshapes your will to his? Who is the only one who was perfectly obedient to the Father's will?