



## MESSAGE GROUPS - PRAY LIKE JESUS - WEEK 1

### LEADERSHIP THOUGHT:

Before you dive into today's lesson, take some time as a leader to evaluate the level of maturity of your group and decide how deep you want to take this discussion on prayer. Pay special attention to the prayer exercise at the end and be sure to help challenge your group to grow in prayer.

### MESSAGE OVERVIEW:

What if part of growing up as followers of Christ is realizing the massive importance of learning to pray like Jesus prayed? Jesus saw the full, bigger picture of God's Kingdom and put much of his time on Earth into praying - He knew more, so he prayed more. There was something about power of prayer that we don't understand that Jesus did. To learn how to pray differently, we look at The Lord's Prayer and dive into 4 things Jesus knew about prayer.

### ICE BREAKER

If there was one piece of advice that you could give to your younger self, what would it be?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

We often think prayer is *too little* to give *big time*, but Jesus knew that prayer was *too big* to give it *little time*.

- When the disciples caught on to the importance of prayer, they asked Jesus to teach them how and He used the Lord's Prayer to show them.
- **Read Matthew 6:9-13** What most stands out to you about this prayer?

If we only knew what God knew about prayer, we would pray like he prays. The beginning of The Lord's Prayer, "*Our Father in Heaven*," reveals four truths about prayer. These are the **4 THINGS JESUS KNEW**:

### 1. You Never Outgrow God.

Our prayer (or lack there-of) communicates something to God. When we do not go to our Father in Heaven through prayer, we communicate that we have "outgrown" Him and don't need to rely on Him for our daily needs.

- *Question: What causes us to not rely on God?*

### 2. It's a Heart Engaged Relationship.

Prayer is not a formula for a disconnected spiritual authority that is not near to us, but it is the key to an intimate relationship with a God who is our loving Father.



- *Question: Think about a key relationship in your life (spouse, family member, close friend). What happens in that relationship when you don't communicate clearly and often? In light of that, how do you think you should communicate in your relationship with God?*

### 3. "Our" is a Bigger Family.

We must understand and take note that it is not just "**My** Father in Heaven", but "**Our** Father in Heaven." There is a collective community and family that we are invited to be a part of. There is power in praying alongside others.

- *Question: What fear or insecurity do you have around praying with others and in the moment? What would it take to make prayer a more normal part of your life with others?*

### 4. God Shapes Life Through Prayer.

God makes it clear that everything in life is not predetermined. There are things in life that can only be shaped and influenced by prayer.

- *Question: If you really believed that there are things that God would only do if we prayed for them - how would you pray differently? What questions do you have about this idea that our prayers actually move and influence the hand of God?*

While our prayers invite the power of God into our lives, more than that, our prayers require us to trust in **who** God is. He will not always answer our prayers the way we think He will, so when He doesn't we need to trust that God is all powerful (able), all loving (willing), and all knowing (wise). When we do, we should pray differently.

- *Question: Which do you struggle most with trusting about God - that He is able, willing, or wise? Where do you need to see Him in a new light through one of these three traits?*

## WRAP UP / CLOSE

- **Practice Praying For Each Other**

Spend 5-10 minutes praying for each other to practice praying publicly. Perhaps focus your prayers on where those in your group want to experience God in a new way - as able, willing, or wise. (*Leaders, navigate this moment cautiously. Consider opening and closing in prayer while leaving space for anyone who may want to pray.*)

- **Challenge to Pray**

We all have a next to grow in our prayer life. Reflect on where God has challenged the way you pray with today's message, and challenge those in your group to determine what their next step is to grow in prayer. (*ie: If you don't pray on a regular basis, set a reminder to pray for a few minutes a couple of days this week; if you pray some, challenge yourself to pray daily this week*)