



## MESSAGE GROUPS - PRAY LIKE JESUS - WEEK 2

### LEADERSHIP THOUGHT:

Before you step in and lead this conversation, spend 10-15 minutes praying over your group time. Pray first that God would be glorified above all during this conversation. In essence, practice first what you hope others will soon begin to pursue in their own prayer lives.

### MESSAGE OVERVIEW:

We think prayer is too little to give it 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. Remember, the disciples were Jewish, and they knew how to pray, but they noticed something different in Jesus. What they noticed was a peace that only comes through complete surrender to the will of the Father. Jesus modeled the peace that comes as a **reward** of prayer.

### ICE BREAKER

Who in your household controls the television remote? The thermostat? The car radio? The checkbook? Which of these is most desirable to have control over and why?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

When we pray, we often assume the posture that our own personal agenda's, fears, needs, wants, desires are to take center stage. But when Jesus' modeled prayer for the disciples, he spoke from a different posture; "**Hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven.**" "Hallowed" means above all, set-apart, worthy of praise. Often times, our prayers sound more like this; "*Hallowed be my name, my kingdom come, my will be done, in Heaven as it is on Earth.*"

- Question: Why is it so common for us to focus and begin prayers with our needs first? What does that communicate about our relationship to God?

Jesus was intentional about a prayer model, not a manuscript; The order of His words communicate something very powerful; If God is all powerful, all knowing, and all loving, we must begin with Him. He is worthy of our praise. Many times, our prayers center on ourselves. It's about me. Jesus challenges this and seeks to teach the disciples and us to rethink the order of our prayers.

- Question: Why is it important to give glory to God first? What does it look like **for you** to express to God in prayer, "Hallowed be your name"?
- Which of these do you focus more on when you pray; the words you use or the position of your heart towards God? Which of these is more important to God based on Matthew 6?



Prayer starts with God and our acknowledgment that God is above **all**. The process for how we pray follows this order; 1. Declare God's Glory, 2. Surrender Your Will, 3. Acknowledge your Dependence.

Next week we'll focus on our needs and dependence on God, but before we get to us, we must surrender to him. We have kingdoms, and we have wills, but when we pray, we acknowledge that God's kingdom and his will is above all, including myself. **Here are 2 important truths about surrender;**

1. Prayer is not how we secure control, it's how we surrender control.

Your life will be more fulfilled if we align with God's kingdom and surrender our life and to him, and cannot experience his ever sustaining peace without.

- Question: What is holding you back from surrendering control of your will? [Terrified, Reluctant, etc.]

Declaring God's glory first re-affirms for us that we can trust God, our Father. **Surrender is trust in action.** Full surrender means we pursue...

2. God's Will, God's Way

This simply means **God's Sovereign will revealed His way**. God's primary way to reveal His sovereign will is through scripture. We can not separate God's will and God's way so we must intentionally seek to know His will and His ways.

- Do you find it easy or difficult to identify God's will in your life? Why?
- How do you answer the question, 'Am I living God's will for my life?'

The best way to answer this is to ask yourself; *Am I walking in God's ways by following His scripture?* **Read Psalms 119:105**

- How have you seen scripture help you navigate God's will in your life?

Difficulty comes when we confidently know God's will yet struggle with God's timing and God's way. This is when full trust in the character of God becomes important. In those moments we must remember; "Hallowed be your name." God is all powerful, all knowing, and all loving.

## WRAP UP / CLOSE

Here are two thoughts as you begin to journey into modeling prayer Jesus' way in your own life.

1. God does not ask us to do anything that Jesus hasn't already done. Jesus himself had to learn how to surrender inside of prayer.

*"Going a little farther, he fell face to the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.'"* -Jesus (Matthew 26:39)

2. Trusting in God and fully surrendering to both His Will and His Ways means we must be prepared to navigate the temptation to say, "God is not listening." Our situations and circumstances may not play out in our ways. This can't deter us from leaning in to God's sovereign will and clinging to His truths.

### **So, where in your life are you trying to secure control, rather than surrender control?**

Spend 5-10 minutes praying for each other to live in God's will and trusting his will and his way. (As a leader, determine if you will challenge each person in your group to pray aloud for the person to their right, or if you will lead this moment by opening and closing in prayer and leaving space for anyone who may want to pray in between.)

### **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)