

Study Guide #8 (Leader's Guide): K-group Bible Study for Week of November 5, 2017

Title of the Lesson: The Model Prayer

Jesus teaches his disciples how to pray!

Matthew 6:5–18 (NIV)

⁵ “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁷ And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹ “This, then, is how you should pray:

“ ‘Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

¹⁰ your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.

¹² And forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from the evil one.’

¹⁴ For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

¹⁶ “When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

- Remind your group that one of the discipleship skills that we want to develop this year is the ability to verbalize scripture to people with whom we will have the opportunity to minister. So we will continue to ask one of you to tell the bible story from memory.
- So, let's give our undivided attention to _____ as he/she verbalizes tonight's bible study passage.

Questions

- Now, let's open our bibles to Matthew 6:5-18. Let's review the scripture and look for details that need to be emphasized and remembered.
- After clarifying what the bible says, ask what resonated with you the most?"
- Today's passage comes in the middle of the Sermon on the Mount. Let's pay attention to the literary context. What comes right before and right after this passage and what does this teach us concerning Jesus' message in our text?
- Before Jesus teaches his followers how to pray and fast, he tells them who not to be like. Who is this and why should we not be like them?
- Many theologians refer to Matthew 6:9-13 as "The Model Prayer" because within it we find a pattern for organizing our prayer times. What is the pattern Jesus gives us?
- Did you notice the pronouns used in this prayer? What is the significance of this?
- Based on the above two questions, how well do you think most Christians pray today? Explain your answer.
- The text concludes with some instructions about fasting. This is what some consider to be a lost spiritual discipline in today's Christian culture. If you agree, why is this so? How can we effectively fast in today's culture?
- What do we learn about God from this passage?
- What do we learn about ourselves (mankind) from this passage?
- What actions do you plan to take as a result of this study and discussion?

Close with prayer. Pray specifically that the group can follow through with what God has put on their hearts to do.