



Dgroup Discussion Guide for February 4, 2018 THE PRAYER THAT CHANGES LIVES

Scripture: Matthew 6:9-13

“Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever Amen.]”

JESUS TAUGHT HIS DISCIPLES TO PRAY

“To know how to speak to God is more important than knowing how to speak to man. Not power with men, but power with God is the first thing.” – Andrew Murray

The disciples did not ask Jesus how to preach or how to perform miracles. Instead, they asked Him to teach them how to pray (Luke 11:1). What did Jesus teach His disciples about prayer?

In Matthew 6:5-7, Jesus taught His disciples to pray without the need to impress people. This means when we pray publicly, there is not need for prayers that are too long. We should not be embarrassed to pray short simple prayers as long as these prayers come from the heart.

Jesus also said that we are not to pray with meaningless repetition. Praying is not a punishment we should do repeatedly for sins. Nor should it be an attempt to manipulate God to agree with us. Rather, we are to make it a habit to pray from the heart as we talk to God, our Father.

In Matthew 6:9-13, Jesus gave us a model to follow in our prayers. Prayer changes everything, but most importantly, it changes us. Prayer changes our perspective, our priorities and makes us dependent on God.

PRAYER CHANGES OUR PERSPECTIVE

Jesus’ prayer model begins by calling God, **“Our Father”**. Jesus is saying that when we pray, we are praying to our Abba father. This was radical in their time because it was taboo to call God, our father. Today it may also be difficult especially for those who come from fatherless homes or who grew up with irresponsible fathers.

But when we realize that we are praying to a heavenly Father who is greater than any earthly father, our perspective will change. Prayer is recognizing that we have an intimate relationship with a loving God. With this perspective, we can rest upon God, as a Father who dearly loves us, knowing that we can come to Him anytime, anywhere.

PRAYER CHANGES OUR PRIORITIES

“Hallowed be thy name” means we understand that God’s name is above all names; he is holy and set apart and He is to be our top priority in our prayers. To hallow God is to glorify His name. he is most important in our lives so that wherever we are, whatever we do, we are to give glory to God.

“Thy Kingdom come . . .” means we submit to Jesus as our King today and are also looking forward to His coming again on earth with a new kingdom. (Revelation 11:15; Revelation 20-21)

Prayer changes our priorities toward God's kingdom. Our focus shifts to things with eternal value. Understandably,, those who do not know God will prioritize temporal things because this world is all they've got. But God's children are looking forward to the second coming of Jesus. They understand that when he comes, everything will change. Ang by bringing more people to know Jesus, we hasten His coming, for when the gospel has been preached to all the earth, then the end will come. (Matthew 24:14)

"Your will be done . . ." God wants us to desire His will, not our own will or others. We pray and do our best but to God we surrender the full control of our lives. Prayer will help us change our priorities and it will ultimately change our lives.

PRAYER MAKES US DEPENDENT ON GOD

The first three parts in the prayer model of Jesus are about God, His glory, His kingdom and His will. The last three requests are about our personal needs.

"Give us this day our daily bread . . ." This prayer is a declaration of our dependence on God day by day. For most of us, this may be difficult because we usually want to be independent and self-sufficient. When we trust God daily, He is faithful and gracious to provide for our needs. But we have to keep in mind that we are to come to God with our daily needs and not with our daily greed.

"Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors . . ." We all sin and need to seek forgiveness. But as we all need to be forgiven, we need to forgive others as well. Both are not optional for true Christians.

"Lead us not into temptation . . ." the word 'temptation' can be translated either as trial or temptation depending on the context. But this prayer is saying we need to admit that we are weak and we need help to resist trials and temptations that can lead us to sin. This prayer is powerful for our protection.

What happens to us is outside our control. How we respond shall depend on how we pray about it. Let us not take prayer for granted because through prayer our lives can change.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:.

1. PRAYER MODEL. What did you learn about the prayer model of Jesus for His disciples according to Matthew 6?
2. PRAYER HABIT. How do you pray? How does your prayer habit change you?
3. PRAYER COLLECTION. Share your prayer list with your group. Commit to pray for each other.

APPLICATION:

As a family talk about . . .

Prayer that Changes Live

1. Talk about the time you express your faith in Jesus Christ for your salvation. How has this made a difference in your life?
2. At present, how is your prayer life? Are you going through a dry spell? Are you still passionate and faithful in your prayer time?
3. What are the things that encourage you to pray? What are the things that discourage you to pray?

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.