

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Session 6

Reminders:

- Make sure to take the time to share prayer requests and pray for each other.

Keynotes from Session 6:

- Jesus teaches about prayer in two different places in the Sermon on the Mount: Matt 6:5-18 (the Lord's Prayer) & 7:7-11 (ask, seek and knock).
- We are taught to have conversation with God about everything - God invites us into his presence, he listens to us and speaks to us.
- Though God answer's prayer - he does this by giving "good gifts" to his children. This is not always in our timing and we do not always understand from our perspective.

Questions for Discussion:

- What does prayer look like in your life? (How and when do you pray? What do you usually pray about?)
- Where did you learn to pray (or who taught you)?
- Have you ever seen prayer "work" or be "answered"?

Read Matthew 7:7-11

- What do you find comforting or hopeful in this passage?
- Is there anything that you find troubling or does the passage bring up any questions? (You don't have to have an answer for these questions but it is good to name them and share insights with each other. Feel free to reach out to a pastor if you need help with a question.)

Pray together

With your group, use the Lord's Prayer as a guide for your prayer time today. The group leader can introduce each section of the prayer and then allow a few minutes for group members to pray a short (one phrase), out-loud prayer for that section.

1. Adoration ("Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name")

- Focus: Praise God for who He is (holy, Father) and recognize His power.
- Prayer: "Lord, I praise you for being a loving Father..."

2. Submission ("Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven")
 - Focus: Surrender your plans to His, praying for His authority in your life, home, and world.
 - Prayer: "God, I yield my plans today to your will..."
3. Provision ("Give us today our daily bread")
 - Focus: Ask for your immediate needs—physical, emotional, or spiritual.
 - Prayer: "Lord, please provide for my needs today, especially..."
4. Confession & Forgiveness ("And forgive us our sins, as we forgive")
 - Focus: Confess sins and ask for strength to forgive those who have wronged you.
 - Prayer: "Father, forgive me for [specific sins], and help me to forgive [name]..."
5. Protection & Guidance ("And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil")
 - Focus: Ask for protection from spiritual attack, temptation, and moral failure.
 - Prayer: "Lord, protect me from temptation and guide my steps..."
6. Praise ("For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever")
 - Focus: End by affirming God's ultimate power and sovereignty.
 - Prayer: "Because you are all-powerful, I trust you with this day."