



Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

**USE THIS GUIDE TO PREPARE FOR THE DISCUSSIONS IN COMMUNITY GROUP.**

### Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

#### Message Summary

Prayer is one of the spiritual disciplines that we sometimes don't like to talk about because we rarely feel like we're doing it enough or even doing it right. This week, though, we learned that prayer isn't an event as much as it's a connection, and we saw what prayer did in the life of Jesus as well as what the lack of prayer did in the life of Judas.

#### Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- What is prayer? How do you think a 4 year-old would answer this question? A 40 year-old? An 84 year-old?
- What do you think makes a prayer a "good" prayer or a "bad" prayer?
- Talk about the difference between prayer as an event and prayer as a connection. What light do the following verses shine on prayer? John 15:7; Romans 8:26; 1 Thess. 5:17
- Read Philippians 4:4-7. Based on these verses, is it wrong to ask for things when we pray? (hint: NO!!) What words or phrases show us that asking for things is part of praying? Look at verses 4 and 7 again. Do you see evidence of the requests being asked in the context of a relationship?
- Read Luke 22:42. What words and phrases reveal the relationship behind the request? How does knowing the Father help us submit to His will as we're seeking it?