



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:

The Big Idea

Prayer is bringing who we are to who God is and allowing who God is to change who we are.

Message Summary

Rather than giving His followers a rigid formula for how to pray, Jesus offered them a model for how to talk with the Father that is based around who God is and our relationship with Him and His family. While it's possible to follow a template and not change, it's impossible to bring who we are to who God is and not be changed. When His disciples asked Jesus how to pray, He showed them how to have a conversation more than how to complete a chore and He wants the same for us.

Discuss

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

- How would you describe your prayer life? Is prayer more like a conversation or a chore?
- Name some of the people you've known who you thought had a powerful prayer life. What are some of the things that made you think that?
- Read Hebrews 4:14-16 (especially note verse 16). Tim Keller has said that "the only person who dares wake up a king at 3:00 AM for a glass of water is a child. We have that kind of access." How can remembering that God is our Father ignite passion in our prayers?
- Paul pointed out that there are no personal pronouns in The Lord's Prayer. How can remembering that we're a part of a greater family change the way we pray?
- It's common in our culture to be concerned about our name, our kingdom, and our will. How can praying for God's name, God's kingdom, and God's will help us have the right perspective before we even ask for what we may need?
- Paul suggested the following steps in our prayers: Praise, Repent, Ask, Yield. Which one is the easiest for you? The hardest?