**Fellowship CommUnity Group**

**Discussion Guide for Leaders**

*Series: Lord, Teach Us to Pray*

*Sermon: “Flawed Prayer” (9-23-18)*

***Group Leaders & Host Homes*** *: Thank You for your service to the Lord and to your group by faithfully opening your homes and through leading the groups in discussion. May God richly bless you as you continue to participate in this disciple making ministry.*

**Group Announcements (Leaders: Please review prior to start)**

**1)** Welcome everyone to your group.

**2)** Please remind all group members to commit to letting group leaders & host homes know in advance if they cannot attend group. Set this as a standard.

**3)** Review all instructions: Start time, childcare instructions, refreshments and parking.

**4) Leaders: Please note special instructions for prayer time.**

1. **Getting To Know Each Other** *Please use these questions as a time for people to informally talk and get to know each other.*

Go around the room and have everyone answer this question: **Who was your favorite teacher in school and why?**

* **Opening Prayer**. (Either leader, host home or someone who is willing to pray out loud)

*(Notes from message for reference only – use only as needed)*

**\*\***Use Sermon notes bulletin insert

* **Prerequisites to Understanding the Lord’s Prayer** 1) This prayer is not designed to only be repeated repetitiously. 2) This prayer is simple and short. 3) This prayer is in fact not the Lord’s Prayer, it is to be “our” prayer. 4) This prayer must be learned, it will take discipline and diligence.
* **The Address:** Our Father in Heaven
* **Petitions:** Hallowed be your name; Your Kingdom Come; Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven
* **In Praying, Your will be done:** 1) We are praying that God’s will become our will.
* 2) We are praying that his will prevail over all of the earth and everything on the earth. 3) We are praying for Satan’s will to be undone.
* **Two greatest prayers for your life** 1) Pray that you would submit completely to God’s perfect will in your life. 2) Pray that your life would be spent contributing and serving God’s kingdom purposes.
* **Not The Goal of Prayer**: 1) The goal of prayer is not for our prayers to be answered as we want. 2) The goal of prayer is not the accomplishment of your purposes in life.

**The Goal of Prayer**: 1) The goal of prayer is to align our corrupted will to the perfect holy will of God. 2) The goal of prayer is to align our lives with God’s kingdom purposes.

* **Into The Text** (15 Minutes) (Leaders: This time is not meant to be application yet, this is time in the Word, before we seek to apply truth, we need to understand the meaning of the text. The section after this one will focus on application.)

1. Ask someone to read Luke 11:1-4. Ask someone else to read Matthew 6:9-13. *Luke and Matthew give different versions of the same prayer. Why is that?*
2. *Ask: What is the significance of Jesus telling us to refer to his father as our father in prayer? Why does Jesus say ‘our’ father and not ‘my’ father? What does it mean to ‘hallow’ Gods name? How can you pray in a way that revere’s God’s name as holy*
3. *Ask: What does God’s kingdom refer to? What does it mean that we are praying for it to come? How is God’s will being done in the heavenly realm? What would it look like for God’s will to be done on earth as it is in heaven?*

**Application & Discussion** (15-20 Minutes)

1. Say: Let’s move to application. *Ask: How does our familiarity with this prayer affect our ability to keep it meaningful? How does it impact you to think that the model of the Lord’s prayer should actually be ‘our’ prayer?*
2. *Ask: Is it possible to ‘hallow God’s name’ in prayer while at the same time regularly using the Lord’s name in vain? Why is this hypocritical?*
3. *Ask: Why must we understand that God’s kingdom will not come through human means like moral improvement, technological advancement, educational achievement, etc.? How can your prayers encourage God’s kingdom to come?*
4. *Ask:* *Give an example of a time you learned God’s will was not your will.*
5. *Ask: Do you typically pray for God’s will to become your will? How would your life change if you were 100% committed to your life being used for God’s kingdom purposes? Can you serve your purposes in life while serving God’s kingdom purposes?*

**\*\*Prayer Time**: **(Leader Say:**)

* We will now close with a time of prayer. During this series we will continue to be challenged to grow in our prayer lives and part of that will be in how we pray together as a group. We are not looking for long prayer, we are looking for simple, meaningful, heartfelt prayer.
* Like last week, start with the discussion leader and have each person go around the room and pray this one sentence out loud or your own variation of this one sentence.
* Pray this to the Lord, with all of your heart: “*Father, may your will be done with my life, please use my life for your kingdom purposes and not my own”*.
* *(****Leader****: Encourage those uncomfortable with praying out loud to pray that simple sentence, allow them to pass if they choose but do ask for this prayer to go around the room – give room for learning to pray)*
* Once everyone has prayed that simple sentence prayer, open it up for anyone else to pray, simple sentence prayers are fine, remember who our audience is, we are talking to our Father God, through his Son Jesus, in the Spirit’s power. He is not impressed with long eloquent prayers.
* The leader or someone else can close.