MATTHEW 6:5-15 / NOVEMBER 22

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Read and Pray

This week's sermon focuses on Matthew 6:5–15. With your group, read the passage together. Jesus teaches us that prayer is more than asking God for things; it is an invitation to know our heavenly Father, align our hearts with his purposes, and depend on him for everything we need. After reading, spend time in silent prayer. What stood out to you? What might the Spirit be pressing into your life from this message?

Sermon Recap (to *apply*, not rehash the sermon)

Review the sermon with your group. Focus especially on:

- Prayer is not about impressing others or earning God's attention. We approach him as beloved children who are already welcomed and loved through Christ.
- The Lord's Prayer is a model for our conversations with God, helping us see him rightly and align our hearts with his kingdom and will.
- God invites us to bring every need before him, trusting his provision while surrendering our circumstances to his wisdom.
- Prayer reminds us of our continual dependence on God's grace, leading us to confess our sins, forgive others, and seek his protection from temptation and evil.

Group Discussion

1. The sermon opened by acknowledging that many Christians love the idea of prayer but struggle with actually praying. What makes consistent, meaningful prayer difficult for you?
2. Look again at Matthew 6:5–13. What contrasts do you notice between the ways Jesus tells us not to pray and the model he gives us? What do these differences reveal about our relationship with God?
3. Jesus begins his prayer with "Our Father." The sermon asked us to consider what expression we imagine on God's face when we pray. How does your understanding of God's attitude toward you shape the way you approach him?
4. Jesus teaches us to pray, "Your kingdom come, your will be done." How might your prayers change if you approached them as an opportunity to participate in God's purposes rather than simply asking him to accomplish yours?
5. The sermon challenged us to use the Lord's Prayer as an outline for our daily conversations with God. Which part of this prayer do you most need to incorporate into your prayer life right now, and why?

WEEKLY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

REFLECT:
What does the way you currently pray reveal about how you view God?

RESPOND:
How can you begin using the Lord's Prayer as a guide for your daily prayer time this week?

REACH:
Who is someone you can intentionally pray for this week, asking God to work in their life and draw them closer to him?

PRAYER

- ☐ Thank God that through Jesus we can approach him as a loving Father who delights to hear from his children.
- ☐ Ask God to align your heart with his kingdom and give you a greater desire to spend time with him in prayer.
- ☐ Pray for a deeper dependence on God's grace, including the humility to confess sin, forgive others, and resist temptation.