



STUDY GUIDE

PRAYER 03.11.2018

[start with prayer]

Spend extra time praying and especially lifting up this week at CVC (Seek Week), that many will grow in prayer individually and for us a church.

Missions Prayer Focus this week:
Rachel & Justin Klubnik—Missionaries to El Salvador

[set up]

How has your relationship with your earthy father influenced your relationship with God?

In what ways do you think it's true that how you see God will impact how you pray?

[digging deeper]

Last weekend's message on prayer focused on Who we pray to. In essence, if you know who you are talking to, it changes the conversation. What stood out to you from the message?

Although there are many places in the Bible where we are instructed in prayer and see people model prayer, Jesus is still the ultimate example. Read Matthew 6:9. In light of how Jesus starts off this template/guide/example of how to pray, how does seeing Him address God as both Father and Hallowed help us know how to grow in the way we pray?

Divide your LifeGroup into two groups. Group 1—make a list of all the reasons people struggle with approaching God as Father. Group 2—make a list of reasons why people struggle with approaching God as holy. Use large post-its if you have them. After taking a minute to present your lists to the other group, switch papers and write a possible solution for each of the obstacles and then present those to the other group.

Look up these verses and look for why they remind us that we can experience relational intimacy with God:

James 4:8	1 John 3:1	Deuteronomy 32:6	Isaiah 65:24
Jeremiah 33:3	Zephaniah 4:17	Malachi 2:10	Isaiah 64:8
Isaiah 63:16			

Look up these verses and look for why they remind us that we need to approach God with reverence:

Hebrews 12:28	Psalms 33:8	Proverbs 9:10	Psalms 95:6
1 Samuel 12:24	1 Timothy 6:16	1 Samuel 2:2	Psalms 96:9
Exodus 15:11			

(An option for your LifeGroup is to pair up and select verses, then share principles that you pulled from the verses after 10 minutes of reading and reviewing.)

When do you most feel the awe and reverence of God?
When do you feel the most intimate and relational with God?

Extra study (if time allows):

When it comes to wondering how to pray to a trinitarian God, remember the traditional pattern that we draw from passages in Scripture: We pray to God the Father, in the name of God the Son, through the power of the Spirit. Although we see that Jesus said “Father” when He prayed, we also see insights of how we can pray to our 3-in-1 God.

Ephesians 5:20—Who do we thank and in Whose name?

Ephesians 6:18—We pray in the _____?

Acts 7:59—Who is Stephen praying to?

1 Corinthians 1:2—Who does Paul tell us to call upon?

1 Timothy 2:5—Who is our mediator?

Revelation 22:20—Who is being addressed at the end of the book?

How do these verses help you understand even more about how to pray to God?

[living it out]

A spectrum was shared on Sunday that showed two extremes. On one extreme are those who only see and approach God as holy, and therefore tend to lack the relational connection to God. On the other extreme are those who only see and approach God as Father, and therefore tend to lack the reverence that comes in being connected with God.

Where do you find yourself on that spectrum? How can you take steps to find yourself seeing, addressing, and praying to God as both? As “Our Father who is in heaven” whose name is Hallowed (holy)? Get ideas from your LifeGroup if you can’t think of steps.

[end with prayer]

Spend time praying around the themes of God as Holy and as Father. Also, lift up needs in your group and beyond that come to mind.