

Small Group Discussion Guide (11.12.23) — Read Matthew 6:9-15

- How have you been “relieved” in your own prayer life this week after last week’s message? Jesus doesn’t want us to be burdened by prayer, but liberate in praying those simple words, “Pray then like this” (vs. 9). Did you find any relief or victory or encouragement in prayer this week? What was most helpful for you?
- What are the things that often dominate your prayer requests? Joshua mentioned that if we were to take a survey, we might find that about 80% or so of our usual prayers are governed NOT by these first three petitions in vs. 9-10, but by other things (maybe even requests #4-6). Do you find that to be true in your own life or in the lives of others? Why is that so often the case, you think?
- What might this show us about the things that should have top priority when we pray? How would that shape and govern our prayers?
- What does it mean to ask God to “hallow His name?” Why do we even need to pray this prayer? What does it look like to pray it? What kinds of things will we be asking for when we do? How is this our (and the world’s) greatest need? Why might this be first on the list?
- What does it mean to ask God to “bring His kingdom”? In what two ways are we to understand “the kingdom of God”? Why is this important to keep in mind as we pray this prayer?
- What are practical ways we can ask for God’s kingdom to come in our lives and in the world?
- What does it mean to pray, “Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven?” In what two senses do we talk about “God’s will”? How can those be helpful categories in thinking about what God has revealed to us, what He has hidden from us, and how we should pray?
- How are you finding it hard right now to trust God’s sovereign will?
- If we were to go around and maybe list “one” prayer request under each of these three petitions that you would want to ask God for, what might those be?