

## Small Group Discussion Guide (11.5.23) — Read Matthew 6:5-15

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- What do you wish was different about your own prayer life? What are you discouraged by in prayer? What are the biggest hindrances for you? If you are being honest, does prayer often feel more liberating, or burdensome to you?
- In vs. 5-8, what are the two ways that Jesus shows us not to pray? Which one do you find you are more prone to do? In vs. 5-6, what is “hypocritical” prayer? In vs. 7-8, what is “pagan” prayer?
- If God knows what we need before we ask Him, then why ask at all?
- John Stott writes, *“It is always wise before we pray, to spend some time deliberately recalling who [God] is. Only then shall we come to our loving Father in heaven with appropriate humility, devotion, and confidence.”* How should having a right view of God affect and motivate our prayer lives?
- What is the structure of the Lord’s Prayer? How is it divided up? And what do these divisions and petitions teach about our priorities in prayer?
- In the invocation to the Lord’s Prayer, Jesus teaches us to call on God as “our Father in heaven.” What two truths is he teaching us to remember about God when we pray? Why are both so important?
- Do you tend to focus more on God’s imminence or transcendence when you pray? What does it mean for God to be “my Father?” What does it mean for God to be “in heaven?”
- What are some habits, disciplines, or practices that you have found to be most helpful in guiding your prayer life and regular prayer times? How do you need encouragement or accountability in daily prayer?