



Rock Bridge Small Group Discussion Guide

The Prayer Project - Part 1

LEADER GUIDE

SMALL GROUP LEADERS:

Encourage your group to participate in the Prayer Project!

- Engage with the **5X5 Prayer Challenge** to spend 5 minutes each day for 5 weeks in prayer and journaling.
- Join a **Facebook Live prayer time** on Wednesdays at 7 AM or Noon.
- Sign up for **Time with God**, which will focus on prayer.
- Come to the **Day of Prayer** for at least 30 minutes on March 24th at every campus.
- Attend each week and don't miss a message!

Ice Breaker: (choose one)

*How hard is it for you to ask for directions when you are lost or driving somewhere?

*How hard is it for you to ask for help from a neighbor, co-worker, etc?

Into the Word:

*If you had to summarize the sermon in 30-seconds, what would you be sure to include?

Read Luke 18:9-14

a) How would people in Jesus' day view the 2 people in this story?

b) What was the Pharisee focused on in his prayer? The tax collector?

c) What is Jesus contrasting in this story? What would have shocked Jesus' audience?

Teaching Tip: When Jesus uses a parable, the key meaning of the story is typically found in the contrast or the comparison. Additionally, there is usually a "shocker" in the story or something that would have really surprised Jesus' audience.

d) Why did the tax collector go home justified before God?

Apply the Word:

a) Using the sermon or the story in Luke 18 as a guide, what are some attitudes or practices regarding prayer that you need to stop?

b) What is your reaction to this statement: *"Every time I pray, I receive something good that I do not deserve."*

c) If helplessness or neediness is the one big condition for effective prayer to occur, how might God be working to raise your acknowledgement of your need for Him right now in your life?

d) How do believe God wants to use His word to you this week to change you? How can our group support you?

Prayer Time:

Open your prayer time with this statement from the disciples of Jesus:

"Lord, teach us to pray."

Then have each person pray the following:

"Lord, I need you in my _____ (health, family, finances, job, etc). I'm asking for your help, and placing my trust in you."

Commit to pray for our church:

Each person in the group please commit to praying for our church in these ways

- *400 Baptisms - for lives to be connected to Christ.*
- *Student Disciple Now weekend - for God to draw students to Him.*
- *That we would learn to pray and depend on God more than ever.*