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Hey leaders! We are in week 8 of our series, “*Sermon on the Mount*”! In Matthew 5–7, Jesus describes what it means to be blessed, how to treat others, and where true security is found. We will walk through Jesus’ words with clarity and relevance, challenging us to build our lives on something unshakable—His Kingdom.

NEED A RESOURCE, HAVE A QUESTION, OR WANT TO HAVE A CONVERSATION?
Let us know how we can help! Contact your groups director or discipleship@rockbridge.cc

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“The Lord’s Prayer is a framework for the
entire life of discipleship in the kingdom of God.”

[Dallas Willard]

LEADER RESOURCES || **Leader Note** We do our best to equip, empower, and encourage you to shepherd your group well. Access a resource by clicking on the underlined title and share them with your group!

- **Passage Summary**
 - Jesus teaches us to pray in a way that consciously positions us in the Kingdom as active participants in its reign. Prayer is how we seek the Kingdom, advance the Kingdom, and live in the Kingdom. This is why the first petition (to hallow) is the most important. When God’s Name is hallowed, everything is immediately better and things start to fall in place.
- **The Lord’s Prayer**
 - Use the Bible Project guide (includes a video and notes) for background and encouragement. This would be a good resource to share before you gather.
- **A Pocket Lighter to Ignite Your Heart**
 - To help your group members continue pondering what it means to pray the Lord’s Prayer, this would be a good podcast to share after you gather.

ENGAGE & CONNECT || **Leader Note** The goal for the icebreaker is to prepare your group for the conversation ahead by connecting with one another’s hearts and building joy together.

If you could ask God one light-hearted or silly question in prayer, what would it be?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER || **Leader Note** Begin your time together thanking God for his presence and praying His word back to Him. Ask a few people to pray, taking a posture of humility and dependence!

Spend a moment praying this passage, beginning your time together in humility and gratitude!

“All your works praise you, Lord; your faithful people extol you.
They tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might.”

[Psalm 145:10-11]

BIG IDEA || **Leader Note** Read this aloud so your group knows the theme of today’s reading and discussion.

The pattern of the Lord's Prayer is the pattern for prayer and our lives. Jesus teaches us the "way" to pray, which is also the "way" to be in the Kingdom!

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION || Leader Note Have people read aloud the passage as instructed. Your role is to FACILITATE, so keep your group moving along, encourage people to share, and look for opportunities to point out the grace and glory of God! Here are two reminders: 1) Every question does not have to be answered ... go where the Spirit leads! 2) Answers do not have to be read aloud ... they're for guidance!

1. In the sermon we heard, "*Direction determines destination, and attention impacts direction.*" What have you given your attention to recently that set a wrong ("not of God") direction for your life?

Have someone read aloud Matthew 6:7-15. Consider having someone else read it aloud again, possibly in a different translation to gain another perspective (i.e. CEB, the Message, Amplified).

2. According to Jesus, how should His disciples not pray? Why did he give that warning? *Jesus warns against babbling like the Gentiles, who believed long or repetitious prayers could manipulate their gods into action. Prayer is not persuasion, manipulation, or performance. It is relational conversation with the Father who already knows our needs.*
3. What does addressing God as "Our Father in heaven" reveal about Him? *It shows both intimacy and majesty. He is near to us as Father, but exalted above all creation in heaven. Prayer requires holding both truths together—God is approachable and caring, yet holy and sovereign.*
4. How does the Lord's Prayer guard us against self-centered prayer? *It prevents us from treating God like a "cosmic butler." Instead, it places our needs in the context of His greater glory. Even our petitions for daily bread, forgiveness, and holiness are ultimately for the sake of hallowing His name.*
5. Why does Jesus emphasize forgiveness as part of the pattern of prayer? *Forgiveness is central to kingdom life. God forgives us in Christ, and we extend forgiveness to others. A refusal to forgive contradicts the very grace we seek from the Father.*
6. When you pray, do you naturally begin with God's glory or with your own needs? How might starting with God's glory reshape your prayer life? *Answers will vary, but may include: Most begin with personal concerns. Shifting focus to God's greatness first creates awe, perspective, and stability, allowing us to approach our needs without being overwhelmed.*
7. What does praying "Give us today our daily bread" teach us about dependence? *It reminds us that all provision comes from God. It calls us to trust Him for daily, not future, needs—living one day at a time with confidence in His care.*
8. How do you personally struggle with forgiveness, either receiving it from God or extending it to others? *Forgiveness requires humility and remembering God's mercy. Some struggle with guilt and don't embrace God's grace; others cling to resentment. Jesus links the two: forgiven people forgive.*
9. Which phrase of the Lord's Prayer do you most need to internalize right now? Why? *Each person will resonate differently—trust for provision, release of forgiveness, surrender to God's will, or dependence against temptation. This question personalizes the prayer's application.*

10. In the sermon we heard, *"Your heart was made and wired for awe. Replacing awe of God for anything less than God will never lead us anywhere good!"* How is the Spirit inviting you to more regularly be in awe of who God is and what He is doing in your life daily?

STEP OF OBEDIENCE || Leader Note *This is an opportunity for people to put into practice what the Spirit is inviting them to do and live in obedience to God for the sake of love! You can encourage your group to be accountable to one another and use these to follow up with one another throughout the week.*

Beginning with God's glory and priorities, the Lord's Prayer draws us into a life where awe of God replaces self-preoccupation. *To pray this way is to live this way*—trusting the Father, aligning our will with His will, forgiving as we've been forgiven, and seeking daily His protection and provision.

As you consider your next step, reflect on: 1) Do I live more aware of my needs or of God's greatness? 2) Where am I resisting God's will because it conflicts with my desires?

Give your group a few moments to reflect on their answers to the questions above. Then have your group answer the question aloud. Feel free to separate into smaller groups of 3-4 for this question. The possible next steps of faith below are not for discussion, but simply a resource for your group members.

Step of Faith Ideas

1. Identify one person you need to forgive (or seek forgiveness from) and take a step toward reconciliation.
2. As a small group, begin or end your time together by praying through the Lord's Prayer with kingdom-consciousness.

PRAYER FOCUS || Leader Note *Be intentional about saving at least 5 minutes to pray together. Try the prayer activity below or pray for one another's personal requests!*

Walking the Way

Let's prayerfully reflect and remember that each phrase of the Lord's Prayer is both a prayer to pray and a way to live in the Kingdom.

- Say: "Jesus didn't just give us words to repeat—He gave us a way to live. As I read each phrase of the Lord's Prayer slowly, pause and consider what it looks like to live that line in your daily life."
- Read Matthew 6:9–13 slowly, pausing after each phrase.
- Invite people into pairs. Each person shares one phrase that stood out to them and prays a short sentence aloud, like:
 - "Father, help me live today trusting You as my provider."
 - "Lord, help me live forgiving others as You forgive me."
- Close your time by reading this prayer together:
 - *"Father in heaven, may your name be holy in our lives.
May your Kingdom be lived out among us.
Provide what we need,
forgive us and make us forgiving,
lead us in your way, and deliver us from evil.
This is the way of your Kingdom,
and we choose to walk in it. Amen."*