

## LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

### WHAT IF... I PRAYED IN THIS MANNER?

Matthew 6:5-13

Pastor Miles McPherson – September 28, 2014

The Lord's Prayer found in Matthew 6 isn't a formula for prayer, but it's a guide that Jesus gave us to focus our prayer for greater connection with God and effectiveness in accomplishing his will. This past Sunday, Pastor Miles gave us an outline called "AWCIPA" to pray through the Lord's prayer. Today in our LIFE Group, we will put it into practice by praying through the AWCIPA outline!

## MEMORY VERSES

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. (Matthew 6:9b-13)

## DISCUSSION STARTERS

Last Sunday, Pastor Miles challenged us to pray 15 minutes per day. How did your prayer life go this past week? Did you specify a place and time to consistently pray?

How did God answer your prayer for the "one thing" that you were praying for this past week?

## STUDY QUESTIONS

→ Read Luke 11:5-10

- What is your initial reaction to Jesus' story in v5-8?
- Notice the word 'persistence' ['impudence' (ESV) or 'shameless audacity' (NIV)] in v8; the Amplified Bible translates it as 'shameless persistence.' Why would Jesus choose to use this idea in talking about prayer?



- How does your view of prayer differ or align with Jesus' idea of being shamelessly persistent in your prayers?
- How does the story of v5-8 and the commands of v9-10 challenge you in your thinking about prayer?
- How will knowing the truth that Jesus wants you to be shamelessly persistent in your prayers change the way that you will pray in the coming week?

## PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

As we practice the AWCIPA prayer model together as a group, remember what Jesus said about being shamelessly persistent in prayer. Choose to lay aside any misconceptions or fears that you have about prayer and choose to engage in a conversation with a God who invites you to be bold! Don't worry about what you sound like, or what someone else might think. Make this about drawing close to Jesus in prayer!

**AWCIPA:** A guide, not a formula, to focused and powerful prayer. Spend 15 minutes or so in prayer as a group, taking 3 minutes for each letter in the acronym:

### **A: ADMIRATION AND PRAISE**

*Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.*

Matthew 6:9

Give honor to the King of the Kingdom. Psalm 9:1

Lord, I praise Your for \_\_\_\_\_

I thank you for \_\_\_\_\_

### **W: YOUR WILL BE DONE**

*Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

Matthew 6:10

Pray to know the Kingdom agenda. Matthew 26

Lord may your will be done in (my relationships, career, health...)

---



**C: COMMUNION WITH GOD**

*Give us this day our daily bread.*

Matthew 6:11

Pray for Kingdom food. Psalm 51:10-11 Psalm 16:11

Dear God, please bless me with your presence and the spiritual \_\_\_\_\_  
(strength, wisdom, vision, faith) to faithfully obey you this week

**I: INTERCEDE FOR OTHER PEOPLE**

*And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.*

Matthew 6:12

Pray to have Kingdom of God relationships. Matthew 5:44

God, please cleanse my heart of \_\_\_\_\_, Lord, please  
cleanse my heart of bitterness, anger, jealousy toward \_\_\_\_\_.

Lord please draw \_\_\_\_\_ (friends and enemies) close to you.

**P: PETITION FOR POWER**

*And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.*

Matthew 6:13a

Pray to exercise Kingdom of God power. Ephesians 6:10-13, 1 Corinthians 10:13

Lord please grant me the power and authority to \_\_\_\_\_  
(overcome sin or temptation, heal someone, exercise courage and faith).

**A: ADMIRATION AND PRAISE**

*For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

Matthew 6:13b

Pray for the eternal glory of the King. Psalm 119:164

Lord, I praise and give You glory for \_\_\_\_\_.

**TAKE IT HOME!**

- Spend 15 minutes in prayer each day this coming week. Use that time praying through the AWCIPA prayer model.
- What is one thing that you've been asking God for? Spend time every day for the coming week praying for that specific need.
- Watch a short video where Dallas Willard explains his personal prayer practice:  
<http://youtu.be/GqLmeubS65Q>

