

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

WHAT IF... AWCIPA

Matthew 6:5-13

Pastor Miles McPherson – October 5, 2014

Pastor Miles is continuing to preach on the topic of prayer and has challenged us to pray 15 minutes per day. For many people, praying in public can be very uncomfortable, and for others it seems to come easily. Our group is a safe place to learn and grow in our prayer lives. Prayer is simply having a conversation with God, and we don't need to worry about sounding a certain way or using certain words. We'd encourage you to take a new step in prayer today – even if you just speak one or two sentences to God, express what's in your heart!

Today we're going to focus on the A of the AWCIPA model: Admiration & Appreciation. We live in such a negative and critical culture that tends to pull us down. As we choose to admire God, we change our focus to how wonderful God is, where he intersects our lives and blesses us, in order to cultivate a life of thankfulness.

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 week we talked about being shamelessly persistent in our prayers – what were you shamelessly persistent for in your prayers this past week, and how is God responding?



STUDY QUESTIONS

→ Read Psalm 103:1-5

- What picture of God do these verses paint in your mind?
- Why do you think we so quickly forget the benefits that God brings into our lives (v2)?
- How would you describe the feelings that come with God's forgiveness and healing (v3)?
- David also praised God for redeeming him from "the Pit" (v. 4). Have you ever been in a figurative pit you couldn't get out of without help? Describe what that experience was like and how you saw God at work in your life.
- David stated that God "satisfies you with goodness" (v. 5). How would you define satisfaction?
- How does your relationship with Christ bring satisfaction to your life?
- Which of David's words in Psalm 103 do you resonate most with at this season of life? Which are the most difficult for you to echo? Why?
- What struggles are keeping you from daily declaring, "Bless the Lord, O my soul"?
- What are some practical ways we might encourage one another in our pursuit to forget the negatives and sins that God has forgiven, and instead to remember the true character of God?



PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

- Take a few minutes for each person to write out a prayer in the form of a song, paragraph, drawing, or statement telling God what you admire about him and the benefits that you are thankful for.

- For those who feel comfortable, share your prayer with the group as an expression of adoration to God.

TAKE IT HOME!

- Worship God daily this week through giving him adoration and appreciation. Every time a negative thought comes into your mind, choose instead to focus on God's greatness and give him praise and thanks!
- Continue to spend 15 minutes in prayer each day this coming week, praying through the AWCIPA prayer model.
- What is one thing that you've been asking God for? Be shamelessly persistent in prayer for that need this week!

