

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

PRAYER ACTIVATION PLAN

Matthew 6:9

Pastor Miles McPherson – October 19, 2014

Today we are going to talk about how names have many meanings. God the father has many names that describe some of his characteristics. Most of us today may have had some kind of nickname that was given to you that either meant something, or defined a trait of who you are. We will then talk about how our relationship with our earthly father has a huge impact on how your relationship with our heavenly father will be.

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 6:9-13)

DISCUSSION STARTERS

Think back to when you were growing up, did you have a nickname? If so what was your nickname? (remember this a PG audience)

How and why did you get this nickname?

Did your nickname ever become your identity in some shape or form? If so how?

In this season of life, what nickname would describe you right now?

STUDY QUESTIONS

In the Bible there are a lot of names for God (*Jehovah Shalom, Jehovah Shammah, Jehovah Rophe*, etc). Over the next few weeks Pastor Miles is going to unpack some of the names of God.



The thing about the names of God is that they help describe some of God's attributes and characteristics. The more fully we are able to know the character of God the more we can truly trust Him with everything.

→ **Read Matthew 6:9**

The Lord's Prayer begins with addressing God as our *Father*, the word Father conveys an idea of an intimate relationship.

- When you think of God as *Father*, how does this make you feel, or what comes to mind?

Often times our view of our earthly father affects the way we view our heavenly father.

- Take some time to share about your view of *God as a Father* with your group.
- How has your relationship with your earthly father affected your relationship with your Heavenly Father?
- For current fathers and future fathers, how does this motivate you to raise your children?

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! –1 John 3:1

For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, *but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. — Romans 8:15-16*

Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? –Matthew 6:26

"What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. *In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost. –Matthew 18:12-14*

- What message and theme is all of these verses hammering into our hearts?

Matthew begins the Lord's Prayer by using the phrase "Hallowed be your name"? For most of us we don't use the word "hallowed" in our everyday vocabulary. The word hallowed simply means "holy or blessed; highly respected".



- Jesus could have started this prayer with anything, why do you think Jesus felt it was important to begin with you and I recognizing God's Holiness? Take some time to share about this with your group.
- How does knowing that God is holy impact your prayer life?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

- Remember prayer isn't something we do to check off our *daily spiritual checklist*. We pray because we want to have a conversation with God. Conversation is the key to any healthy relationship, we speak to God and we listen to God. Just like any relationship communication is a two way conversation. We must pray and also wait to hear from the Holy Spirit to give us insight, wisdom and correction.
- This week take some time to praise God for his holiness.

TAKE IT HOME!

- This week when you pray each time you say 'God' pause... remember how Holy his name is.
- This week continue to spend 15 minutes in prayer each day, praying through the AWCIPA prayer model.

