

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

PRAYER ACTIVATION PLAN

Matthew 6:5-13

Pastor Ricky Page – October 12, 2014

Today we're going to focus on the W of the AWCIPA model: God's WILL be done. Let's continue to draw closer to God in developing a lifestyle of prayer, both as a LIFE Group and as individuals!

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

As Pastor Ricky continued the series on prayer this week, he gave five things that get in the way of praying: fear, doubt, priorities, insecurity, and impatience. Which of these 5 tend to trip you up the most?

STUDY QUESTIONS

→ Read Matthew 6:10

- What does it mean for "God's will to be done"? How is God's will done in heaven?
- Is it easy to know and follow God's will and plan all the time? Why or why not?

God's will is done on earth when believers follow God's revealed will, His desire for us to follow Him. On earth we get distracted by our own priorities and can easily fall into sinful patterns. Christ modeled following God's will for us in Luke 22.



→ Read Luke 22:39-46

After the Lord's Supper, Jesus and His disciples went from the upper room to the Mount of Olives. This statement in verse 39 serves as a transition to the events that would lead up to Jesus' crucifixion.

- Look closely at Jesus' prayer in verse 42. What, in your own words, was He saying?
- What is the "cup" which Jesus must drink?
- How does His prayer encourage you?
- Why do you think Luke included the detail that Jesus knelt to pray? What does that indicate about Jesus' surrendering to the Father's will?

In this passage we see that Jesus honestly struggled with the desire for his own will versus the desire to do the Father's will. He knows the difficulty of aligning our desires with the will of God. The Father had given a cup of suffering and death. The Son, in obedience and subjection, would drink it. Jesus knows that we can only find the strength we need to do the will of God through the prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit.

"Everything you will accomplish in your life, you will accomplish on your knees."
[God's message to Charles Stanley when in seminary]

- How does understanding that the cross is the will of God impact the way we view the crucifixion? How does it impact the way we view Jesus' prayer in the garden?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

- What must we believe to be true about God's character in order to pray for His will to be done in our lives and the world?
- What fears do you have about praying that God's will would be done in your life?
- What happens when we view prayer as something to check off our daily spiritual checklist instead of a relational conversation with God?



- Praise Jesus this week for His commitment to the will of God. Thank Him for remaining strong, despite the temptation. Pray that you would follow God's will as Jesus did.

TAKE IT HOME!

- Make a daily priority to ask God that his will would be done in your life, your home, your workplace, and in our city.
- Continue to spend 15 minutes in prayer each day this coming week, praying through the AWCIPA prayer model.

→ Read Isaiah 53:4-11

- How does this passage help us understand the will of God in the crucifixion?
- Do you think Jesus thought often about this passage of Scripture? How would the way He would have understood it been different from the way you or I might read it?

From the beginning, the Father knew that His Son would be the atoning sacrifice for sinners. Jesus, too, knew He was the suffering servant described in Isaiah 53. When it came to the moment, Jesus wasn't questioning the will of God. He was fully given over to fulfilling His purpose.

