

“What’s going on?”

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- + Sept 22nd, Sunday 3pm - LifePoint Kids Day at the Pumpkin Patch
- + Sept 28th, Saturday 1pm-5pm - Rethinking Parenting Workshop
- + Oct 3rd, Thursday 11-1:30 - Horizons Serve Day
- + Oct 7th, Monday 6:30pm - 8pm - Women's Ministry Event
- + Oct 14th, Monday 6:30am - 8pm - Prayer Stations
- + Oct 20th, Sunday both services - Operation Christmas Child boxes available
- + Oct 27th, Sunday 4:30pm - 7:30pm - Church Fall Bonfire

For more information on all of these events and more, stop by the Connect Center or check out our app and webpage!

MATTHEW 6:7 - 9

ICE BREAKER

In order to get to know one another a little bit better, we are going to play “*this or that*.” Each person will answer form one of the two opposing options. Each answer will split the group in two. As each person answers they will go to that side of the group.

KINDNESS || HONESTY

INTROVERT || EXTROVERT

FALL || SPRING

MOUNTAINS || BEACH

EARLY BIRD || NIGHT OWL

DESSERT || MAIN COURSE

PLANNER || SPONTANEOUS

FITTING IN || STANDING OUT

CENTERING FOCUS

As we enter our series on *Rediscovering the Lord’s Prayer*, let’s center our focus by having one person read the Lord’s Prayer two times, slowly, with pauses. After reading the passage twice, and pausing, have one person close with prayer.

Matthew 6:9-13 (TPT):

*'Our Father, dwelling in the heavenly realms,
may the glory of your name
be the center on which our lives turn.
Manifest your kingdom realm,
and cause your every purpose to be fulfilled on earth,
just as it is fulfilled in heaven.
We acknowledge you as our Provider
of all we need each day.
Forgive us the wrongs we have done as we ourselves
release forgiveness to those who have wronged us.
Rescue us every time we face tribulation
and set us free from evil.
For you are the King who rules
with power and glory forever. Amen.'*

LAST WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Last week's challenge was to think of one way you can invite someone into deeper community.

Question: Did you practice this challenge? How was it? Was it scary? How did God grow you into deeper intimacy with him through practicing community?

THOUGHT PROVOKING QUESTION

Question: What is it about group prayer that makes people uncomfortable? What are some fears?

Question: What is your prayer life like? (Example: Is prayer a regular discipline in your life? Do you struggle to pray with people? Do you struggle with words or feeling connected to God? There is no judgement; we are all growing.)

ENGAGING WITH SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:7-9 (ESV):

“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 9 Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name...”

Question: Verse 9 is the first line of the Lord’s prayer, where Jesus is teaching his disciples to pray. Who is the main subject of this first line?

Question: What name or title does Jesus use in his prayer? What is significant about this title? How does this title influence the posture we have before God in prayer?

Question: What does the word “hallowed” mean? As a group, look up Matthew 6:9 in a few different bible translations, as well as look up hallowed in the dictionary to help you come up with the best definition.

Question: Jesus’ word choices are intentional and meant to shape our communication with God. From what we know so far, what does Jesus want us to think about God as we approach him in prayer?

Jesus doesn't begin his prayer with a question, such as, “Father will you make your name hallowed?” But rather, he uses a command, saying, “Hallowed...”

Question: Do you pray with questions or commands? Why is it important that we pray with imperatives at times, like Jesus demonstrated? How does that change or shape our prayer lives?

Question: Jesus doesn't begin his prayer by telling his disciples to do anything, but rather calling their attention to God. When you pray, what do you typically focus on first? What do you prioritize?

A P P L Y

Before you pray together, as a group make a list of some of God's attributes.

- Gracious
- Forgiving
-
-
-
-

After you have made this list, spend 5 minutes in prayer as a group and focus on praising God for who he is. As attributes come to mind, praise him through your prayer.

N E W C H A L L E N G E

Part of growing in community, is growing as disciples of Jesus. We talk about discipleship as reorienting our lives around being with Jesus, becoming like Jesus, and partnering with Jesus.

This week's challenge is to begin to think and process how you can partner with Jesus together on his mission. You don't have to put anything into practice right now, but begin to pray and brainstorm.

Seek to come up with a mission that your community could do together, that would be sustainable, and effective for the kingdom of God.

If you're already participating in a mission with your community, think and pray through ways you could make it better, more effective, or more inclusive,