



Small Group Questions: Lean Into Prayer

In the message on Sunday Mike talked about who we pray to saying that we pray through Jesus, to the Father and in the Spirit. When we know who the Lord is, and how He prays for us, we constantly want to lean into prayer. In your group this week make sure to reserve a significant amount of time to pray together. Often, we spend more time talking to one another about prayer than we spend talking to God in prayer. Decide as a group when you would like to end your discussion and begin your time in prayer so that you don't cut into that wonderful time with the Lord. The questions below are meant to guide your conversations only if they are helpful.

1. When Mike asked you to picture the God that you speak to in prayer, what image came to mind? How do you think that has impacted how you pray?
2. Mike mentioned a list of common struggles that people have with prayer. Describe your prayers to the group. In your walk with Christ, were some of your biggest growth points in this area?
3. Do you believe the statement by J.D. Greer that "In Christ there is nothing you have done that makes God love you less, and nothing that you could do to make God love you more?" What difference would owning this statement make in your day-to-day life?
4. In John 14:14-16 Jesus says, "I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it." How do you understand "praying in Jesus' name"? How do you respond when Jesus doesn't do what you ask in prayer?
5. Romans 8:17 says that we are children and heirs of Christ if we share in His *sufferings* while v.28 says He works for our *good*. What is the relationship between these verses? How should that impact how we pray?
6. Romans 8:26-27 says that the Spirit intercedes in prayer for us before the Father. Spend some time searching your own heart and try to discern what the Spirit is praying over you? What does the Spirit's passion about this motivate you towards?

Spend time praying together. Pray through some of the Psalms together or some of the powerful New Testament prayers. You can also pray through J.D. Greer's Gospel prayer as a group.

The Gospel Prayer

In Christ, there is nothing I can do that would make you love me more and nothing
I have done that makes you love me less.

Your presence and approval are all I need for everlasting Joy.

As you have been to me, so I will be to others.

As I pray, I'll measure your compassion by the cross and your power by the
resurrection.