

Small Group Curriculum

TALKING TO GOD • WEEK 1 • Gospel of Matthew 6:5–13

Prayer is the pathway to intimacy with God. In Matthew 6, Jesus reshapes our understanding of prayer—not as performance or formula, but as relational connection with our Father. This week, we will explore what prayer is not, what it truly is, and how Jesus teaches us to pray through a simple, transformative framework: Worship, Surrender, Request, Confession, and Protection.

REMINDERS

- Team Night: If you are a current or prospective volunteer, join us for Team Night to hear where God is taking our church, huddle with your volunteer team, and enjoy tacos with one another. Childcare is available for babies - 5th grade. **THIS Sunday, March 8th 4-6:15pm.** More info and registration [here](#).
- *Knowing God* teaching series began this past Sunday, March 1st. Sign up for the daily scripture and prayer devotional [here](#).
- All upcoming events can be found [here](#).

ICEBREAKER

If you had to describe your current prayer life in one word, what would it be—and why? (Examples: consistent, dry, growing, confusing, peaceful, awkward, etc.)

INTRODUCTION

How do you really get to know someone?

You get to know them by spending time with them. The same is true with God. Prayer is not primarily about getting things from God—it is about being with Him.

Jesus addresses common misunderstandings about prayer and then gives us a model that leads to intimacy.

Tonight we'll examine:

- What prayer is not
- What prayer truly is
- How Jesus teaches us to pray

Transition: Let's begin with what Jesus says prayer is not.

AWAKENING

DISCUSSION

1. What Prayer Is Not

Read [Matthew 6:5–8](#).

Observation Questions:

- What behaviors is Jesus correcting in verses 5–6?
- What motivation does He expose in verses 7–8?

Interpretation Questions:

- Why do you think Jesus emphasizes praying in secret?
- What does it reveal about God that He already knows what we need before we ask?

Teaching Insight:

- Prayer is not a PERFORMANCE (seeking approval).
 - Prayer is not a SECRET FORMULA (manipulating outcomes).
 - Prayer is relational intimacy with the Father.
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2. What Prayer Is

“Prayer is simply keeping company with God.”

Read [Matthew 6:9–13](#).

Observation Question:

- What themes do you notice in the structure of Jesus’ prayer?

Explain briefly the framework Jesus provides:

- Worship – Recognizing God’s greatness
 - Surrender – Yielding to His will
 - Request – Asking for daily provision
 - Confession – Owning sin and receiving forgiveness
 - Protection – Seeking spiritual strength
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3. Walking Through the Framework

AWAKENING

Go section by section briefly, inviting reflection.

WORSHIP – “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.”

- Why does Jesus begin with worship instead of requests?

SURRENDER – “Your kingdom come, Your will be done.”

- What is one area of your life that is hardest to surrender?

REQUEST – “Give us today our daily bread.”

- What does “daily bread” look like in your current season?

CONFESSION – “Forgive us our debts...”

- Why is confession essential for intimacy with God?

PROTECTION – “Lead us not into temptation...”

- Where do you most need God’s protection right now?

Encourage honest reflection rather than rushed answers.

RESPONSE

Move the group toward application.

- Which part of the prayer framework feels most natural to you?
- Which part do you tend to neglect?
- What would change if you practiced this pattern daily for the next week?
- What is one specific step you will take this week to deepen intimacy with God through prayer?

Challenge:

For the next 7 days, spend 10–15 minutes daily praying through:

- Worship
- Surrender
- Request
- Confession
- Protection

Encourage journaling what God reveals.

Transition: Let’s practice this together now.



AWAKENING

PRAYER

Guide the group through a structured prayer time:

- **Worship** – Invite everyone to silently thank God for who He is.
- **Surrender** – Ask them to quietly yield one specific area to God.
- **Request** – Pray in pairs for one “daily bread” need.
- **Confession** – Silent reflection, asking the Spirit to reveal anything that needs to be confessed.
- **Protection** – Pray aloud for strength and protection over the group.

Close together:

“For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”