
Small Group Discussion Guide — January 18, 2026

- Series: The Praying Life
- Sermon: Kingdom
- Scripture: Matthew 6:10; Ephesians 6:18

FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK

A deep prayer life is an essential part of our relationship with Christ. Last week, David shared practical and meaningful ways to help us prioritize prayer in our daily lives. How did this impact your prayer life last week? Did it change your rhythms and/or your perspective?

CONNECT

1. If you could travel back in time to any certain era or event, when/where would you pick and why?

ENGAGE

1. Read Matthew 6:10, and for entire context of this verse read Matthew 6:5-14. What do you think Jesus is inviting us into when we pray, “*Your kingdom come, your will be done*”? How is this different from how you typically pray? What other thoughts come up about this verse?
2. Read Ephesians 6:18: What stands out to you in this verse about *how often* and *for whom* we are called to pray? How does knowing this verse sits in the context of spiritual warfare change how you view prayer?

APPLY

1. The sermon described prayer as “talking and listening to God”, and emphasized that *being with God* matters more than getting results. How does this challenge or relieve pressure you’ve felt about prayer? Have you ever felt like prayer was “too hard” or easy to give up on? Why?
2. The quote, “Relax, prayer is not something we accomplish; it’s something we enter,” reframes prayer as presence not performance. What might change in your prayer life if you truly believed it’s “hard to get prayer wrong”?
3. Kingdom praying “right-sizes” us. Said differently, we confess our need for God by praying for His kingdom, not our own. What does “*Your kingdom come*” look like in very ordinary places, e.g. your workplace, family, neighborhood, or commute? Where do you sense darkness, resistance, or brokenness that might need kingdom prayer?

GOING DEEPER

There are many helpful resources for growing our prayer life, but one of the most powerful things about prayer is that it's available to anyone, anytime, resources or not. John Mark Comer describes one of the most fruitful dimensions of prayer as "being with God-just looking at God, looking at you, in love." In a world full of distractions, what do you notice or experience when you slow down, sit in solitude, and simply rest in God's presence, even for a few minutes? Consider how this dimension of prayer joins the idea of kingdom prayer, and what impact that could have for His world?

PRAYER

Dear Father in Heaven, thank you for this day and for the opportunity to draw closer to You. We know that prayer is essential to our faith, yet at times it feels difficult. Shape us, Father, into a people who long for and prioritize resting in Your presence - looking at You, and allowing You to look at us, in love. We confess that we need You and that our ways fall short. Forgive us for our selfishness, and lead us into a deeper relationship with You, so that Your kingdom may come and Your will be done, now and forever. Amen.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE

Psalm 100:3; 13:1-2a; 103:1 (as recommended for a focused prayer)

QUOTES

"In that moment in the hospital, I was not trying to express my faith, to announce my wavering devotion to a room full of busy nurses...nor was I trying to call down (in the words of Richard Dawkins) my sky fairy to come save me. Through prayer I dared to believe that God was in the midst of my chaos and pain...I was reaching for a reality that was larger and more enduring than what I felt in the moment." Tish Warren

"Relax, Prayer is not something we accomplish; it's something we enter. It's pretty darn hard to get prayer wrong." Winn Collier

"In the simple word, 'our' is the joy of the whole gospel. We will never be able to calculate the honor that has been done to us by being allowed to say, 'Our Father'." Dale Bruner

"We have a domesticated view, that for all its doctrinal precision, has downsized the glory of Christ in our hearts." Dane Ortland