

KINGDOM PRAYER

WEEK 1 (November 8-14)



New Hope | Small Groups



SERMON SERIES: NOV-DEC 2020



SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES:

SAFE GROUP: everyone can be real, open, and honest with their struggles and victories.

CONFIDENTIALITY: What is said in the group stays in the group.

LISTEN: really listening to what is being shared. Try to avoid thinking about how you are going to respond, or what you are going to say next.

PAUSE: Give the person sharing the chance to finish and the group the opportunity to consider what was just shared before responding.

NO "CROSS TALK": Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations.

NO FIXING: We are not here to fix each other. Jesus does that part. Give encouragement; speak truth, and point to Jesus.

NO RESCUING: When people are sharing something deeply personal resist the temptation to rescue them by giving advice. This will often cause them to stop sharing.

SHARING: Be sensitive about the amount of time you share.

BE SELF-AWARE: Be self-aware of how you are personally affecting the environment through your words, actions, and non-verbal communication.

USE "I" STATEMENTS: It's easy to talk about the issues of others, but for our purposes, we want you to put yourself on the table. Try to use "I" statements rather than "them", "the church", "us", "we", etc.

CONFLICT: When conflict or sin issues arise, we want to make sure that we are honoring God and each other in the way we deal with these issues.

Small Group Evening Schedule:

10min - Hangout time

40min - **Storying through scripture:**

Sometimes our prayers are like the small ripples across the top of the water—just scraping the surface—and other times, they are like the waves churning *beneath* the surface—powerful and deep. Both are beautiful ways of acknowledging and communicating with God, but when we limit our prayers to those surface ripples, we deny ourselves a deeper relationship with God, and we deny Him a deeper relationship with us.

Sometimes all we know how to do are those surface prayers: "Thank you for this food, forgive me if I've done something wrong, bless this family." Reaching out to God is always a good thing, but it can be an *amazing* thing if we're willing to dive in and explore the depths of our connection with God.

Matthew 6:9-13

I learned this prayer as a child, and it became another habitual surface prayer for me because I didn't know to look deeper. But the Lord's prayer, like so many other things in the Bible, is a guide. It shows us how to build our own deep, heartfelt prayer.

Break the prayer down, summarizing each verse into one or two words: greeting, guidance, forgiveness, praise, etc.—whatever words come to your mind.

Everyone's prayer is going to be different, because each prayer should be our own unique conversation with God. We praise Him in our own way, we make requests of Him based on our own needs, and we seek forgiveness for our own sins, we even address Him in our own way. I open my private prayers with "Heavenly Father."

How do you address God when you speak to Him?

Why do you think praise is the first thing we should offer up in prayer? And why do we immediately follow it with addressing God's will rather than ours?

Prayer can be powerful when we put our hearts into it, when we seek personal time with God. Our words don't need to be elegant, and prayer doesn't need to be long. God knows our hearts, and He's just waiting for us to open them up to Him in prayer.

If you rarely spend time talking to God, I encourage you to change that this week. Even if you have to write down the prayer first to help guide you through it.

10min - Share prayer requests & pray.

(one person write requests and email/text to the rest of the group)