

SG Discussion Questions

for Personal Study and Small Groups 11/3/13

The God Behind Jesus' Prayers

Purpose of SG: to foster in its members the biblical values of worship (God), discipleship (church), and outreach (lost).

2013 Annual Focus: Drawing Near to the Good and Mighty King.

Announcements: (1) Gathering for prayer 11/3 and (2) Who is our "Evangelism Champion?"

SG Discussion Questions:

Focus: encouraging the church in prayer by reminding them of the God they pray to, based on Jesus' prayers and teaching on prayer in Matthew (with specific application to the church's financial needs and JOF campaign).

This discussion will need to take a different shape than most. Since it surveys so many passages in Matthew, you will need to rely more on your people's sharing than any detailed discussion of any one passage.

You may want to have read aloud the passages on prayer from Matthew that were used in the sermon. They are listed below. Encourage people to be reminded (maybe for the first time!) of what Jesus is teaching about the God we pray to that they really need to let shape their prayers. You can read them and discuss them one by one (though there are a lot of them!) or read them all and then let people share after they have all been read.

Once that is read, you can facilitate a conversation on the God we pray to. Ask questions like:

Which of these traits of God has been most meaningful in your prayers in the past?

Which of these traits have you not let shape your prayers? How would focussing on that trait as you pray affect your prayers?

How do you propose to implement this teaching and have it shape your praying?

You may want to encourage people to memorize the passage that they most need to have shape their prayers.

Here are the passages from the sermon:

Matt. 5:43-48; 6:5-6; 6:7-8; 6:9-13; 7:7-11; 9:37-38; 11:25-26; 14:19-20; 14:22-23; 17:20; 21:21-22; 26:36-44; 27:46