

groups

Study Group: Leader Guide
Building a Healthy Church - Prayer
Matthew 6:7-15 – March 11th-17th

CHECK-IN

*An opportunity to show authentic community as we **share the struggles** and **celebrate the victories** we've experienced in the last week.*

STUDY

Main Topics: Prayer, Trust, Power

Read Matthew 6:7-15

- What is the purpose of prayer? (see Leader Notes)
- Describe the framework Jesus gives us here in the Lord's Prayer.
- Why is it important to pray to God as our Father?
- Where are we called to submission in the Lord's Prayer?
- What does this prayer reveal about what a disciple should value?
 - Whose agenda drives this prayer?
- How does the Lord's Prayer place a focus on the past, present & future?
- How does prayer demonstrate dependence on God?

APPLY

- Why is prayer essential to building a healthy church?
- What are common ways we make prayer about ourselves rather than God?
- How does prayer fall under the commands to "Come follow me" and "Go into the world"?
- Has God revealed sin to you as you've prayed?
- What do your prayers reveal about what you value?
 - Whose agenda drives your prayers?
- In what ways do we underestimate the power of prayer?
- Take some time and share answered prayers that have occurred in the last few weeks, months, or year in your group.
- How can we place a greater value on prayer:
 - As individuals?
 - As a church?

CLOSE

Which attributes of God did you see in this week's passage? How should it change the way that you pray, think, speak or act this week?

Leader Notes:

What is the purpose of prayer?

There is a ton that could be said in response to this question. Here are two quotes that are a good place to start.

"The primary purpose of prayer is not to get something but to know someone."
- David Platt

"God has established prayer as the means by which we receive his supernatural help. And without supernatural help, we cannot live a life worthy of the gospel. Everything that distinguishes Christians from the world in a Christ-exalting way is a work of God's supernatural grace. And God has ordained that this grace flows to us through prayer. That's why prayer must be central, not peripheral, in our lives and families and ministries."
- John Piper

Reminders to Leaders:

- This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Study Group.
- Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word.
- There may be questions you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth.
- Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. Your role is to **facilitate this experience, not to complete** the discussion guide.

What are Groups?

Groups at Boca Community fall into 1 of 3 categories: Study, Serve or Outreach. Each group consists of 8-16 people who encourage, challenge and care for one another as they walk through life together.

A full list of Groups can be found at bocacommunity.org/groups