

discussion guide for June 10th

"How to Talk to God"

Mt. 6:9-13 (p. 1255-DSB*)

GRIND IT
BREW IT
DRINK IT
SAVOR IT



"Yes, I try to find **common ground** with everyone." 1 Corinthians 9:22b NLT

➤ **GRIND IT** (11:00 am)

A 2003 survey by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press had a question on prayer which read: *"Prayer is an important part of my daily life."* Participants chose from five possible answers: *"agree completely, agree mostly, disagree completely, disagree mostly or don't know."* What percentages would you guess the American consumerist society chose each answer? Work together and come to a group consensus to fill in these blanks. "Our group thinks:

- _____ % chose "agree completely"
- _____ % chose "agree mostly"
- _____ % chose "disagree mostly"
- _____ % chose "disagree completely"
- _____ % chose "don't know"

(AFTER FILLING IN THE BLANKS, TURN THE PAGE TO "BREW IT")

*"DSB"=Discovery Study Bibles on common ground tables.

➤ **BREW IT** (11:10 am)

Believe it or not, 51% of Americans chose "agree completely" (up 10% from a generation ago.) Another 30% chose "agree mostly," meaning 81 percent of Americans say prayer is an important part of their daily lives. But how many Americans really know how to talk to God? Pastor Tom gave us 4 practical truths about prayer from Jesus' model.

1. Begin by Reflecting on the God You're Approaching
Our Father in Heaven.
 - What character qualities does addressing God as "father" bring to mind?
 - How does having a father "in heaven" impact you as you think of approaching God?
 - What does the word "Our" bring to mind about your approach to God?
2. Concern for God's Glory Comes Before My Needs
Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
 - How would God's glory be increased on earth by the granting of each of the three requests containing "thy"?
 - How would your prayers need to change to focus more on God's glory ahead of your own needs?
3. Bring Personal Concerns to God as Jesus Taught
Give us ...our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive ... And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil
 - How do these three requests involve our past, present, future? How do they involve the Trinity?
 - Why do you think Jesus linked these three requests with "and"?
 - How does Jesus' model prayer encourage both physical and spiritual needs to be brought to God?
 - How did Jesus model seeking forgiveness from past sins and power over future sins?

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➤ DRINK IT (11:40 am)

4. End by Dedicating Your Entire Life to God

“For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever”

How can you dedicate yourself to:

- Living in God’s kingdom?- Luke 9:2 (p.234-DSB*)
- Living by God’s power?- Phil. 2:13 (p.234-DSB*)
- Living for God’s glory?- 1 Cor 10:31 (p.234-DSB*)

Prayer Time: (11:45 am)

- Reflect on the God you are approaching.
- Prayer needs concerning God’s Glory
- Prayer needs of people outside the group.
- Prayer needs of members in the group.
- Pray for absentees by name. Consider giving _____ a call this afternoon.

Go Deeper: Use the *“Savor”* section of this guide in your daily quiet time this week. If you would prefer receiving a daily e-mail, [Sign up for “The Daily Cup” e-mail devotions: herb@hbcaustin.org](#)

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➤ SAVOR IT (all week long)**

You explored 4 truths from Jesus’ model prayer. These readings will serve to reinforce these truths as you apply them in prayer each day.

- Monday, June 11: Read Psalm 33:6-22, (p. 688-DSB*).
- (1) As you reflect today on the one you approach in prayer, let these verses flood your mind and guide your thoughts toward our Father in heaven.
- Tuesday, June 12: Read Psalm 8: (p. 666-DSB*). As you reverence God’s name, His kingdom, and His will, let these verses enlarge your capacity to (2) consider God’s glory before you approach Him with your needs.
- Wednesday, June 13: Read 1 Peter 5:6-11, (p. 1642-DSB*). (3) God wants you to bring personal concerns to him. What physical needs could you “cast on Him” today? What sins need forgiveness? What temptations need power to overcome? These “anxieties” are the “stuff” of daily cares. What should you “do” with them?
- Thursday, June 14: Read Philippians 2:12-16 , (p. 1571-DSB*). (4) End your prayers by dedicating your entire life to God. It is His kingdom to be magnified, His power that will sustain you, and His glory that should reflect in your life. Dedicate yourself to be a “shining star” for God.
- Friday, June 15: Read Matthew 6:9-13, (p. 1255-DSB*). As you use this model for your prayer experience today, take note of the sections that help you remember to (1) reflect on the one you approach in prayer, (2) consider God’s glory before you approach Him with your needs, (3) God wants you to bring personal concerns to him, (4) End your prayers by dedicating your entire life to God.

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