

Counter Rev Small Group Conversation based on Matthew 6:9-15

Keep things moving - don't let any part of evening drag on. Don't be rigid in the use of this guide - reword or change or leave out parts if you want. At the end everyone prays - be sure to let people know they don't have to pray aloud; only if they want to.

Getting to know each other

- Our relationship with our earthly father tends to influence our perception of our heavenly Father. If you're comfortable doing this, tell us *a little* about your own father (or man who played a fatherly role in your life) and your relationship with him. *If your group is big divide them into 2 or 3 smaller groups for this part.*

Understanding the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:9-15

- Read the Lord's Prayer to the group from the NIV translation.
- *If some of your group did not hear the Sunday message, then play the summary audio clip.*
- CS Lewis once said, 'We only show we understand something when we can paraphrase it in our own words.' Here's an example of Eugene Peterson's paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer:

'Our Father in heaven, Reveal who you are. Set the world right; Do what's best— as above, so below. Keep us alive with three square meals. Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others. Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil.'

- Give people the choice to do the following on their own or with a partner: using pen and paper, paraphrase the Lord's Prayer for yourself. Then, if you want, share your paraphrase with the rest of the group.

Applying and praying through the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:9-15

Get in groups of 4 or 5 for this last part.

- There are three ways we can all pray more on a daily basis: 1) We can set aside time everyday usually in the same place to do nothing but pray, even if for a few minutes. 2) We can keep conversation with God while we are on the move throughout the day, including God in what we are doing. 3) We can pray together with fellow-believers. In light of these three practices, and as far as you're comfortable to share, share a) what your current prayer-life looks like and b) any changes you'd like to make in your prayer-life.
- Pray short to-the-point prayers as you spend two minutes praying through each of the five themes of the Lord's Prayer (that brings it to a total of 10 minutes):
 - 1) Pray to the wonderful Father (v9).
 - 2) Pray for the spread of God's fame and reign (v9c-10).
 - 3) Pray for (and thank God for) practical provision (v11).
 - 4) Pray for restoring of relationship, with God (v12a) and people (v12b)
 - 5) Pray for deliverance from temptation and trials (v13).