

Sermon Based Small Group Guide  
For November 21, 2021 sermon:  
***"Why I need to pray"***

**Warm up:**

1. Do you know "The Lord's Prayer" by heart? If so, when and where did you learn it and how has it shaped your personal prayer life?
2. Have you ever been with someone for an extended period of time (hours or even days) and had little or no conversation with them? How awkward was that? One of the basic truths about God is that He is "Omnipresent" (everywhere present), so he is always with us and His Spirit lives within the believer. Would you agree or disagree that our prayer life is a good indication of the closeness of our relationship with God?

**Digging deeper:** (20-30 minutes)

1. In Luke's Gospel, after Jesus teaches his disciples the pattern for prayer, he teaches them about the character of the Father and encourages them to pray and to persist in prayer. Read Luke 11:1-13 and answer these questions:
  - How is the attitude of the Father different than a reluctant friend? (vs. 5-8)
  - What are the 3 amazing promises made to those who pray? (vs. 9-10)
  - Parents know what their children need, what does God know we need most?(v. 11-13)
2. Let this soak in...God not only wants us to pray, but He wants to answer our prayers. The problem with "unanswered prayer" is with us, not with God. Read the following passages and talk about the prerequisites or conditions for answered prayer:

James 4:2-10    Matthew 7:9-11    Ephesians 1:15-21

3. There are lots of ways we can pray for the people in our lives. The trap we easily fall into is praying the same request in the same way every time. I don't know if this is the "vain repetition" that Jesus warned about, but may be close. Keep it fresh! We learn a lot from the Apostle Paul and the passages where he talks about HOW he prays for the believers and churches he writes to. Read Philippians 1:3-6 and 1:9-11 and identify all the specific requests he is making to God on their behalf. Why does he pray with joy?

**Apply it:** (10 minutes)

Worship: Someone in your group...would you lead in prayer and simply give God the reverence, honor and worship He is due?

Thanksgiving: Next, ask for a volunteer who would spend a few moments recognizing the goodness, kindness and generosity of God.

Requests: Any specific needs or burdens? Share and lift them up in prayer together.