

Sermon Based Small Group Guide for October 30, 2022 sermon:  
**"A pattern or a prescription?"**

**Warm up:**

1. During the opening game of the 2022 baseball World Series, the artist invited to share the National Anthem flubbed the words. What is something that you have memorized? How did you memorize it? Would you share it with your small group?
2. The "right words" or the "right heart" ...which is more important in almost every area of life? How should this encourage us when we struggle with our words in prayer?

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

1. ASK: What does the word "holy" mean to you?

C. S. Lewis wrote: *"As our culture loses a sense of God's holiness, we lose a sense that anything is holy."* In other words- If we don't honor God as being holy, then everything else will lose some of its value or significance. If God is not holy, then go ahead and rush into His presence without giving thought to your sinfulness, or the selfishness of the request you are about to make. Read the following passages and talk about what they say about our Holy God. 1 Chronicles 16:28-29, Psalm 11:4-7, Psalm 68:5-6, Lamentations 3:22-27

2. ASK: How do you wrestle with the very different commands to "fear the Lord" and to "love the Lord"?

Fearing God- read Psalm 111:10 and Proverbs 14:27

Loving God- read Mark 12:29-30 and Psalm 97:10

God is the PERFECT parent! With that in mind, talk about what we know about the skills involved in being a good (but imperfect) human parent. Do you know what is good for your child more than they do? Do you have a strong desire to protect them from poor choices? Do you understand the importance of them obeying...and quickly? How does excellent parenting, and a balance of "love" and "fear" help you understand why God demands both from us?

**Apply it:** (10 minutes) Talk about the other aspects talked about in the Lord's model prayer as you apply this to your prayer life.

-Do you have God's word and will in mind as you pray? ("Your Kingdom come, Your will be done.")

-Do you realize your complete dependence on God or are you self-willed until something in your world falls apart? ("Give us this day our daily bread.")

-Do you quickly and specifically confess your sins to God?

-Do you extend forgiveness to others because you appreciate God's forgiveness?

Close by sharing requests and praying with and for each other.