



SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

WEEK: 22

GOAL OF TONIGHT

Help students see how God's story intersects with their story and why that matters in their day-to-day life.

WELCOME & ICE BREAKER

Let's begin by playing the game, "Two truths and a Lie." Each person shares 2 truths about themselves and 1 lie, but present all 3 as truths. Then, the group guesses which was the lie. Leaders- if your group is large, just have a few people volunteer to play and then move on to the Bible study.

BIBLE VERSES

Matthew 6:5-17, suggested version NLT

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS THE BIBLE VERSES

Today we are going to dive in to the topic of prayer. For many of us prayer is kind of a mystery! How can we REALLY talk to God? Let's dive in by reading a prayer to start our time together:

"Dear God, we come before you and give thanks for everything we have. We ask that you continue to bless us. Give us the things that we need and the things that we want. Help us get the best phones, the best video game systems and the coolest clothes. Help us make good grades on all our tests and homework, and help us to win and be number one at whatever we try. Thanks God. Amen."

Ask: If you heard this prayer in a worship service, how do you think you would react/feel? How is this prayer different/same as your idea of prayer?

REFLECTION: Go around the circle and invite each person to finish the phrase "Prayer is..." with one word.

Now read together Matthew 6:5-17:

Ask:

1. Who is speaking in these verses? Who is teaching us to pray this way?
2. What parts of this prayer suggest that we SHOULD ask for what we want from God?
3. What parts of this prayer suggest we should ask for OTHER THINGS than what we want or desire?
4. Do you think God judges our prayers as we pray them? Why or why not?

Leaders - this is a lot of content so choose the sections of this study that will work best for your group. Just make sure the Scripture is the center of your discussion. You've got this!

LEADER INSIGHT

Prayer IS a very mysterious subject. See if you can get your group to really open up about this topic in the next 2 weeks. Encourage them to be open about what they love and what frustrates them about prayer. Pray together and come up with creative ways to make prayer more "normal" for them. This is one of the most important things we can help them understand!

APPLICATION SUGGESTIONS

As a group, make a short list of what 3 or 4 things would be good to include any time you talk to God. Once you make the list, see if your group can come up with a way to remember it. Ex) An acronym (Thanks, Needs, Forgiveness (TNF))