

# Small Group Bible Study

## Plastic Christianity Week 2

### Main Theme

This week exposes the difference between empty, surface-level prayer and real connection with God. Prayer isn't about saying the right words, it's about actually knowing and meeting with Him

### Opening Prayer

God, teach us how to truly pray. Not just words, but real connection with You. Amen.

### ICEBREAKER QUESTION

- If you had a completely free Saturday this spring, no responsibilities at all, how would you spend it?
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### SCRIPTURE STUDY

#### 1. Read Matthew 6:5-8

Jesus starts by confronting performative prayer. People were praying to be seen, to sound impressive, to appear spiritual. But Jesus says that kind of prayer already got its reward...attention from people. Real prayer isn't about others hearing you. It's about God hearing you.

- What stands out to you in how Jesus describes fake prayer?
- Why do you think people are tempted to perform in their faith?
- What does it look like to pray "to be seen" today?
- Why does Jesus emphasize praying in private?
- How does this challenge the way you approach prayer?
- What would it look like for your prayer life to be more about God than others?

#### 2. Read Matthew 6:9-13

Jesus doesn't just correct prayer, He shows us how to pray. The Lord's Prayer is not about memorizing words, it's about shaping our hearts. It starts with God's name, His kingdom, His will, before ever getting to our needs.

- What stands out to you about the order of this prayer?

- Why do you think Jesus starts with God instead of our needs?
- What does “Your will be done” actually mean in real life?
- How does this prayer shift your perspective on what prayer is for?
- Where do you tend to focus most when you pray?
- What is one part of this prayer you want to grow in this week?

### **3. Read Luke 11:5-13**

Jesus tells a story about persistence in prayer. The friend keeps knocking, not because he’s polite, but because he won’t stop asking.

God is not annoyed by your persistence. He invites it.

- What stands out to you in this story?
- Why is persistence important in prayer?
- How is God different from the reluctant friend in the story?
- Where have you been tempted to give up praying?
- What would it look like to keep showing up in prayer even when nothing changes?
- How does this passage encourage you in your prayer life?

### **SERMON RECAP QUESTIONS**

- Do you ever feel like your prayers are more routine than real?
- Where are you most tempted to treat prayer as performance instead of connection?
- What part of your prayer life feels most disconnected right now?
- How can you move from talking at God to actually being with Him?
- What would a real, honest prayer life look like for you in this season?

### **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

- What is one specific, intentional change you will make to your prayer life this week (time, place, honesty, consistency), and when will you actually do it?

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

God, we don’t want empty words. We want real connection with You. Teach us to pray in a way that is honest, consistent, and rooted in relationship. Amen.