



The Audience of One

Small Group Questions

Week of May 24, 2026

Icebreaker: What's the funniest or most awkward moment you've had trying to look impressive in front of other people?

Read Matthew 6:1–18 Together

1. Living for God vs. Living for Applause: Jesus warns against doing good things “to be seen by others.”

- Why do you think people naturally want recognition?
- What are some modern-day examples of “performing” spiritually?
- How can we tell when our motivation is drifting toward approval from people instead of closeness with God?

2. Giving in Secret (Matthew 6:1–4): Jesus talks about generosity that isn't done for attention.

- Why do you think secret generosity matters to God?
- Have you ever been impacted by someone's quiet kindness?
- What might it look like to give humbly in everyday life?

3. Prayer That Is Real (Matthew 6:5–15): Jesus teaches honest, sincere prayer and gives the Lord's Prayer.

- What stands out to you most in the Lord's Prayer?
- Why can prayer sometimes become routine or performative?
- Which part of the Lord's Prayer feels especially meaningful to you right now?

4. Fasting with the Right Heart (Matthew 6:16–18): Jesus focuses again on inward devotion rather than outward appearance.

- What do you think fasting teaches us spiritually?
- Why is it easy to focus more on appearances than the condition of our hearts?
- What are some practical ways we can grow in sincerity with God?

Reflection Question: If someone looked only at your private life with God—not what others see—what would they learn about your faith?

Optional Closing Prayer: “Lord, thank You for caring about our hearts, not just our outward actions. Help us to give generously, pray sincerely, and seek You honestly instead of seeking recognition from others. Teach us to forgive, trust You daily, and grow closer to You in the quiet places of life. May everything we do point back to You. Amen.”