

It's Deeper Than That – Week 4 Small Group Questions

Opening Prayer

Ice Breaker

As a high school senior, Justin was \$2,000 short for a mission trip to Kenya with the deadline that same day. What's the closest you've come to a "how is this possibly going to work out?" deadline?

Discuss

Main Scriptures: Matthew 6:9-13

1. Justin said of his Kenya story, "All I did was pray, God is the one who showed up." Share a time you saw God answer a prayer in a way only He could. Then: has there been a prayer that seemed to go unanswered? How did that shape the way you pray now?
2. Read Matthew 6:9–13. Justin pointed out that the first half of the prayer is "Your, Your, Your" and the second half is "Us, us, us," with "on earth as it is in heaven" as the hinge in the middle. What does that structure teach us about how prayer is supposed to work?
3. Justin described materialism (magnifying earth, minimizing heaven) and escapism (magnifying heaven, minimizing earth). Which one do you drift toward more easily? What does that look like in your everyday life?
4. Read Matthew 6:14–15. Justin acknowledged that the church hasn't always helped people feel seen in the pain others caused them. How can we hold both things together: taking real hurt seriously and taking Jesus' call to forgive seriously?
5. Read Matthew 6:13. Justin said, "Temptation is not the same thing as sin... We have to stop beating ourselves up for being human and having temptations." How would believing that change the way you handle temptation?
6. C.S. Lewis said, *"There is no neutral ground in the universe. Every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God and counterclaimed by Satan."* Justin urged us to pray protection over our marriages, kids, workplaces, schools, and cities. Who or what is God putting on your heart to cover in prayer?
7. Read 1 Chronicles 29:11. Justin said that even if the Kenya money had never come, God would still be worthy of worship: "As you wait on Him, worship Him." What makes it hard to worship while you're still waiting on an answer? What helps?

Practice

Set aside one quiet moment this week to pray through 1 John 1:9, confessing honestly and receiving God's forgiveness. Then ask Him to soften your heart toward one person you need to forgive.