



“Our Father in Heaven”

February 26th, 2023

CG Discussion Guide

CATCHING UP ON LIFE

This is when we update each other on the things that Jesus has been up to in our lives since we last saw each other. As A church family, we care about each other’s lives: what we’re celebrating, what we’re mourning, what decisions we are praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10 and 15)
Suggested time: 10 minutes

- What can you thank God for this week?
- When were you most aware of Jesus’ presence this week?
- When were you least aware of Jesus’ presence this week?

REVIEW THE MISSION

Just like God the Father sent Jesus on a mission of reconciliation for us, Jesus sends us out as ambassadors of His reconciliation. We are called to make disciples wherever we go because Jesus changes everything. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20) · *Suggested time: 10-15 minutes*

- People:
 - Who in your life (family, coworkers, etc.) can we join you in praying for? Who has God put around you that is showing spiritual interest? Who is hurting and could use some love from our group?
 - Who are the people we are intentionally living on mission with (neighbors, Serve CLT partner organizations, or a specific demographic in Charlotte)? What are our upcoming plans to love, serve, and build relationships with this group?
- Plan:
 - Are there any hangouts already planned, or an extra hangout we could plan to create a way for these friends to connect with our group?
- Pray:
 - Prayer is the fuel of God’s mission. Let’s pray for our people by name; pray for their needs, and opportunities to have spiritual conversations that help them take next steps toward Jesus.

SCRIPTURE AND SERMON DISCUSSION

God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, show us our sin, and strengthen us as we follow Him. We preach the Word on Sundays and apply it as a Community Group throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25) · *Suggested Time: 30-40 minutes*

Read Luke 11:1-4 and Matthew 6:9-13.

1. What is the Holy Spirit showing you in these passages about God or about yourself?

Sermon Recap

Have someone read:

Praying is the most natural part of our relationship with God. It is how we commune with our Good Father. We can struggle to do this for a couple reasons: We have the wrong idea of who God is, or we have the wrong idea about what prayer is. Jesus taught us to pray to Our Father, who is close to us, knowable, and delighted in us. He also taught us that God is "in heaven", meaning He is powerful and able to accomplish great things. So in prayer, ultimately, we can commune with God, spending time with Him who is a great, powerful, and loving Father.

Read:

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." - James 1:22

The goal of our CG discussion times is not to simply recap what we "liked" about the sermon, although that is helpful, the goal is to work into our lives, to talk about how we might apply God's Word, and to make plans for the week to come as a community seeking to follow Jesus together. In light of that.

2. What did the Holy Spirit teach you through the sermon? What do you feel encouraged or challenged to do after hearing the Word preached?
3. What does your time communing with God in prayer look like? What are you most often going to in prayer?
4. Like we heard in the sermon, we tend to neglect prayer because we do not see God rightly, or we do not see prayer rightly. How do you see this influencing your relationship with God? How is the line "our father in heaven" an invitation for you?
5. **Let's pray together through Psalm 16 like we did on Sunday:**
 - o Read Psalm 16:2 – Spend a few moments in silence enjoying God.
 - o Read Psalm 16:7 – Spend a few moments in silence blessing God.
 - o Read Psalm 16:8 – Spend a few moments in silence looking at God.
 - o Read Psalm 16:9 – Spend a few moments in silence thanking God for who He is.
 - o Read Psalm 16:11 – Spend a few moments in silence resting in God.

After the discussion, check-in with your group about their time in prayer through the Lent Guide. For those that are doing it, ask them to share how it is going, and encourage others to participate with their own copy or the digital version at <https://www.citizenscharlotte.com/lent-2023> throughout Lent.

CARE AND PRAYER

Jesus calls us to walk in the light, confessing our sins to God and each other. God's Spirit works through confession and community to lead us to repentance. (Romans 3:23-24, James 5:16 and 1 John 1:5-10)

Suggested Time: 30-45 minutes.