

# COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Faithful in Prayer (Season 2) | Pastor Mike McKinney

Monday, Oct. 13 - Sunday, Oct. 19 (Week 5)

## Emphasis for the Month: **Creating a Culture of Honesty and Grace**

With a few weeks of community under your belt, your group is ready to begin sharing more personally. True discipleship grows in environments where people can be honest about struggles and know they will be met with grace. This month, lead the way in vulnerability. Maybe share your own story, ask good follow-up questions, and remind your group that the gospel gives us freedom to be known and loved at the same time. Vulnerability today builds the soil for transformation tomorrow.

**ICE BREAKER:** What is one of the most memorable or impactful prayers you've ever heard or been a part of, and why did it stand out to you?

### **CAB ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. We hope you will join us every Tuesday at 6:30 PM for our weekly prayer gathering.

**PRAYER FOR DISCUSSION:** Leader or Co-Leader prays for the discussion time. Pray that The Holy Spirit would assist in the conversing, processing, and listening of the discussion.

**SERMON DISCUSSION TIME:** Have someone read this week's scripture from Luke 1:1-13, and then this sermon summary to jog everyone's memory:

*In this sermon, we explored the importance of praying together as a community, as highlighted in Luke 11:1-13. The disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, emphasizing the communal aspect of prayer with the phrase "teach us to pray." The sermon underscored that praying together should be childlike, yet God-exalting and God-dependent, reflecting a deep neediness and boldness before God. We are encouraged to approach God as beloved children, free from pretense and formality, and to pray with shameless persistence, much like the friend in Jesus' parable who persistently asked for bread at midnight. The sermon also highlighted the significance of praying for God's presence, as the Father desires to give us the Holy Spirit above all else. This gift of the Spirit, made possible through Jesus' sacrifice, is central to our prayer life. We were challenged to desire God above all and to experience the power of collective prayer, which can strengthen our faith and community. The sermon concluded with an invitation to pray together, seeking more of God's presence in our lives.*

**QUESTION #1** - What does it mean to pray with childlike neediness and boldness? How does this differ from how you typically approach prayer?

**QUESTION #2** - What are some personal barriers you face when it comes to praying with others? How can we as a group support each other in this?



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**EXTENDED TIME OF PRAYER:** Below is a guided prompt for you to use as you wish. Please feel free to do what you think is best for you and your group. The point of this time is to spend extended time in prayer together seeking the Lord and being in His presence as a group, praising, thanking, asking, and pleading like children.

**Introduction:** Leader says something like this:

*"As we conclude our time together, let's enter into an extended time of prayer, drawing from the themes of our recent sermon. We'll use the Lord's Prayer as our guide, focusing on praying together as a community. Let's invite the Holy Spirit to lead us as we seek God's presence."*

**Opening Prayer:** Leader prays something like this:

*"Heavenly Father, we come before you as your children, eager to meet with you and to lift our hearts in prayer. Guide us by your Spirit and draw us closer to you and to one another. In Jesus' name, Amen."*

**1. Praise and Adoration:** Leader says something like this:

*"Let's begin by focusing on the first part of the Lord's Prayer: 'Our Father, hallowed be your name.' Take a moment to offer a short prayer of praise, acknowledging God's greatness and holiness."*

*(Allow a few moments for and invite group members to offer prayers of praise.)*

Leader: *"Father, we praise you for your goodness and your holiness. We set apart your name as sacred and precious in our hearts."*

**2. Confession and Forgiveness:** Leader says something like this:

*"Next, let's move to confession and forgiveness: 'Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us.' Take a moment in silence to confess any sins or burdens you are carrying, and ask God for forgiveness."*

*(Allow a few moments of silence for personal confession.)*

Leader: *"If there is someone you need to forgive, ask God to help you release any bitterness."*

*(Allow a few moments of silence, then close with prayer thanking God for the assurance of His forgiveness.)*



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### 3. Petition and Intercession: Leader says something like:

*"Now, let's bring our requests before God: 'Give us each day our daily bread.' Share any specific needs or requests you have, whether personal or for others. Let's pray boldly and shamelessly, trusting God to provide."*

*(Allow time for group members to share requests and pray for each one)*

Leader: *"Father, we trust you to meet our needs and the needs of those we love. We ask for your provision and your guidance in every area of our lives."*

### 4. Seeking God's Presence: Leader says something like:

*"Let's seek more of God's presence: 'Your kingdom come.' Ask God to fill us with His Spirit and to reveal Himself more fully in our lives."*

*(Encourage and invite prayers, asking for the Holy Spirit's presence and guidance.)*

Leader: *"Father, we long for your kingdom to come in our hearts and in our world. Fill us with your Spirit and draw us closer to you."*

### 5. Thanksgiving: Leader says something like:

*"Finally, let's end with thanksgiving. Thank God for His work in our lives and for the time we've spent together in prayer."*

*(Allow time and invite group members to express prayers of gratitude.)*

Leader: *"Father, we thank you for hearing our prayers and for your constant presence with us. We are grateful for your love and your faithfulness."*

### Closing Prayer: Leader prays something like:

*"Heavenly Father, thank you for this time of prayer and for the ways you are working in our lives. As we go from here, may we continue to seek you and to support one another in prayer. In Jesus' name, Amen."*

