

PERSONAL REFLECTION GUIDE

9/22/24

At Southland Church, we are committed to help you KNOW Christ, LIVE like Him, and make Him KNOWN. This guide is designed to help you reflect on and apply what you learned through the sermon this weekend. Use this guide as a quiet time during the week. Write your answers in a journal, with the date and main passage noted at the top of the page.

- What main point from the sermon stood out to you?
- What did the Holy Spirit convict you of or encourage you with?
- Imagine meeting a person who has no idea why Christians pray or how to pray. How would you explain the why and how of prayer in simple terms?
- One of the ways we learn about prayer is by listening to others pray. What positive and negative lessons have you learned from hearing others pray?
- **Read 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 and Colossians 1:9-14.** What sorts of things does Paul pray for? List them.
- Based on his prayers, what does Paul seem to think about God's character?
- In what ways does **1 Thessalonians 3:9-13** reveal Paul's passion for people? What does he desire for them?
- In **Colossians 1:9-14**, Paul is praying for believers he has never met. What praying do you do for believers you have never met? How can you improve in this area?
- From Colossians, one aim in praying is that you would be utterly pleasing to Jesus. So what concrete things in your own life should you be praying about?
- What lessons do you learn from hearing Paul pray? What specific ways can you improve the scope of your prayer life based on his example?
- **Read Colossians 4:2-6.** What does Paul pray for the outsider? How often do you pray for opportunity to share the Gospel with those who don't know Jesus?
- Who is one person who is close to you and far from God and needs you to be bold with the Gospel?
- Write one step of obedience the Holy Spirit is leading you towards this week. Who will you tell about this step in order to hold you accountable?

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT WEEK

Read Romans 12:1-2. Based on these verses, what do you think is meant by the value: "We see life as worship?"



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FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE

Southland Church is committed to helping parents raise the next generation of disciples who KNOW Christ, LIVE like Him, and make Him KNOWN. This guide is meant to help you as a family, particularly those over 12 years old, to discuss the Sunday sermon. You can do this in an evening devotion or over lunch after service.

A few tips to get started: (1) Make this a phone-free conversation. You and your family put the phones away, except for the person who looks up the Scriptures. He/She would read the passage and then put his/her phone away. (2) Set the pace for how vulnerable to be. If you give a shallow answer, you are more likely to get a shallow answer from your kids. (3) Do not feel like you have to ask all of these questions. Just focus on having a good honest discussion.

Open with prayer, asking God to lead you to know more about Christ and live like Him.

- What stood out to you from the sermon this week? What challenged or encouraged you?
- Have you ever had a friend who talks one way to your face and another way behind your back? What was that like for you?
- **Read Matthew 6:5-8.** What did the "hypocrites" and "Gentiles" do when they prayed? Why do you think they did that?
- What do these verses say about God? Based on these verses, what does God want when we pray?
- **Read Matthew 6:9-13.** Jesus taught we should start praying with "Our Father in heaven." Why do you think it's important to start with acknowledging God is our Father in heaven?
- Is it hard to believe that God hears you when you pray? Why or why not?
- What does Jesus teach us to pray for? Do you pray for each of these often?
- What are some things you hold back from praying to God? Or forget to pray for?
- Notice Jesus' teaching on prayer does not use "me" and "my," but uses "us" and "our" instead. What do you take away from that?
- In your life, what gets in the way of prayer? What can you do to overcome those?
- What is one thing you want to put in practice from these passages or the sermon?

Ask if there is some way you can pray for your family members, and then close in prayer.



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