

Small Group Discussion Guide

“Jesus Prayed” (pt. 2) – 11/23/2014

Scripture: John 17:1-4; 12-19

Bottom Line: Prayer comes as the response to God's action.

INTRODUCTION: Do you have any funny prayer rituals? Some people insist on removing their hats before prayer. Other people insist that you must bow your head, close your eyes, and fold your hands. What about “Good Drink, Good Meat, Good God let's eat!”

UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

Who initiates prayer? Prayer is a response to God. We think of prayer beginning with us, but God acts and then we respond. This is what the Gospel teaches us.

What does it mean to pray Scripture back to God? As we read Scripture, God speaks to us. We take these truths from Scripture, meditate on them, then discuss them with God.

How do I know God hears me? God is our heavenly father. Praying Scripture means you are praying the will of God. Jesus is our savior and mediator. The Holy Spirit dwells with us and helps us to pray.

Prayer is a gift of God's grace. Practically this means prayer begins with hearing from God. How do we hear from God before, during, and after we pray?

- Scripture is the definitive way followers of Jesus hear from God. It is true that God can speak to us through our thoughts, the words of others, feelings, or circumstances. However, we know that we are easily led astray so we measure all of these against what the Bible tells us.

Once we hear from God, we pray in response to God. What does prayer look like? How do you pray?

LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

How do I develop the practice of reading Scripture and praying it back to God?

- Get a Bible reading plan. (TCC facebook page, YouVersion app)
- Schedule a time and place to pray. Try it through New Years

Close by reading John 17:1-4, 12-19, identifying truths from that passage and then praying those truths back to God.