GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

* **What is the most outlandish thing you have ever asked for as a birthday or Christmas gift? Did you get it?**
* **When you pray, do you find yourself asking for extravagant things or “small” things? What are some of the things for which you ask? How has God answered some of your prayers?**

**Main Point**

Jesus taught His followers how to pray. We can take our needs to the Father in prayer, as He is the only one who can truly answer our every anxiety.

Many times in our lives we ask for things just because we want them or we want to see if we will get them. But today, we will be reminded that beyond needs and requests, prayer is the primary way we function in relationship with God, and He wants us to continually approach Him with our requests. He delights to give us what we need.

Have a Volunteer read Luke 11:1-13.

* **How has God revealed Himself to you as Father? What attributes of God as Father are most important to you? Why?**
* **Why is it sometimes hard to acknowledge our need for God in the role of Father?**

Our view of God determines how we pray. Human fathers are not always the loving and wise providers, teachers, and examples their children need; but most of them want to be and try to be. God is the ideal Father—all-loving, all-knowing, all-wise, all-powerful, and always present with us. At the same time, He is in heaven, which tells us He is greater than we can comprehend; so we approach Him as our Father with due reverence.

* **What is the kingdom of God? Why can it be so challenging to articulate? What evidence do you see that God’s kingdom is present in our world today?**

Your kingdom come could be translated “Your reign come.” The kingdom has come in the hearts of all who have submitted to Jesus as Lord. It also is coming as more people yield their hearts to His reign. The kingdom will not have come fully, though, until Jesus returns and establishes it absolutely and forever. This petition asks the Father to bring people under His reign.

* **What did Jesus say the results of asking, seeking, and knocking would be? Share an experience when you have found this to be true.**

God has given us many amazing promises in His Word, but the promise of this passage seems too good to be true: If we persistently pursue God, He will not give up on us, and He’ll make us into kingdom people. When we’re in the mindset of the kingdom, the things we ask for are the things God wants us to have—things that bring Him glory—like faith, wisdom, love, grace, strength, and so forth. Our prayers will focus less on the stuff we need and more on the relationship we need with Him.

Have a volunteer read Luke 12:22-34.

* **When we worry, what are we saying about our view of God and our relationship with Him?**
* **How has worry hindered your faith and negatively impacted your relationship with God? What eventually helped you overcome that worry?**

Faith calls for trust in a loving and personal God at work in the world. Worry shows a lack of faith. Jesus’ teaching by no means ignores the reality of poverty and hunger among the people of the earth. However, Jesus’ clear teaching for believers is to trust God above all. If the Lord faithfully provides for the needs of mere creatures and even plants, how much more will He provide for us—His children?

* **In what practical ways does overcoming our fears allow us to exhibit our faith?**

Jesus encourages us to rest in our positions in God’s kingdom (vv. 29-34) instead of being consumed by worry and fear. First, remember that God loves as a Father loves. We should not think of God as far away and unapproachable or even as a king who is not accessible. As our Father, God loves and cares for us. Second, God is personal; we have a personal relationship with Him. Finally, as both God and Father, He knows that we need the basics of life. Christians never have to worry about whether God knows or cares about their needs. Instead of worrying, believers can seek the kingdom of God and trust Him. We can focus on living out His mission. If His will is our priority, we will be less concerned about material matters and more committed to eternal relationships.

**Application**

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

* **What are some of the things you typically ask for in prayer? Do you think you typically request good things? What do you think you should start praying for?**
* **What are some examples of actions that show a person is seeking first God’s kingdom?**
* **What are some ways to keep the work of Christ central to your thinking as you try to seek His kingdom first? How is prayer connected to this?**

**Pray**

To close today’s group time, quote the Lord’s Prayer together. End the prayer by asking God to keep prayer at the forefront of everyone’s minds this week, and for a new appreciation of His power in our lives.