

FOCUS DEEPEN

LEADER GUIDE // WEEK 4

Series Big Idea

The greatest priority in the life of a Christian should be to develop a deeper relationship with God.

Message Big Idea

Prayer is a critical element in the development of a deepening relationship with God.

Scripture

Luke 11:1-13

Ice Breaker & Opening Thought

Ask the group what they feel are the most important facets of what makes for a good marriage, a close relationship, a good team, a healthy working culture. One of the critical components in any relationship is conversation. Prayer is relational – it is conversation with God. If this is true, and if it is the litmus test of a good relationship – how healthy is your relationship with God?

Bible Discussion

There were six different facets of the Lord's Prayer that were highlighted during the message yesterday: 1) Our personal relationship with God. 2) Reverence. 3) Alignment. 4) Present Need. 5) Past Sin. 6) Future Trials. Which one of these intrigued you the most? Which of them do you struggle with the most often?

Life Application

If we are to improve our relationship with God through prayer, there are hurdles to overcome. Writer Jon Bloom says that when we struggle in our prayer life, the first thing we must do is find out as he calls it, the reason for our "faith deficit." He names four possible obstacles that may be causing a hindrance in our prayer life: 1. Recall God's Past Grace. When my faith is low and I am not sure why, remember God's faithfulness in my past (Lamentations 3:21). Find the Leak. Are there promises that you are not believing? Such as fears, doubts, sinful habits, unresolved bitterness, disappointment, etc. What is it? Name it. Get it clear. 3. Repent of Unbelief. A lack of faith is sin. God loves to help in our unbelief (Mark 9:24). Jesus reminds us that our unbelief is paid for (John 20:27). 4. Fuel Your Faith with Promises. Get your eyes off of unbelief and on God's promises. Which of these might be an obstacle in your prayer life?

Challenge

All of us are called to prayer in order to strengthen our connection to God, as well as to seek His personal and broader Kingdom influence. Imagine your prayer life on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being strongest. What it would take to move one point toward a better prayer life?

***Special note:** Life Groups often meet bi-weekly. If this is your group's case, get creative in still making sure each person still does the FOCUS study outside of Life Group on your off week. For example: If you don't meet as a Life Group until next week, do the study with a friend, spouse, or family member this week.