

# Small Group Discussion Guide

Introduction to Prayer | March 24<sup>th</sup> 2019

1. Can someone share about an opportunity you had this week to share the Gospel **or engage (serve, give resources, invite) someone in one of your networks?**
2. What does it mean to pray in Jesus' name? **(We're openly acknowledging that we're coming to God on the merits and goodness of Christ—not our own. We're trusting in his imputed righteousness to be heard by God.)** We used the analogy of light and heat to talk about prayer. What does light represent? **(Truth about God that we discern with our mind from the Word)** Heat? **(the affections that truth fuels in us)** What is the danger of knowledge that doesn't affect you in your emotions? What is the danger of having feelings that aren't tethered to truth?
3. For Jesus, prayer was absolutely essential. It characterized his ministry from beginning to end. What are some reasons that we don't pray more? What are *your* reasons? What are some practical ways we can address these obstacles to prayer?
4. We said that prayer is not just a way to get more things from God but to get more of God himself. What does this mean? Do we tend to approach prayer as a way to increase our intimacy with God? Read Mk. 9:17-18, and 25-29. When Jesus says, "this kind only comes out by prayer" what does he mean—have the disciples not said the correct prayer? **(The disciples' lives are not empowered by a prayerful life and thus they are unable to cast out the spirit. A prayerful life allows us to minister and live with a kind of spiritual strength that a prayerless life doesn't.)**
5. If God already knows what we need, why does he require us to ask him for it? **(He wants the glory for it. Also, it serves as a constant reminder of our neediness.)**