



stockbridge
COMMUNITY CHURCH

THE *PERFECT* PRAYER

7-Week Small Group Discussion

Based on the book of the same title by Pastor Jeff Daws

session TWO (Chapter 6)

1. Let's start out with a little word association. What are the first words that come to your mind when you hear the words "Our Father?"
2. Did you know that many people struggle to put their trust in a heavenly father because of their experiences with their own father? What are some of the words that come to mind when you think about your own father, or even just earthly fathers in general?
3. When we say the words "Our Father" in the Lord's Prayer, it is an acknowledgment of who God is. By saying "Our Father in Heaven" we are also professing our belief in Him, and doing so while believing exactly how much He loves us. He loves us **no matter what**. Let's pause before moving forward and go before God in prayer to bless the rest of our discussion and our weeks- Our Father....
4. Let's talk about the three aspects of having a heavenly Father. The first is that God is accessible. Have you ever noticed that the most important people or decision makers in our lives seem to

always be un-accessible? That isn't the case with God, who is THE most important person in our life - but, let's dig deep here. Do you ever feel in your prayer time that God is just too busy for you? Do you feel unimportant, or important to Him?

5. If you answered "yes" to that last question, what do you do to overcome that feeling of insignificance in your prayer time?
6. The next aspect of our Heavenly Father is that He is approachable. Kids have a tendency to approach their parents with caution when they have done wrong. Sometimes it is because of the fear of disappointing Mom and Dad, or even the fear of punishment. What sort of mindset do you approach prayer with, when you know you've sinned or missed the mark?
7. Is it harder for you to pray when you have sin to confess or when you are praying a general prayer?
8. The final aspect of God we'll go over today is: God is available. There is never a line to stand in to speak with Him. Nothing in all creation is higher or more important than God, yet nothing is more important to Him than us - his children. Parents can sometimes be too busy, for that matter so can friends, mentors, bosses, even ministers can be too busy - God is never too busy. Describe what the freedom of an always-available God feels like and means to you.

The Lord's Prayer

(Jesus said)

"This, then, is how you should pray:

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.

Matthew 6:9-13 NIV