



stockbridge
COMMUNITY CHURCH

THE *PERFECT* PRAYER

7-Week Small Group Discussion

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

sessionSIX (Chapter 10)

1. The thing about receiving forgiveness is that sin always comes first. Sin doesn't feel like a bad thing, in fact when we're sinning things almost always seem to be going great, but there are consequences. Those consequences are financial, physical, relational or even spiritual. They don't have to be personal, but what are some examples of the consequences of sin?
2. We all do things that we know are not good for us. There are probably even things that we just automatically do, think, or even say that could be sinful even if we don't realize it. Some things are more apparent than others. Developing good habits to move us away from bad habits is a good start. What are some good habits that could be developed to put distance between us and the bad habits that could lead to sin in our lives?

3. The way we receive God's forgiveness for our sin is by confessing our sins and repenting. Confessing is exactly that, we admit to God (even though he already knows) what we've done. Repentance means a shift in course. It means a literal turn from sin, and to move in a new direction. These two (confession and repentance) are often confusing. What are examples of each and how do they go hand-in-hand with one another?
4. There are other forms of confession that the Bible teaches us to practice in order to find healing. **Take a moment and read James 5:16...** Why do you think we may find healing in confessing things to someone we trust and praying together?
5. As we established earlier, not all sin is obvious. One of the sins many struggle with is withholding forgiveness from those who have done harm to us (verbal, mental, or even physical). Those feelings are often driven by the desire to "get even" with others for what they did. **Let's read Matthew 6:14...** In this passage we learn that we can only receive forgiveness if we are willing to give it away. Is anyone willing to share a story of forgiveness from your own experience and describe the healing that came from it?
6. Receiving forgiveness from others can be easier than receiving it from God. Maybe it's the tangible nature of being around people and physically seeing the relationships move in a positive direction, or even just hearing the words that does this. Why do you think it's so much easier to accept that a person forgives you, instead of accepting that God does?

Let's close our group tonight by taking prayer requests for the coming week and going to God in prayer.

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