

FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH

LIFE NOTES



This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Community Group or Family. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word. The goal of your time is not to answer every question, but to facilitate meaningful and life giving conversation. Some questions might connect with your group more than others, so please focus on the ones pertinent to your group.

PLAN A: WEEK 1

SYNOPSIS OF SERIES

In this series, we are focusing on our core value, Prayer is Plan A. Over the next few weeks we are going to be looking at the Lord's Prayer. Jesus teaches us how to pray and how not to pray. He gives us the key ingredients that we can use when coming before God.

GETTING STARTED

Which of these words would you use to describe your prayer life? Why?

Boring, Amazing, Tired, Deep, Duty, or other...

How has prayer been modeled for you?

What are some of the questions that you have about prayer?

DIGGING DEEPER

Matthew 6:5-8

⁵“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

⁶But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁷And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Let me read you the version in the message.

Matthew 6:5-8 (The Message)

⁵“And when you come before God, don't turn that into a theatrical production either. All these people making a regular show out of their prayers, hoping for stardom! Do you think God sits in a box seat? ⁶“Here's what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace. “The world is full of so-called prayer warriors who are prayer-ignorant. They're full of formulas and programs and advice, peddling techniques for getting what you want from God. Don't fall for that nonsense. This is your Father you are dealing

with, and he knows better than you what you need.

What does Jesus say is “not” the purpose of prayer?

On Sunday, Kyle said, “Prayer is not a transactional exchange, it’s a transformational relationship.” What do you think he meant by that?

How do we treat God as a vending machine? Do you have an example of this in your life?

What is the purpose of prayer?

How does Jesus tell us to approach God?

How does God being “Father” change how we pray?

MOVING FORWARD

In v.6, Jesus tells us to go into our room, shut the door and pray to our Father. Jesus is speaking to a private prayer life with God.

On Sunday, Kyle gave an illustration of the difference between talking to God on the run versus having an intimate time set aside to just be in his presence. How did the illustration connect with you? Do you have a time/place where you connect with God regularly? I think it would be great for everyone in your group to commit to this.

PRAY TOGETHER

Use the prayer target sheet and pray over the target for the day!