



Sermon Discussion Guide
Week of 02/25/2018

➤ ***Icebreaker***

What do you like to do on a day off from work?

➤ ***Announcements***

Please pray for our facility expansion fund and the exciting, impactful, future God has for our church.

This Sunday we will have photographers in the lobby if you would like to add a picture to our photo directory.

➤ ***Prayer Time***

➤ ***Discussion Questions***

What religious rituals have you seen practiced over the years? Have they ever seemed mechanical and hollow? Why? How?

Read Matthew 6:1-8. What are some takeaways from this passage? What problem is Jesus addressing? What

motivated the Pharisees in their religious activities? How can pride and insecurity lead people today to make their faith a show? Why do some people want others to think they are more spiritual?

What misinterpretation do we need to avoid in this passage when Jesus addresses external expressions of faith? Discuss the following statement- "*There is a huge difference between praying to be seen and praying that is seen.*" Why is this a vital distinction? How does 6:1 focus us in on this distinction?

For some people the next step on their spiritual journey is praying out loud. What do the following verses say about the impact this kind of prayer has on community- Acts 1:12-14; 2:1-3; 4:42-47; Matthew 18:19-20. Give an example of how spoken prayer has encouraged you.

How is understanding God as "Father" a radical departure from 1st Century expressions of prayer? How does understanding that God wants a relationship with us radically change our prayer lives?

According to Ephesians 1:3-10 what are some of the reasons our "Father" deserves our praise and thanks. What do the following verses say about expressing praise to God- Psalm 95:2; 100:4; 107:1; 118:28; 136:1. How does our New Exodus play into this? Why is it so important to express our gratitude to God for His grace?

> ***Conversational Prayer: Dear God help me...***