



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

ASK

Week of 6.8.20

Our Father in heaven,
Reveal who you are.
Set the world right;
Do what's best --
As above, so below.
Keep us alive with three square meals.
Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.
You're in charge!
You can do anything you want!
You're ablaze in beauty!
Yes. Yes. Yes. (Matthew 6:9-13, The Message)

The Big Idea: ASK and if it's good, God's good for it.

How many times have you said the Lord's Prayer in your life? Some churches or denominations say it every week. Others say it once in a while when it feels like it fits a situation, circumstance, or service. Regardless, it's one of the easiest segments of the Bible to memorize and most of us can rattle it off without much thought. But sometimes when we say the same words in the same way with the same cadence, they become rote and at risk of losing their impact and meaning.

- With your group, say the version of the Lord's Prayer that we usually do. Now, consider the version of the Lord's Prayer from The Message translation above. Read it aloud as a group and see if it feels different to you. Does the more common language change the meaning or your understanding? How?
- Doing things by rote is also true with life circumstances, cultural norms, social issues, etc. We "live by rote" until something gets shaken and it takes a major rewrite to

change our approach. Share with your group a time in your life when something “shook” you in that way. How did you respond? How did you pray?

- In the last few months our world has indeed been shaken by COVID 19. As we interact with the world, we can no longer simply do things the way we’ve always comfortably and conveniently done them. In the last couple of weeks we have been shaken again by wrongful deaths and violence which have awakened us to the harsh realities of other deaths and incidences of violence around the country. We have seen passionate expressions of grief, fear, sorrow, and rage. Talk together in your group about ways you can personally make a positive impact in our society.
- Let’s consider the first few verses of the above version of the Prayer again. Let’s look harder at these words:

Our Father in Heaven, Reveal who you are.

- Have you asked God to reveal who He is in all of the circumstances of this winter and spring? Things around us have changed yet He is NEVER-changing. And we humans? We are NOT never-changing. As a matter of fact, we must change in order to be more like Him. Have you asked God to reveal Himself in your heart? Have you asked to see Him more clearly? If He is sovereign, if He is holy, if He is LOVE and we are His children (representing Him here) how have others seen HIM revealed in our actions, attitudes, words of these past weeks?

Set the world right; Do what's best – As above so below.

- In what ways do you want things to be “set right”? What can you do to help make things on earth to look like they will look in Heaven? How do you think that will be different from here? Are you open to learning what God’s will might be for you? For our community? For our church? The will of God will be RIGHT and GOOD, as are all God’s gifts to His children.

Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.

- Randy spoke of Psalm 42: 1-2 where the Psalmist describes his soul’s desire for God like a deer panting for water. This is not just a pretty little picture of a deer. This is an animal whose tongue is hanging from its mouth, whose throat is constricted with thirst. Have you ever been THAT thirsty? Have you ever wanted God that much? What will it take for you to want God that much? In what areas of your life is unforgiveness blocking your thirst for God.

You're in charge! You can do anything you want! You're ablaze in beauty! Yes. Yes. Yes.

- The Big Idea of the sermon this week was: “ASK and if it’s good, God’s good for it.” Ask together as a group for the advancement of God’s sovereignty in our lives as individuals as well as together as a church family within our community and nation.