

COMMUNITIES/SMALL GROUPS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

MISSIONS/LORD'S PRAYER

NOVEMBER 17, 2019

Welcome to another Sunday set aside to allow Communities and or small groups to meet. Prior to the beginning of Advent there is but two designated Sundays left for Communities and small groups to meet – today, November 17, and December 1.

This guide begins with a left over question about missions – the question that Communities have been asked to ponder and dream about as you began meeting together. If you have not given it much thought perhaps this is the time to do so. For the question on missions please look at number III below – “A mindset on missions and a question.” If this has already been completed there is another option given, namely questions about prayer (V) (**including some new questions**) based on the sermon series on the Lord's Prayer. There is also a “**Mission Challenge**” (IV).

While the sermons provide some back ground information and help to inform the conversation, one does not necessarily have to listen to the sermons in order to participate in the small groups. Leading a group will take some work and creativity on the part of the group leaders...

(Note: sermons can be accessed online at ccrc.on.ca/sermons)

- I. **Beginning Your Time Together** (If needed, please refer to the material prepared for September 22, 2019 for suggestions as to how you might want to begin your time together.)
- II. **Some questions/matters to think about and discuss together as you meet as a Community.**
(Please refer to the material prepared for September 22, 2019 for the kinds of questions that you perhaps ought to be asking as you involve yourself in your Community. Perhaps you can throw one of the questions given onto a paper and put it on a table when you gather for a potluck or BBQ.)
- III. **Discussion Guide: A Mindset on Missions and a question.** To get to the background of this question, please refer to the material prepared for September 22 or October 6 as found on the church website – ccrc.on.ca/communities. The question is:
If God were to fulfill our church's mission statement, what would that look like? What indicators would we use to know that our statement is being fulfilled?
Note: The idea is that the Communities or small groups spend time brain-storming, dreaming, pondering on the question raised and that the answers or thoughts be written down and submitted to the elders to add to the information to be discussed at the November 23 full council meeting which will address the future of CCRC.

If you have had this discussion already, how about going to the **Mission Challenge**....

- IV. **Mission Challenge:** If you were at the Mission Celebration this morning, or if you read the latest Mission Newsletter, you were reminded of the various mission trips and activities that people were

involved in this past year – Disaster Response Services (World Renew), Montreal learning trip, Manitoulin visit to Daystar Native Outreach and the Pennings, SERVE to Muskegon, Michigan and other involvements both locally and internationally. If you have people in your Communities or small groups who have gone on any of those trips, ask them to share what they learned or experienced. As you heard stories at church or read them in the newsletter or listened to someone in your group talk about it, what strikes you? We are called to be witnesses, but what does that mean? If you have made profession of faith in the CRC, you have agreed to “be involved in the work of the Lord everywhere” (Form for Public Profession of Faith). How can you possibly do that? Where would you see your involvement? Any thoughts about your involvement in 2020?

- V. The Lord’s Prayer** – Our study of the prayer is based on the teaching of the Heidelberg Catechism (Lord’s Days 45-52). Maybe you have dealt with a number of these questions already, but now that we are finished with the Lord’s Prayer there are some additional questions that you may want to tackle along with some that perhaps you skipped over last time. (When studying prayer, it is helpful to have a copy of the Catechism on hand.)
1. When listening to the sermons, what has struck you about the Lord’s Prayer?
 2. What is prayer? Does prayer make a difference? Come up with some Biblical examples?
 3. **(New)** The youth at Impact are learning about different ways to be involved in prayer. What are some different ways of praying that you have found helpful?
 4. **(New)** There are two versions of the Lord’s Prayer - Matthew 6:9–13 and Luke 11:2–4. Compare them.
 5. Why begin the prayer with “Our Father”?
 6. What does it mean to “hallow” the Father’s name? How many names for God can you come up with from Scripture? List them.
 7. What are we saying when we pray “Your Kingdom come, your will be done”?
 8. When you pray for God’s will to be done in the world and in your life do you really mean it? What does it look like for God’s will to be done in your life?
 9. What does it mean to pray for “our daily bread?” Sustenance only for the day requires great trust in God. How has our current cultural understanding of wealth building and retirement funds (which are wise choices) changed how we pray and trust in God?
 10. What does it mean to fully trust in God for all things? How difficult is it to trust fully in God?
 11. **(New)** We pray: “forgive our debts as we forgive our debtors”? What does it mean to forgive? What about “forgive and forget?” Have you ever had to forgive someone something? Has anyone ever have to come to you to ask for your forgiveness? What was it like for you to forgive or to be forgiven? Care to share?
 12. **(New)** Why do we add the doxology – “for yours is the kingdom and the power and glory, forever” when that is not part of the prayer that Jesus taught and not a part of the prayer that many Christians endorse? Where did it come from? Share some other doxologies in the Bible.
 13. **(New)** What does the little word “Amen” mean? What does it mean to you? It is probably one of the most well-known words in the world. How should it be used?
- VI. Prayer:** As you close out your time together, take some time to pray the petitions of the Lord’s Prayer in such a way that they are meaningful and reflect the discussion time you had together.