

the
**LORD'S
PRAYER**

STUDY GUIDE

Confession: “Forgive Us”

Matthew 6.5-15

WELCOME & SHARING

Share any announcements, upcoming plans for your group, etc...

- Baby Bottle Campaign: New City is again supporting Life Forward Pregnancy Care of Cincinnati in its annual baby bottle fundraiser. Take an empty bottle on Sunday, fill it with coins, cash or checks and return the bottles by Sunday March 1. The funds collected go toward providing free pregnancy tests and life-affirming guidance to women in need. To learn more about their mission, visit pregnancycareofcincinnati.org. cGroups can also help by shopping for mom's at Life Forward's baby registry (<http://www.pregnancycareofcincinnati.org/partner-support/baby-registry/>). These much needed supplies are made available to moms and dads who participate in Life Forward's Ear While You Learn parenting classes.
- Pray for our Mazatlan team. They are serving in children's homes in Mexico all this week.
- Ray Cannata (pastor of Redeemer New Orleans) is coming to Cincinnati. There are 2 great opportunities to learn from him. 1.) We are screening the film “The Man Who Ate New Orleans” (about Ray's attempt to eat at all 700 non-chain restaurants in New Orleans) at the 20th Century Theater on Friday Feb 27 at 7pm. Tickets can be purchased for \$5 here (<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1220237>). Q&A to follow the film. 2.) Theology Lab - Ray will be doing a 2 part theology lab on Sat Feb 28 from 9-11am. Part 1 - Signs Amidst the Rubble: Church Planting in a Beautiful and Broken City. Part 2 - Gospel Neighboring. RSVP on the City (<http://bit.ly/1yFQ3p0>).

Opener Question: This weekend was the Super Bowl. Most little boys imagine themselves playing in such a game. Share what “dream job” you wish you could have, however unrealistic it may be.

Intro: We're starting the year with a series on The Lord's Prayer. Perhaps no words have been repeated more in the history of the entire world. And yet the familiarity can serve to disconnect us from the meaning. For six weeks we are going to study the Lord's Prayer piece by piece.

STUDY/DISCUSSION

1. Have you been experimenting with praying the Lord's Prayer? What have you been doing? How's it been going?
2. **Read Matthew 6:5-15.** This week we're focusing on verse 12. What are the things that keep us from confessing our sins to God? to each other?
3. This text describes sin as a kind of debt. The Bible uses other images to describe sin as well: transgression, slavery, idolatry, insanity, sickness, estrangement. Do any of these stand out to you more than another?
4. On Sunday Josh explained 3 times of counterfeit confession: 1.) Explaining away our sin (“I confess my anger, BUT they really provoked me”); 2.) Self-pity (“I'm sorry for this sin because now I'm experiencing the consequences”); 3.) Resolving to reform rather than asking forgiveness (“Just give me one more chance”). To which of these are you most prone?
5. **Read Isaiah 6:1-8.** What can we learn about confession from Isaiah's experience?
6. **Read Luke 15:11-32.** If you really believed God was like the father in this story, how would it affect the way you confess your sins?
7. Read verses 14-15. How is our relationship to others affected by the way we relate to God?
8. What can you apply to your life this week?

PRAYER

Take some time to pray together as a group. This series is a great chance to be a little more quick with your discussions in order to leave more time for concentrated prayer at the end. We encourage you to use the Bookmarks we handed out on Sunday to help guide your prayer time. Close your time by praying The Lord's Prayer together.