

# Small Group Discussion Guide

“Jesus Prayed” (pt. 1) – 11/16/2014

**Scripture:** John 17:1

**Bottom Line:** God is your heavenly Father and he wants you to pray.

**INTRODUCTION:** In sports, what are some things that are essential to being successful and what are some things that are desired but not essential? As Christians, we believe that prayer is essential to being in a growing relationship with God through Jesus.

## UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

**Read John 17:1**

Who is God? What do you think about when you think of God?

- Is he merely the being who started it all and now silently watches? Is he just your pal? (Jesus is my homeboy!) Is he the sweet old man who tries his hardest to appease us with our requests? Is he the all good, loving, sovereign, personal, faithful and wise savior who rules everything? Your view of God is extremely important!

What is the best way to view God?

- There are many different opinions about God, many of them contradict one another. It is always best and safe to view God the way Jesus views him in Scripture.

What does it mean to call God our Father?

- The Bible is clear that not everyone can call God their Father. For Christians, we have been adopted into God's family as sons and daughters through the sacrifice of Jesus. We now relate to God as our Father. He loves and cares for us as a good Father would for his children.

How does God become my Father?

- The only way to know God as your Father is to place your trust in Jesus as your Savior. This is to believe that your sins separated you from God and that Jesus took the punishment you deserve on the cross, and therefore, all your sin has been forgiven. You are now reconciled to know God as Father and enjoy a relationship with him.

What is prayer and how does it work?

- Prayer is having a conversation with God. But it is more than a casual conversation. You enter into the presence of the Holy One and lay your life before him. Because of Jesus, God sees that you are his child and responds to your prayers with mercy and blessing. There is no right or wrong way to pray. Just pray frequently and fervently.

## LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

How can you begin the practice of prayer in your life? Set aside time to talk to God. Talk to your heavenly Father about everything. Pray for others and ask for prayer from others.