

## QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

—We're continuing our emphasis on prayer. In order to introduce this week's discussion questions, here are a few quotations that could promote (& provoke) some beneficial conversation.

—“Taking God seriously means finding out what He says, finding out what He thinks, and making that your priority both personally and professionally. When we don't do that, our society suffers. And we don't have enough reverence and respect for God among the leaders and politicians in our country.” —Tony Evans

—*The holiness of God's name is constantly challenged & carelessly cursed by the corruption of our culture. Prayer protects us from this influence by giving us the “24/7” privilege of enjoying God's presence and having His attention.*

—“What is the chief end (primary responsibility) of man?” asks the Shorter Scottish Catechism. The answer is, “To glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.” Therefore, true or authentically genuine worship is focused on God and not on ourselves. We should then determine that the most specific test of worship that hallows or honors God's name is not whether it pleases us, but whether it pleases Him.

—Prayer is one of the most influential moments we can spend in worship, but far too many people don't realize that prayer is worship.

—“There is a direct relationship between the Lord's model prayer and the commandment that we should never take the Lord's name in vain. Both of them place a high priority on holiness of God and the reverence we should have for His Name.” —Alistair Begg

—“This request (May Your name be honored as holy.) does not mean to pray that God would become holy; rather it means that one is to pray that His nature or reputation would be treated as holy (set apart) in the world.” —Allen Ross

—*The honor & glory of God's NAME is often defined by the lifestyles of His children. It's a tragedy when the unsaved world fails to see the infinite goodness and grace of God. We should pray more seriously that God's name and reputation would be honored as holy!*

—These questions are designed to motivate us to dig deeper into God's Word.

1) Please read 1 Peter 1:17–23 and note what it tells us about our identity as God's children. Based on this passage, how would you describe our relationship with God? How would you explain God's relationship to us? Why is it important for us to recognize these truths?

2) How should what 1 Peter 1:17 says about God's role as our perfect and impartial judge impact or influence our prayer lives?

3) Please carefully observe Hebrews 10:19–25. How does this passage motivate and encourage us to invest time in prayer and in encouraging one another?

4) In our society today, there is an over-abundance of religious teaching that distorts God's Word about the holiness of God. Often people's ears are tickled by the idea that certain sins are acceptable. How should this influence your prayer life?

—**Discussion questions that relate to various points & applications given within the sermon:** Please use Matthew 6:9–15; 2 Corinthians 2:14–17; Hebrews 10:19–25; & 1 Peter 1:17–23 to discuss these questions.

—**1}** How does our understanding of Who God is and what He's provided for us to rescue, redeem, and forgive us from the penalty for sin impact or influence our relationship with Him?

—**2}** How is our intimacy with God as our Heavenly Father related to our sense of confidence that He hears our prayers?

—**3}** Prayer is a very special form of worship—a practical way to develop and deepen our reverence and respect for God. It's private and personal. Take time to discuss the benefits of recognizing the value of this type of worship.

—**4}** Prayer is a personal privilege for those who are members of God's family of faith. What do these passages (above) teach about this being a privilege for only those who have genuinely trusted in Christ as Lord and Savior?