

Lenten Small Group Study Guide

TOGETHER WE PRAY

“Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name”

WEEK 1: FEB 18 – FEB 24

CONNECT (15 MIN)

WELCOME

- Welcome to Lent! If this is your first time meeting as a group, or there are new members in your group, take a few minutes to get to know each other. Share a bit about yourself—how do you like to spend your time? What brought you to St. Luke's? What are you hoping to experience during this Small Group?
- Before you listen to the video recite The Lord's Prayer together

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the Glory, forever. Amen Matthew 6:9-13

CULTIVATE (5 MIN) - WATCH OR LISTEN TO VIDEO

Each week we will start our Lent group with a short video. This week our video was prepared by Pastor Rob. You plan watch it ahead of time or in your group. You can also listen. Click on the link below for our introduction to the Lent and the sermon series on The Lord's Prayer.

stlukesumc.com/lentweek1

GROUP VALUES: It's important that you agree on the values you want to have in your group, such as openness, authenticity, and confidentiality. Honoring these values together creates a safe and healthy group environment.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35 MIN)

- This year, we are studying The Lord's Prayer together. What role has this prayer played in your faith so far? What questions do you have about this prayer?
- At Ash Wednesday, we looked at the first part of the prayer "Our Father Who Art in Heaven,". Consider the fact that Jesus calls God OUR Father (not just MY Father). What implications does that have on how we pray and how we think God relates to each of us?
- How do you relate to God using the word "father"? Consider if that word is a barrier, invitation, comfort, or challenge to you as you pray.
- Take a moment and re-read the Scripture passage. This week, we looked at the second line in the prayer: Hallowed be thy name. God's name reveals important aspects of God's character (faithfulness, consistency, holiness). Ask each person to consider a few words they would use to describe the character of God. Invite each person to share and create a list with your answers.
- Looking at this list, share about a time you've seen one of these elements of God's character on display.
- How do you relate to the struggle of putting God or yourself at the center of your life? What is a specific area of your life that you would like to consider inviting God more into the center?
- What does it mean for the holiness of God to be expressed through us? Think specifically about your life and what it would look like for you to be a living example of God's holy character.

CHANGE THE WORLD - (5 MIN)

Look at the serving sheet together—what could it look like for your group to live into the holiness of God through your serving this Lent and beyond? Our hope is that each person will find a way to serve through one of these Serving Opportunities!

PRAYER REQUESTS

CLOSING PRAYER:

Learning to pray is an important part of our Christian journey. You or a participant can prepare something ahead of time or just pray what is on your heart. Think of it as having a conversation with someone. If you are still a little unsure, look at a Psalm to read for inspiration to write your own prayer.