



# LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY

## MESSAGE NOTES & DISCUSSION GUIDE

### WEEK 1 – HOW TO APPROACH GOD IN PRAYER

<sup>1</sup>One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “**Lord, teach us to pray**, just as John taught his disciples.”

– Luke 6:1 (NIV)

<sup>5</sup>“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>6</sup>But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. <sup>7</sup>And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. <sup>8</sup>Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.”

– Matthew 6:5-8 (NIV)

### ESSENTIAL TRUTHS FOR APPROACHING GOD IN PRAYER

- \_\_\_\_\_ against becoming the \_\_\_\_\_ of your \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ God’s personal \_\_\_\_\_ instead of your public \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of your heart over the \_\_\_\_\_ of your words
- \_\_\_\_\_ always \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of prayer

### ADDITIONAL NOTES:

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## **DIGGING DEEPER:**

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1. Why is prayer such a challenge for so many of us?
2. What is your biggest fear or concern about prayer?
3. Why are so many people nervous about getting prayer wrong?
4. What is significant about Jesus teaching his disciples (and us) about prayer?
5. How can you become the object of your own prayers?
6. What role does motivation have in how we approach God?
7. How can seeking to demonstrate our piety through prayer keep us from experiencing God's presence?
8. Why did the pagans use a lot of words and mindless repetition when they prayed?
9. Why did Jesus say we shouldn't pray like this?
10. How can prayer become more about ritual than relationship?
11. What does this say about the need to focus more on the quality of our hearts than the quantity of our words?
12. How can perceptions shape the way we pray?
13. What are some wrong perceptions about God or prayer that had a negative impact upon how you approached God?
14. How should the proper perception of God's knowledge of our needs shape the way that we pray?