



DISCUSSION GUIDE
November 26th & 27th, 2011

Ice Breaker:

The Christmas season is here. Do you celebrate more like Chevy Chase or Ebenezer Scrooge?

Opening Prayer:

Father God, thank you for being close and accessible, not far away and removed from us.

For Discussion:

This weekend Pastor Luke read us The Lord's Prayer. Read it again from **Matthew 6:9-13**.

- If possible, share a memory of one of your first times talking to God in prayer. How old were you? What else do you remember about that moment?
- Luke said that The Lord's Prayer is to be a model, not a mantra. What is the difference?
- We learned that prayer is talking to God and that meditation is listening to God. Which of these comes more naturally to you?
- People often say that God speaks to us, but not in an audible voice. It is more like impressions in the mind and heart. Have you heard God speak to you in this way? If so, give a recent example.

The Lord's Prayer teaches us to seek God's priorities over our own: "...your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." (vs 10)

- If possible, give an example of when God has led you to change your priorities to align with his.
- How do you think the goals of the Christmas Conspiracy compare with God's goals?

Matthew 6:11 says, "Give us today our daily bread."

Luke talked about how God wants to provide for our daily needs and give us sustaining grace for our daily struggles.

- At this time in your life do you most need provision for your daily needs or grace for a personal struggle?

Read Matthew 6:25-34

- Are you usually comfortable "going with the flow" of daily life, or do you tend to plan ahead and prepare for possible negative outcomes? Give an example.
- What are the upsides and downsides of each of these tendencies?
- Do you think it is possible to find a balance between both these tendencies? If yes, how?
- Verse 33 tells us where our focal point should be. What is it?

This weekend, Pastor Luke encouraged us to "seek God's power to overcome temptation." **Read Matthew 6:13.**

Luke said, "Behind every sin is the lie that we'll be happier disobeying God."

Read 1 Corinthians 10:13

Name some common ways we are tempted to dishonor God.

Name some ways that our lives can show honor to God.

Read Proverbs 13:20

Describe how much impact your friends have on your daily choices and decisions.

What is one thing you can do to invest in and strengthen your most positive friendships?

Closing Prayer:

Jesus, thank you for coming to earth to die for our sins and to invite us into a close, personal relationship with God. Help us to seek you, to follow you and to align our priorities with yours this week.