

# SMALL GROUPS

## Small Group Discussion Week of February 27, 2011 Simple Conversations How to Pray

1. If you learned to pray as a child, how were you taught? What was helpful and what was not?
2. If you ever learned or used a memorized prayer, what was it and how did it help (or not help) you grow in your prayer life?

**Read:** Matthew 6:9-13

3. We can address God as Father. What other names or titles can we use for God as we speak to Him and what does each name tell us about God and our relationship to Him?
4. What different themes and topics of prayer does Jesus highlight in this prayer and why is each one important in our prayer life?

**Read:** Galatians 4:6 and Hebrews 4:16

5. How do you feel when you hear God invite you to draw near to Him as a loving Father, with confidence and certainty? What can get in the way of us approaching God this way?

**Read:** Isaiah 6:1-5

6. God is also holy and mighty. There are times we should approach Him with awe, reverence, and sober awareness because He is "Holy, holy, holy!" Why is it important that we draw near God with a profound awareness of who He is? What might we miss if we only see God as a buddy and close friend and forget that He is glorious and almighty?
7. What are some of the different postures of prayer (engagement of our bodies) that are appropriate and how can using these to help us connect with God in prayer? What posture is most comfortable for you? What is a posture you might want to explore?
8. Take time as a group to lift up praise to God using the A-Z prayer. Pick a letter and lift up praises to God for His attributes and qualities that begin with this letter. Once ideas for this letter are exhausted, move to another letter (for instance, if the letter is B, someone might pray, "Lord of glory, I praise you for your beauty"...and then lift up ways they experience the beauty of God).