

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Thoughts and Prayers / Week 2

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

Find your way to pray.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:9-13 NIV

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students see the importance of the posture of their heart in prayer and to give them a framework to use when they pray.

THINK ABOUT THIS

One of the 5 principles of *Lead Small* is to “make it personal.” Before you get to group, ask yourself the small group questions and pay attention to any tensions you have about prayer so you can lead the group authentically. Do your best to lead a group without projecting your feelings or expectations onto them.

Create meaningful conversations. Adjust the questions as needed, and don't feel like you need to answer all of them.

DURING GROUP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What's one app you can't live without?
2. Some people treat prayer like an old school landline phone and only pray one prayer: “help.” How can we treat prayer as something more, like a smartphone? What other ways can we pray besides asking for help?
3. Jesus could have just commanded “talk to God.” Instead He prayed out loud as an example, showing that there are several things we can pray for. In the talk, we listed 5 ways to pray:
 - o Thanks - thanking God for big and small things
 - o Please - asking God for help
 - o Sorry - apologizing and asking for forgiveness
 - o Wow - worshiping God by being in awe of who God is and what God does
 - o Huh - bringing your questions to God
4. Of these options, which one is a surprise to you?
5. Which one do you use most often in prayer? Which do you use the least? Why?
6. Which of the 5 ways to pray would you like to incorporate more into your prayer life?
7. How would your life be different if you prayed this way more often?

TRY THIS

Leaders—This week, have your students pick one of the 5 ways to pray they want to incorporate more often. Challenge them to be intentional about participating in this week's Daily Devotionals which align with the 5 ways to pray. (Available as printables in the Daily Devotionals folder or in the YouVersion Bible App)