

## Group Discussion Guide: With Jesus and His Wisdom | March 6, 2022

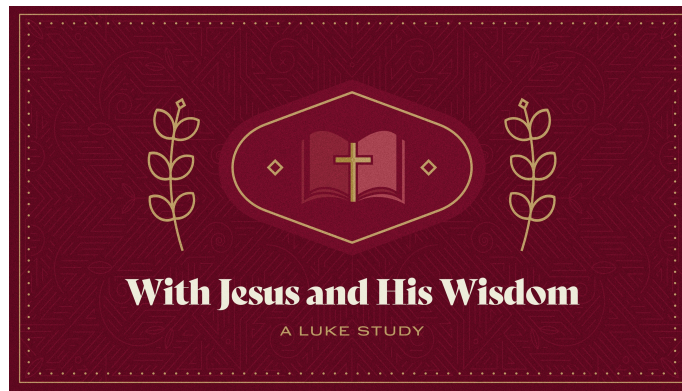
### Begin with prayer (5 minutes).

Read **Psalm 119:33-40** out loud for your group.

After you finish reading, pause for a few brief moments of silence. After a couple seconds of centering, pray to open your time together. Ask God for help in guiding your time together, for people to listen well, for people to speak honestly, and for the Holy Spirit to use this gathered time to shape you and mold you into Jesus' image.

### Go over the sermon, sharing your thoughts and insights (30 minutes).

- How did this sermon about **prayer** from **Luke** challenge you? What resonated with you?
- Do you think that prayer is viewed positively or negatively by culture at large? Why?
- In his sermon, Emerson talked about the priority of prayer. Did anything from Jesus' prayer life resonate with you that you didn't realize before? Explain.
- What has your experience with prayer been like? Growing up, was prayer seen as something you "should do?" Was it viewed as a "must?" Or was prayer not really something ever done in your family? What role does prayer play in your life now?
- What reasons would you give to someone who asks why prayer doesn't play a *bigger* role in your life?
- **Read Luke 11:2-13.** What does Jesus teach here about prayer? What do his parables say about prayer?
- **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Philippians 4:6; James 5:16; 1 Timothy 2:1-4, 8.** What do these passages say about prayer? How do they challenge the way you pray right now?
- In the message, Emerson mentioned how prayer is both "compelling wonder" as well as "confounding mystery". Which of these two characteristics of prayer best describes your experience with it? In what ways have you experienced prayer as a wonder? In what ways have you experienced it as a mystery?
- What invitations from the Lord did you sense He was inviting you into as a result of this message and the Scriptures we read together?



**Split into triads to practice praying together out loud (15 minutes).**

In the sermon, Emerson walked us through five prayer movements taken from the Lord's Prayer in **Luke 11:2-4**. Begin this prayer time by reading **Luke 11:2-4** together.

When finished, go around in a circle and pray through these five movements together out loud. It may be awkward. But that's okay! The goal here isn't to have all the right words or phrases or to sound eloquent, the goal here is to partner with God in prayer in ministering to the world!

**Adoration** – *As you pray, praise God for who He is.*

**Acceptance** – *As you pray, ask God to let His will be done in your life and across the world.*

**Asking** – *As you pray, petition God. Pray for Ukraine, for the 317, and for The Creek.*

**Admitting** – *As you pray, request forgiveness for yourself and for our church through Jesus.*

**Rebel against the evil one** – *As you pray, pray against the machinations of the evil one.*

**Once your time in prayer is finished, return to a large group to discuss (10 minutes).**

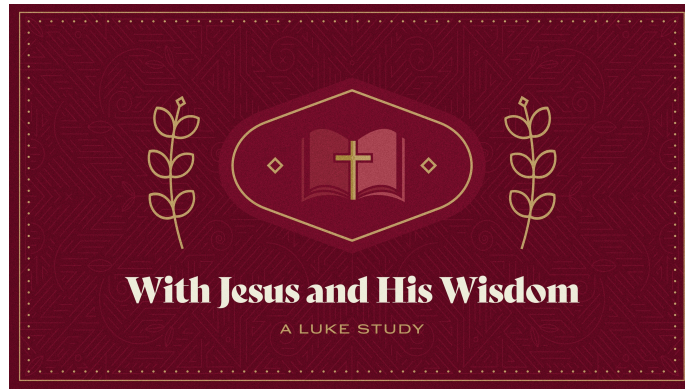
- How was praying like that for you? What did it feel like?
- What did you like about this practice? What did you not like about this practice?

**Split into gendered accountability groups (30 minutes).**

Throughout this series, we'll create space each week to have accountability with one another. This will provide each person a more intimate and hopefully safer space to share where they might struggle. Here are a few questions to guide this time after you split out from one another:

- What is a highpoint from this past week you'd like to share? What is a low point?
- Is there anything you need to confess that you'd like to share? Explain.
- Where has prayerlessness been evident in your life?
- How can you lead those in your circle of influence in prayer more?
- Who are you trying to disciple these days?
- How can this group pray for you right now?

Finish by praying over and for one another.



**Come back as a large group and finish with intercessory prayer (10 minutes).**

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close in prayer.