

Lesson from the Model Prayer
COVID-19 Small Group Lesson
Matthew 6:5-15 (English Standard Version)
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Sunday, May 24, 2020

Forgive us our sins

How does the Lord's Prayer naturally bring us to this point where we see our own failings and our need for forgiveness? (in other words: how much of what we need to confess has to do with us not properly honoring God's name, failing to seek first his kingdom and neglecting to do his will?)

Read Daniel 9:4-10, Psalm 51:1-6 and Luke 18:9-14 and then discuss:

- What is the importance of coming to a deep awareness of our own sinfulness?
- What are the damaging consequences of being too prideful to admit our wrongdoings or of being confident in our own self-righteousness?
- Why do you think it is important for us to see our wrongdoings as sin against God?

What role has confession had in your own personal prayer life?

Read together Psalm 32:1-5.

- Do you find that you normally confess general sinfulness ("forgive my sins") or confess specific sins ("forgive me for _ & _")?
- Do you think that we sometimes have a tendency to gloss over the specifics of our sins because we are embarrassed, ashamed or maybe not truly repentant of them?

Read together the promise of Scripture in 1 John 1:8-10

- What assurance do we have as believers when we truly confess and turn from our sins through prayer?
- What role should thankfulness and awe (that Jesus would paid the price for our sins in full so that we would be freely forgiven) have in our prayer life?

How do you think we can have this element of confession (and thanksgiving for our forgiveness) in corporate settings like church services on a Sunday?