

SERIES DISCUSSION GUIDE



GAME CHANGER
CHAD BRUEGMAN
JULY 21, 2024

If you would like to watch the message, visit rpc.me/messages.

MESSAGE RECAP

How transactional is this world? In our education, workspace, sports, and hobbies we are being ranked, graded, and reviewed on performance. But human relationships were never intended to thrive off transactions. There is no scorecard in your conversations with God. The performance society is not present in prayer. The motive behind your prayer is more important than how you pray. The primary purpose of prayer is not to get God to do what we want Him. The primary purpose of prayer is to be formed.

MAIN POINTS

- Prayer is not transactional; it's relational.
- To pray you don't need to have the most eloquent speech. Jesus tells us not to pray like actors (i.e., hypocrites) but instead to pray with our authentic honest hearts.
- Prayer is a discipline. There will be times when you don't want to pray.
- Every day we navigate a transactional life, so why not start by coming to a place where there is no scoreboard? There's no score being kept in prayer with God.

READ

Matthew 6:5-13

QUESTIONS

- What makes prayer challenging? What are some reasons that keep us from praying?
- How has prayer impacted your life?

- In verses 5-6, how and where does Jesus teach His disciples to pray? (When you pray, do not be like hypocrites (i.e., actors, Sadducees or Pharisees) praying to only be seen by others or to use awesome big words for showing off. God prefers the rough draft of our words to the polished, edited version. Instead, go into a private room and close the door so that you can bring your honest authentic self before God.)
- How should our motive to prayer impact our personal lives and our times of prayer together? (Jesus is saying when you do pray, whether in private or public, check your motive and pray with a sincere and honest heart. God wants to know what's going on in us not what ought to be going on in us.)
- Why do we pray? Why do we ask God for things when He already knows how it's going to play out ahead of time? (God asks us to pray (Read Philippians 4:6-7). We pray not to get God to do what we want Him to do. Prayer is not transactional; it's relational. Prayer is spending time with God and trusting in His purpose and plan for your life. Through prayer God forms us more and more into the image and likeness of Christ.)
- Dallas Willard says that *"the greatest threat to the kingdom of God will always be 'my' kingdom."* Do you agree or disagree with this statement? How does verse 10 guide us in our prayers? (Prayer helps us to stay centered on God's will for our life versus our will. At times, it is helpful to pray "Lord, help me to want what you want and not what I want.")
- Read Matthew 6:9-13 again together and list out all the attributes of the Lord's prayer. How does this inform or shape how you pray? (The Lord's prayer teaches us what to pray and how to pray. This prayer guides us as we express things on our hearts. Each line can be expanded in our personal conversation with the Father.)

APPLICATION QUESTION

- What is one step you could take this week to incorporate prayer into your daily routine?
 - What might get in the way of taking that next step?
 - If you are struggling with prayer Chad invites you to start with this prayer: "God would you give me a desire to want to be in your presence."

CLOSE IN PRAYER: your closing prayer could include the following:

1. *Gratitude.* Thank you, Lord, for giving us this time together to study Your Word.
2. *Acknowledgment of "a-ha" moments.* We are so grateful for the new awareness and insights you gave us today.
3. *Request for help throughout the week.* As we go back to our homes, families, and workplaces, please remind us of what we've learned today and give us the courage and strength to obey whatever You are calling us to do. Amen.

LEADERS: We are collecting school supplies in partnership with Nery's Promise and FBISD.

Share the details with your group! Your group can divide and conquer the supply list below!

For Richmond, *you can drop off donations on July 25th & 28th in the lobby and kids & youth buildings.*

Richmond Supply list:

Binders – 1 inch, 3 ring

Folders – plastic, 3 brad

Composition notebooks

Pencils – regular & colored

Pencil boxes

Crayons

Markers – wide tip

Dry Erase Markers – fine tip

Jumbo Glue Sticks

Liquid Glue – 4oz

Construction Paper

For Missouri City, *You can drop off donations on June 21st & 28th in the kids' area.*

Missouri City Supply list:

#2 Pencils

Ink Pens

Colored Pencils

Crayons

Crackers

Popcorn

Rulers

Markers

Block Erasers

Scissors

Large Backpacks (for Middle and High School students)

Feminine Pads

Individually Packaged Snacks (Trail Mix, Chips, Fruit Snacks, etc.)