

Small Group and Personal Bible Study

Pastor Dennis Hadley

Memory Verse: Deuteronomy 4:7

“What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the Lord our God is near us whenever we pray to Him?”

Discovery Bible Study Lesson

1. Read and then write down the passage found in **Psalm 66:17-19**
2. Next, rewrite **Psalm 66:17-19** using your own words
3. What do you discover in this passage?
4. What does God want you to understand and obey in response to this passage?

Daily Bible Reading

- Day 1: Nehemiah 1
- Day 2: Psalm 66
- Day 3: Matthew 6:5-8
- Day 4: Matthew 6:9-13
- Day 5: Luke 18

Lesson: Prayer

1. How would you describe your own personal prayer life?

Let people share about their personal prayer life. Many may struggle to stop and pray when they need to. Others may pray about some things but never offer up to God certain things that they choose to hold on to and try to “fix” themselves. Some find it hard to find the time but is that really a good excuse?

2. What do you learn about what God wants from your prayer life from Psalm 66:17-19?

Ask people to share what they learned from this passage in the “discovery bible study lesson” they did on their own listed above. If they did not do it, then take them through it as a group.

As I reflect on this passage, I see God wants me to come to Him in need. As a part of my prayer life, God wants me to praise Him with my tongue. He wants me to search my heart and confess any sin. And He wants me to know that the person, who comes to Him in prayer, can trust that He listens and responds.

3. After reading and meditating on the Lord’s Prayer as found in Matthew 6:9-13, what are some key understandings you can grasp about praying in the way Jesus taught us to pray?

First of all, Jesus said, “this is how you should pray” not this is what you should pray. Knowing that He was teaching me a model for prayer, I understand that learning the model is even more important than memorizing the prayer.

Perhaps the most simplistic way I have come to understand the model for what Jesus was teaching us is this:

- Our Father in heaven: indicates a Relationship that we come to the Father knowing we are His children.
- Hallowed be your name: indicates Worship as a key aspect of coming to God in prayer.

- Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven: indicates **Lordship** over your life. That we choose to follow Jesus and want to see God to do His will in our life and all around us. He is our Lord and master.
- Give us this day our daily bread: indicates **Sonship** or dependence on God. We acknowledge that everything comes from Him and so we choose to trust in Him rather than ourselves.
- Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. Indicates **Fellowship** with God and with people. Sin creates a barrier in relationships. Forgiveness removes the barriers and restores the relationship with God and people. God wants us to confess and turn to Him. And He wants us to forgive those who have sinned against us.
- And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. Indicates a willingness to submit to the **Leadership** of the Holy Spirit and desire to do the will of God and allow the transformation of your heart and mind.

4. In the message Tim taught from Nehemiah's example on prayer, we learned the importance of praise, remembering God's promise, being persistent, confessing sin, and asking others to pray with and for us. Which component might be missing in your prayer life?

Ask the group to share what part of this message was new to them for their prayer life and how they will incorporate this lesson into their daily prayer lives.