THE LORD'S PRAYER (A LESSON IN GIVING ALL TO GOD.)

My stuff, in which my life is invested, you are awesome! My kingdom has come. I want my will done, in this world and forever after. Give me each day my steak and my chocolate and forgive my excess as I forget the needs of others. And lead me away from robbers and deliver me from charity. For it is my kingdom, and my power, and my glory, forever, AMEN.

SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

Big Idea: We are responsible for what we do with everything.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

What comes to mind when you hear the word "ALL"?

Nehemiah 9:6 & Psalm 24:1,2:

Why did God create the world?

Why is it so important to acknowledge that God is the creator? How does God expect us to relate to what He has created? (Genesis 1:27-29) What made Nehemiah and David good stewards?

Colossians 3:22-24:

What kind of work do you do? Who do you work for?

How does the character of "the boss" impact the quality of your work?

What characteristics would you expect to see in someone who was working for Jesus?

1 Peter 4:10:

What does it mean to be a steward of God's grace? What specific and unique gift have you received from God? (ie - a skill, a personality trait, an experience, an ability, a disability, etc.) How can you use that gift to serve God's household or "the boss"?

Mark 12:41-44 & Matthew 25:24-28:

Compare the widow and the man with one talent. How would they each describe God? What difference does their thinking about God make in how they handle God's stuff?

Mark 12:31 & Matthew 5:44,45:

Who is your neighbor?

If we are stewards of all God has given us, then how should we interact with our neighbors? Why does Jesus specifically instruct us to love our enemies? Are our enemies also our neighbors?

Matthew 6:9-13: THE LORD'S PRAYER

How does your perspective on this prayer change if you read it as a manager of God's household?

"Our Father in heaven" –

What do children own?

What do we expect children to learn with the stuff we give them?

How do we help them learn? How does God help us learn?

"your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" -

What would it look like if God's kingdom came to "your" life, "your" family, "your" church? "give us today our daily bread" -

How many days' worth of food do you have stored in your house?

How does your abundance make it difficult to remember God as provider?

What could be substituted for "daily bread" in the prayer to help you remember that God is your provider?

"forgive us our trespasses" -

Why do we find it difficult to be as gracious as God is?

What has God brought into "our" lives to help us learn His graciousness?

"deliver us from evil" -

ow much power do we think we have?

How much power do we really have?

What would happen to us if we did not have God's protection?

PRAYER FOCUS:

Pray the Lord's prayer as a child who recognizes that ALL you have comes from God.

FAMILY RESOURCES

Big Idea: We are responsible for what we do with everything.

READ NEHEMIAH 9:6

Who made it all? Who owns it all?

Make nametags that say "God owns this" and put the tags on your stuff.

How do you take care of something that is owned by someone else?

READ DUETERONOMY 8:17-18

What happens when we forget who made it all? Who owns it all?

How do you take care of something that you own?

Put all of your broken stuff in a pile in the middle of the room.

READ LUKE 12:40

Tell about a time when someone came back early and you were not ready for them.

What were you doing that you should not have been doing or what did you not finish in time for their return?

Make a clock from a paper plate.

Use brads to attach hands so they can move.

READ LUKE 12:41-44

Move the clock hands to the time of your evening meal. Do you always eat on time? Why, why not?

READ LUKE 12:45

What excuses do you make when you don't do what you should do? Look up the word "OBEY" in the dictionary. Make an effort to fix all of the broken stuff in your pile. **READ LUKE 12:46-48** Why is the master so mean, so demanding?

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Give everyone the same amount of money.

In a week, ask what each person did with the money.

How is this like what God does for us with ALL He gives us?

MEMORY VERSE:

One of the ______ of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that ______ had given them a good answer, he asked Him, "Of all the ______, which is the most _____?" "The most important one," answered _____, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our _____, the Lord is one. Love the _____ your God with ALL your _____ and with ALL your soul and with ALL your mind and with ALL your _____.' The second is this: 'Love your ______ as yourself.' There is no ______ greater than these." Mark 12:28-31 (NIV)

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