



SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR CONNECT GROUPS

16 & 17 JULY 2022

“STEWARDSHIP THROUGH PRAYER”

LUKE 11.1-13

Suggestions for Making the Most of your Group Time

1. Begin by reviewing the video of the sermon, preferably before you meet together (see <http://www.brmc.org.sg/category/resources/sermons>).
2. Read the Scripture passage together, before entering into discussion.
3. Spend time on both question components, namely:
 - a. Comprehension (*Who? What? When? Why? How?*);
 - b. Application / Transformation (*So what? What action should I take? Perspective should I adopt? Value should I uphold? Emotion should I embrace? Habit should I develop? Desire should I nurture? etc*)
4. Discuss as few or as many questions as best fits your group’s current context and present stage in life.
5. Before ending your group session, allocate some time (15-20 min) to pray with and for one another.

Discussion Questions

1. From your review of the sermon and your reading of the Scripture passage, recap the key points of this sermon.

2. The Lord's Prayer begins with "Our Father."
 - a) What does the term "father" tell us about the nature of our faith in God? If time permits, consider the parable of the prodigal son (or father!) in Luke 15.
 - b) Has your experience of God been one of a gracious and generous Father? If yes, share a most recent experience. If not, what could be reasons?

3. God's holy name, kingdom, will, and glory are what Jesus taught us to pray for. This is a privilege that God has given us, and for us to steward responsibly.
 - a) How have your choices of career, study programme, recreational activity, significant relationships, and other pursuits reflected Jesus' prayer priorities?
 - b) Share honestly, and pray for one another.

4. The context of the Lord's Prayer is God's family. (cf. Eph. 2:19, 1 Cor. 12:26, John 13:34).
 - a) Would you consider Barker Road Methodist Church your spiritual family, to the extent that you would pray regularly for her members and leaders? Why, or why not?
 - b) How can you make praying for BRMC a part of your weekly habit? [Suggestion: ask each member to list two ideas and let the group vote on the most practical ones.]

Prayer Items

5. Pray for one another, that we would be empowered by God to live out the specific areas of application and transformation raised during the discussion time. Pray also for any needs that were mentioned.

Further Background Information

When one is baptised and received as an official member of the Methodist Church in Singapore, the following vows are made.

*Pastor: As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by **your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service?***

Candidates: I will.

This commitment, spoken before God and the gathered people of God, is an expression of stewardship.

Just what is stewardship? In this sermon series, we emphasise three elements of stewardship:

1. **A steward is a disciple:** We who follow Jesus must follow through in our commitments.
2. **A steward is a caretaker:** We are to take care of others.
3. **A steward is not an owner:** We are to bless and benefit not ourselves, but others.

There is no such thing as a Christian who is not also a disciple of Jesus, who is not also a steward of the Lord. Now, most of us have little difficulty embracing the idea of stewardship, but we may struggle with putting this commitment into practice. Stewardship requires action and interaction – we demonstrate God's love best when we care for others and for God's world, when we are generous with God's gifts and blessings. It is by God's grace that we are entrusted with the various talents, skills, and resources that lie before us. And if we are entrusted, that is we are merely trustees, then there are beneficiaries to be blessed.

Since a steward is first and foremost a disciple of Jesus, stewardship requires a close walk with God. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus begins by teaching us to approach God as our Father, a privilege with which we have been gifted. Jesus also taught us to rely on God for our daily bread, to stay away from evil and temptation, and to extend forgiveness others just as we have experienced God's forgiving grace. A constant, unceasingly communion with God through prayer enables us to live as disciples who walk in God's will. Through prayer, God enables us to care for others generously and without exclusion. In prayer, we are empowered to follow through in our commitments to our Lord, not misusing or squandering God's blessings and gifts, but worshipping God as we joyfully steward his generous gifts.